The Exposure

December 2009

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OSHA Issues Largest Citation in History: BP Contests

October 30, 2009

OSHA issued its largest citation since the passing of the OSH Act of 1970 to BP Products of North America Inc. OSHA issued a total of $8,430,000 (take that EPA!) for failure to abate and willful violations.

In 2005, a massive explosion at BP’s Texas City Refinery, took the lives of 15 employees and injured another 170. The findings from that catastrophic/fatal incident resulted in what was then the largest fine ever issued by OSHA of $21,000,000.

Jordan Barab, acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, stated that "BP was given four years to correct the safety issues identified pursuant to the settlement agreement".

The citations were listed as follows:

- 270 Failure to Abate Citations = $56.7M
- 439 Wilful (new) Citations = 30.7M

they (meaning BP) were in "full compliance with the Settlement Agreement" and subsequently disagreed with OSHA’s findings.

Mr. Casey further stated that he believed their efforts at said refinery were among the most "strenuous and comprehensive that the refinery industry has ever seen".

Not to be forgotten by this story are those men and women who give their lives to their employers every year. According to the BLS, in 2008 there were 102 work-related fatalities in Colorado. Almost half were from transportation related incidents.

For more information refer to:
http://www.bp.com/us
http://www.osha.gov
http://www.bls.gov

Regarding AIHce 2010 Denver: Notes from the President

Thanks to many of you that have volunteered to help with hosting the AIHce in May of 2010 in Denver, Colorado. We have a great opportunity to show off our wonderful collaborative spirit and also our beautiful City and State.

Beginning in late June, we had more than 30 people express interest in helping to develop some of the AIHce offerings. Christine Lorenzo has led this effort and has had meetings with more than 20 members attending.

Continued on Page 2

'Tis the season! Make sure you and those you serve are ready for the dropping temps and slippery surfaces.

John Colvin
RMS President
The next meeting is December 8th at OSHA’s Denver area office. Some of the goals we have seen come to fruition are below:

1. Nine technical tours have been submitted.
2. Numerous suggestions have been made for social tours including a microbrewery tour, since Denver has taken top awards in this category.
3. Pre- and post-conference tours are being developed.
4. Four entertainment options are being explored and AIHA-RMS may do some cost sharing to bring such entertainment. We may also seek sponsors for certain events such as the opening session entertainment or the Future Leaders meeting. We would also like the CSU Student Section to have a say in where this meeting is held in Denver.
5. The opening session is coming together with discussion about the color-guard, pursuing Mayor Hickenlooper, and the singer of the National Anthem.
6. Linn Havelick has led a subcommittee and developed a website for putting ideas and testimonials forth on great things to do in Denver and Colorado including hiking, fishing, fine-dining, music, etc. We welcome any submissions of less than 200 words discussing your “best of” experiences you can elaborate on, and those that out-of-towners would enjoy in the middle of May. You may go to the following website to find examples of submission. We’d love to have your ideas: http://franklindesignbureau.com/index.php?id=6

The AIHA-RMS Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm at the Old Chicago in Lakewood (145 Union Blvd.). Pizza will be served and there will be a cash bar. Please bring a can or two of food as we will be hosting a canned food drive for the Denver Rescue Mission as they are in constant need for donations during the holiday season and throughout the year.

AIHce DENVER 2010!
Who's coming?
Are you??
Online registration begins in December.
Yes, AIHA-RMS has a Career Center! You may have heard we launched this before our 2009 Fall Technical Conference, but have you visited the site and the page lately? Please visit www.aiha-rms.org and then search under “Resources” to find the drop-down menu item named, “AIHA-RMS Career Center”. This is THE place for both Industrial Hygiene, or Health and Safety Job Seekers, and Employers in Wyoming and Colorado. We have specifically tailored it for us. So, if you know of someone needing to fill a position, or know of someone who needs to find employment, they can find it here. Once there, job seekers will see your area on the left; employers recruiting will find their area on the right.

The job seekers will find more than simply an area where job postings are available. You will find a place to post your resume, and set your personal alerts for the perfect job tailored by and for you. In addition, there are more tools available to you. So, log on and create your account on your/our (yOur) AIHA-RMS Career Center to begin managing your personal job search. Create and manage job alerts and view job offers from employers.

The Employers will find resumes available to them, and if you find interest in one or more, you can purchase the entire resume for a very reasonable price. Why should employers advertise here, rather than with any of the major job boards (i.e. Monster, Career Center, etc.)?

Because, yOur Career Center is specific to this region and yOur industry. Granted, the major job boards offer parallel service to us, are nationwide, but are more than twice as costly as we are. Why would you use a local, free service? The AIHA-RMS Career Center does much to provide you with more than simply a listing. We feel our professional service offers greater value to our members than the others. yOur professional AIHA-RMS Career Center offers more tools than simply a posting. Searching for local talent and keeping families together seems like the right thing to do. Create your account, post your open position – you are in control of your advertisement to yOur community.

You will find reasonable rates for existing members. Membership in our professional organization is a mere $20.00 per year and we have a membership base of 250 last count, and we are growing – Spread the word! For more information, please view the “Products/Pricing” hyperlink.

We currently are evaluating the best method for companies to advertise on yOