



Tennessee Valley Monitor

The *Tennessee Valley Monitor* is published quarterly as a continuing service to the members of the Tennessee Valley Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (TVS-AIHA). Industrial hygiene is the science and art devoted to the recognition, evaluation, and control of environmental stresses or factors arising in or from the workplace that may affect worker health and well-being.

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Letter from the President Don Blackburn

You may recall that in June 2000 the National AIHA and the ASSE signed a MOU pledging to "...work together in areas on projects of mutual interest" and to "...resolve any reasonable differences in the most professional and timely manner possible." However over the past couple of months, I have read several articles/e-mails which seem to indicate that there is a growing tension between the AIHA and the ASSE at the National level. One of the most recent disagreements is over issues regarding state mold legislation.

National AIHA, as well as many others, has a very strong interest regarding mold legislation. Not only does AIHA have an interest in the inspection, evaluation and control of mold, AIHA is also concerned that only qualified laboratories be used for analysis. National AIHA government affairs has been monitoring numerous state legislative measures addressing mold for several years. On the federal level, legislation was introduced in 2002 and AIHA commented extensively on the bill. National AIHA commented on this bill requesting that any standards designed for individuals involved with remediation and inspection recognize professionals who already met some of the minimum standards. National AIHA is also monitoring state legislation (including Tennessee) and has made comments to the sponsors on most of these bills. AIHA states that their basic position is that: It is impossible to set a permissible exposure limit at this time; standards for individuals involved in inspection

and remediation may be needed, but licensing or registration may not be the answer; and accredited laboratories need to be used for any mold sampling analysis.

However, it appears that the ASSE staff seems to be concerned that the AIHA has an ulterior motive. An email on the safety listserv was titled "AIHA Introduces Predatory Legislation in Florida". The email stated that everyone should check out the ASSE home page for information on this Florida legislation that was even "*scamming AIHA's own members who are not CIHs*". The ASSE homepage suggested the Florida bill would provide a "*loophole*" for CIHs and "*required that all individuals to be licensed meet the eligibility requirements of the American Hygiene Association*". ASSE recommended members contact Florida legislators to oppose this legislation and "*suggested that all ASSE members have the training that would allow them to provide the same kind of professional service that a similarly experienced CIH could provide*".

The AIHA director of government affairs, Aaron Trippler, has provided a clarification on this issue. Aaron's clarification stated that at no time did AIHA suggest introduction of any mold legislation, at no time did AIHA draft any mold legislation, and at no time did AIHA suggest a CIH or IH was the only profession qualified. However, the National ASSE staff continues to disregard this clarification. (continued on page 6)

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Welcome New Members



Sean Smith - Ensaf

Matthew Norton – Philotechnics, Ltd.

Teresa Presley – ORNL

Steve Hacker – Eastman Chemical

TVS-AIHA Dinner Meeting

TVS-AIHA Joint Dinner with the Local CHMM Chapter

Title: Managing Time- and Condition- Sensitive Chemicals or Harry Potter and the Careless Sorcerer

Date: July 17, 2003

Location: Northern Exposure, located on Kingston Pike in the Stonecrest Shopping Center (next door to the big orange dinosaur at Sir Goony's) west of Lovell Road.

Time: 6:00 pm for dinner with the talk following.

Presenter: David O. Vick, Health and Safety Services Group, ORNL

David has a M.S. in chemistry and a CIH. He has worked in various areas of safety and health at ORNL including field division support and as program manager for Non-ionizing Radiation and Lasers since 1990. Prior to that he worked as an analytical chemist at both ORNL and Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin in addition to teaching chemistry. His talk will elaborate on chemicals that may develop new or increased hazards over time if not properly managed.

Note: We will aim for at least four dinner meetings this year that will include presentations around 50 minutes. Members who come to three should be able to claim 1/2 point CM credit. (This is the 2nd dinner meeting.)

Regulatory Update

By Sandra Bennett

Change to Workplace Chemical List Requirements

The Tennessee Hazardous Chemical Right-to-Know Law requires that employers prepare a list of hazardous chemicals present in the workplace. On the list must be each product name with all hazardous ingredients from the material safety data sheets listed, along with the quantity of the chemicals on hand. Previously it was required that each manufacturing employer and some non-manufacturing employers submit their list to TOSHA, with an annual update. The law was recently amended to require the list be submitted to TOSHA "within 96 hours of request by an authorized representative of the commissioner." In short, employers must now submit their Workplace Chemical Lists to TOSHA ONLY when specifically requested to do so by a TOSHA representative. All other requirements of the Tennessee Hazardous Chemical Right-to-Know Law remain in effect.

This change continues to allow public access to chemical hazard information when needed, but reduces processing costs and improves the manner in which this information is managed. For additional information or answers to questions you may have about the Tennessee Hazardous Chemical Right-to-Know Law, call Mike Maenza, TOSHA Manager of Standards and Procedures, at 615-741-7036.

Discard Blood Tube Holders and Contaminated Needles Together

Removing contaminated needles from blood tube holders exposes workers to potentially lethal hazards and is a practice prohibited by TOSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard. The agency clarified that policy June 12, 2002, in a letter of interpretation, stating "the increased manipulation required to remove a contaminated needle from a blood tube holder is unnecessary and may result in a needlestick from either the front or back end of the needle." TOSHA requires that employees discard blood tube holders with attached needles immediately into a sharps container after activation of the device's safety feature. Adhering to the policy will reduce the dangers of needlesticks for healthcare workers and others who handle medical sharps.

Amputations and Methylene Chloride Added to Targeting Initiatives

On October 1, 2002, TOSHA initiated a special emphasis program designed to identify and reduce the workplace hazards which are causing or are likely to cause amputations. This is in addition to the special emphasis programs on excavation and trenching, falls, occupational noise, and carbon monoxide, which have been in place for several years. Also, TOSHA began planning a targeting initiative to focus resources on industries which use methylene chloride, a highly hazardous chemical used in paint

stripping, pharmaceutical manufacturing, metal cleaning and degreasing, and other operations. This initiative is in addition to our present targeting initiatives on construction work, nursing homes, and metal-working industries.

These programs are designed to focus considerable TOSHA resources on areas where attention to matters of safety and health are most needed. TOSHA believes that failure to guard machinery is a primary cause of amputation. Inspection history indicates that employee exposures to these unguarded or inadequately guarded machines occur in many workplaces. These machines are covered by 29 CFR 1910.212, .213, and .217 and compliance with these standards needs to be improved.

Methylene chloride inhalation and skin exposures are the predominant means of exposure to the chemical. Inhaling the vapors causes mental confusion, light-headedness, nausea, vomiting, and headache. With acute exposures methylene chloride acts as an anesthetic while continued exposures may cause staggering, unconsciousness, and even death. Studies on laboratory animals indicate that chronic exposure causes cancer. The chemical has an expanded TOSHA standard at 29 CFR 1910.1052. The permissible exposure limit (PEL) has been set at 25 ppm (parts per million part of air) as an eight-hour time weighted average and the short-term exposure limit (STEL) is 125 ppm as determined over a sampling period of fifteen minutes.

**National Hearing
Conservation Association
Aligns with OSHA
Preventing noise-induced
hearing loss is focus of
Alliance**

WASHINGTON -- The National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) has become the latest in a growing number of organizations agreeing to work with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to advance worker safety and health.

NHCA formalized the Alliance June 2 to set in motion a collaborative relationship with OSHA for the prevention of hearing loss caused by exposure to industrial and construction-related noise and other environmental factors in the workplace.

"Millions of workers are exposed to high noise levels on the job," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "It's important that we do everything possible to eliminate the risk of hearing loss. The Alliance with NHCA allows us the opportunity to work with a wide range of professionals who are expert in hearing conservation and best practices."

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to enter into this alliance agreement with OSHA," added Tim Bailey, NHCA President. "Our mission is to eliminate noise-induced hearing loss at work, home and play. This alliance will allow us to use our immense professional association's resources to develop recommended best practices, hearing conservation programs and practical guides for industry, with a special emphasis on the construction industry."

A key feature to this Alliance is the future development of a guide for hearing protection that will include a matrix for the use of hearing protection devices in various noise settings. Models on hearing conservation and hearing loss

prevention programs for the construction and maritime industries will also be designed.

Through the Alliance, OSHA and NHCA agree to advance a culture of good hearing health by developing and implementing hearing conservation and hearing loss prevention programs. They will provide NHCA members with information, guidance and training geared to reducing exposures to hazards that result in hearing loss. Training courses will also be developed on noise and hearing loss prevention, including a "Train the Trainer Course" for toolbox talks and a program for vocational school populations.

NHCA and OSHA will develop and disseminate information through various media, including their respective websites. OSHA plans to create and update electronic assistance tools on its website that will address noise and hearing conservation for general industry, as well as the construction and maritime industries.

NHCA is a national organization dedicated to preventing hearing loss due to noise and other environmental factors in all sectors of society. The organization's membership reflects the cross-functional nature of hearing conservation and includes audiologists, engineers, industrial hygienists, safety professionals, physicians, and nurses.

OSHA is dedicated to assuring worker safety and health. Safety and health add value to business, the workplace and life. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

**OSHA To Propose Revised
Respiratory Protection
Standards**

WASHINGTON -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will publish two proposed rules in the June 6th Federal Register to enhance worker protections from respiratory

hazards on the job. OSHA is seeking comments until Sept. 4, 2003, on its proposals to amend the Respiratory Protection Standard to include a new fit testing procedure and incorporate new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) for respiratory protection programs, that are expected to prevent approximately 4,000 injuries and illnesses and prevent about 900 deaths annually from cancer and other chronic diseases.

"It's critical that workers and employers select respirators that will protect users against over-exposures and adverse health effects," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "These proposed additions will assist employers and employees in fit testing respirators and properly selecting respirators based on the conditions in their workplaces."

In a notice of proposed rulemaking OSHA, will propose amending the existing Respiratory Protection Standard to incorporate Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) as part of a complete respiratory protection program to assist workers and employers in the proper selection of respirators. APFs are numbers that reflect the workplace level of respiratory protection that respirators are expected to provide to employees. The proposal contains OSHA's preliminary decisions on an APF Table, definitions for APFs and Maximum Use Concentrations, and amendments to replace the existing APF requirements in OSHA's substance-specific standards.

OSHA also is seeking comment on its proposal to approve a new testing protocol for its Respiratory Protection Standard. The proposed protocol is referred to as controlled negative pressure (CNP), which requires three different test exercises followed by two redonnings of the respirator. OSHA's current CNP protocol specifies eight test exercises, including one redonning of the respirator.

(continued on page 6)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS OFFERS WORKPLACE SAFETY TIPS FOR TEEN WORKERS

DES PLAINES, IL (May 02, 2003) --- Young workers are not as prepared and experienced as older adults when it comes to identifying and avoiding safety risks and hazards while on the job and are more apt to be injured. In order to prepare the millions of young workers who will enter the workforce in the next few weeks on workplace safety risks, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has developed a free 'Workplace Safety Guide for New Workers' brochure. It contains key state and federal contact information, important facts to know and workplace safety questions workers and parents should ask.

"Most young people entering the workplace are not as sensitive to risks associated with the job as they should be," ASSE Practice Specialty Administrator Carmen Daecher, CSP, ARM, of PA, said. "This might be a function of age, or it is a lack of appreciation of the responsibilities associated with a job and a career. It is vitally important that employers help new employees understand risks associated with the job and their responsibilities in minimizing or eliminating these risks while performing their jobs, not just for their benefit but for the benefit of fellow employees and others."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) the main causes for young worker fatalities are homicides, motor vehicle accidents, machine-related accidents, electrocution and falls. Unsafe equipment, stressful work conditions, inadequate safety training, inadequate supervision, dangerous work that is illegal or inappropriate for youth workers and rushing are the top causes of injuries to young workers.

In 2000 a total of 70 teen workers in the U.S. were fatally injured on the job and 77,000 more were seriously

injured. Although most of those injuries are burns, cuts, and sprains, other serious injuries include broken bones, concussions and amputations.

Teens and their parents should become familiar with state and federal laws pertaining to youth labor. For instance, some duties teens may be prohibited by law from doing include driving, roofing, working with power-driven machines, working more than 10 feet above ground or floor level, and working at jobs with possible exposure to bodily fluids or hazardous substances.

"In construction areas and in busy loading and unloading warehouse facilities new workers must, more than anything else, learn to remain attentive," ASSE's Daecher said. "Too often, their minds wander or they watch what others do. Young workers must learn to be aware of the risks around them. In that way, they can remain safe throughout the workday and help their fellow employees remain safe."

As for employers, some states require employers to have permits to hire teen workers and an authorization form with a parent's signature. From a business perspective, investing and integrating effective occupational safety, health and environmental programs is not only good for young workers, but also good for the bottom line. Employers and organizations that do invest in preventing on-the-job injuries, illness and fatalities realize substantial savings as medical and workers' compensation costs decrease. Additionally, these employers realize more savings and profit through reduced absenteeism, lower turnover rates, higher productivity, increased employee morale and a positive brand image.

For young workers, agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries to work in. Forty percent of the young workers killed from 1992-97 lost their lives in farming jobs. Agriculture hazards include working with heavy machinery, falls from working at

unprotected heights, flying objects and natural hazards.

According to the DOL, the food service/fast food, retail/sales, janitorial/clean-up and office/clerical industries are the next most hazardous industries for teen workers. In the food service industry, the hazards include violent crimes, sharp objects, hot cooking equipment and slippery floors. Violent crimes and heavy lifting are the top retail/sales industry hazards to teens. Hazardous cleaning chemicals, slippery floors, heavy lifting and blood on discarded needles are the top janitorial/clean-up industry hazards. Repetitive trauma from consistent typing, back and neck strain and stress are hazards associated with office jobs for teens.

The offer of the brochure, also available in Spanish, is part of ASSE and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering's (CSSE) annual North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) that runs this May 4 - 10. For a free copy of the ASSE 'Workplace Safety Guide for New Workers' call 847-699-2929 or e-mail customerservice@asse.org or check the www.asse.org/naosh03.htm web site. The theme of NAOSH week is Prevention is the Cure/Prepare Young Workers for the Future. In addition to the brochure, close to 100 ASSE members in Houston, Texas have developed on their own time and are presenting for free classes on workplace safety at 26 Houston Independent School District High Schools.

Letter From the President (continued from page 1)

The primary disagreement seems to be over the question: who is qualified to perform mold investigations and/or remediations? My answer is simple, anyone who is competent. It is deciding what makes you "competent" that is hard to define. For the safety and health professional, I feel this has to be an individual's decision. Remember the Industrial Hygiene Canons of Ethical Conduct:

Industrial Hygienists shall:

1. Practice their profession following recognized scientific principles...
2. Counsel affected parties factually regarding potential health risks and precautions necessary to avoid adverse health effects.
3. Keep confidential personal and business information obtained during the exercise of industrial hygiene activities, except when required by law or overriding health and safety considerations.
4. Avoid circumstances where a compromise of professional judgment or conflict of interest may arise.
5. Perform services only in the areas of their competence.
6. Act responsibly to uphold the integrity of the profession.

If we follow these principles (especially principle #5), even the designations of a CIH or CSP does not mean you are competent to perform a mold investigation or to oversee a remediation project. Competency is based on training, knowledge, and/or experience. For the safety and health professional, we must all make that decision for ourselves.

OSHA To Propose.... (continued from page 4)

Written comments on both proposed rulemakings must be submitted by Sept. 4. Written comments (10 pages or fewer) can be faxed to OSHA's Docket Office at (202) 693-1648 or sent electronically to <http://ecomments.osha.gov>. Three copies of written comments and attachments must be submitted to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket H-049C (APF) or H-049D (CNP), Room N-2625, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC, 20210. Further information on submitting comments can be obtained by calling the Docket Office at (202) 693-2350.

OSHA plans to hold an informal public hearing on the APF proposal in Washington, DC in late summer or early fall of 2003. Interested parties who intend to present testimony at the hearing must notify OSHA of their intention to do so no later than Sept. 4. The meeting location and date will be announced following the comment period.

New Technology In Gas Water Heaters Can Save Lives

July 8, 2003
Release #03-158
CPSC Hotline: (800)638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: Scott Wolfson
(301) 504-7051
GAMA Media Contact: Michael
Blevins (703) 525-7060, Ext. 235

CPSC, GAMA Say New Heaters Will
Prevent Fires from Flammable Vapors

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Picture this: a plastic can filled with gasoline is innocently left on the garage floor, near a gas water heater. A 4-year-old boy playing in the garage tips over the can, spilling the gasoline and sending flammable vapors into the air. The vapors reach the water heater, sparking a flashback fire that takes the life of the young

child. Tragically, similar real-life incidents involving gas water heaters take the lives of or severely injure children and adults across the country each year.

But a new, safer era in gas water heater technology begins in July, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, the national trade association of the manufacturers of water heating and space heating equipment and components. A voluntary standard developed by industry, in cooperation with the commission, calls for conventional tank-type gas water heaters manufactured after July 1, 2003, to be equipped with new safety technology. This technology, often referred to as a flame arrestor, prevents flashback fires by trapping and burning dangerous gas vapors inside of the heater, while preventing ignition of the vapors in the room.

Gas water heater ignition of flammable vapors is involved in nearly 800 residential fires, resulting in an average of five deaths and

130 injuries annually, according to commission estimates. The fires typically occur when consumers use flammable liquids, usually gasoline, for cleaning purposes, or when a flammable liquid leaks or is spilled near the water heater. When the vapors come in contact with the appliance's burner or pilot light, the vapors ignite, causing a severe flashback fire.

"The new water heaters will save lives and property and reduce the number of terrible burn injuries that are caused by these fires," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. "The redesigned gas water heaters, which are already on the market, show that industry can solve difficult problems to build the safest products possible."

"The introduction of new residential gas storage water heaters

that will meet the new safety standard is the culmination of an unprecedented effort by U.S. and Canadian water heater manufacturers," said Evan R. Gaddis, President of GAMA. "This activity is a great example of the CPSC and manufacturers working in harmony, using the national voluntary standards system, to make a safe and efficient product even better. It was a great challenge to the industry to develop

design solutions to this new safety requirement without compromising other efficiency or safety characteristics of gas storage water heaters.

This is a testament to the commitment, ingenuity and quality of North American water heater manufacturers. The ultimate beneficiary will be U.S. consumers."

The new American National Standard Institute standard (ANSI Z21.10.1a) was approved in two parts: The first requirement, for flammable vapors-ignition-resistance, was approved in February 2000; and

the second requirement, for the heater to be resistant to lint, dust and

oil accumulation, was approved in November 2002. The final standard, incorporating both parts, became effective on July 1, 2003. All 30, 40,

and 50-gallon gas storage type water heaters manufactured after this date are expected to comply with the national safety standard.

Because millions of gas water heaters manufactured before the new standard took effect remain in homes across the country, Chairman Stratton warned that gasoline should never be stored or used indoors (in

a basement or garage) where vapors can ignite. Gasoline should be stored in tightly-closed, properly-labeled, non-glass safety containers away from ignition sources and out of reach of children.

The water heater standard follows another voluntary industry standard that calls for child-resistant packaging for gasoline cans. In addition, "spill-proof" packaging being designed into many newer gas cans will also reduce the risk of ignition of gasoline fumes by water heaters.

From The Editor

You gotta love summer. Nobody wants to do anything, especially work-related, and that includes me. It's really hard to sit down and compile a newsletter when you'd much rather be outside on the golf course or just sitting on the patio downing a cold one. That's why you should attend the dinner meeting on Thursday night. It's laid back, David Vick is doing the hard part, you can down a cold one (if you so desire) and you earn points in the process. What else can one ask for? Oh, and I forgot, good food too. So make an effort to come out on Thursday night.

If anyone has anything interesting to contribute, please feel free to send it to me and we'll get in into the next newsletter (September/October issue). If it's not interesting, send it to me anyway. It cuts down on the Internet research that I have to do to fill the space!

Have a good summer...and if you're downing a cold one, have one for me too!

Janet
j.rowe@comcast.net

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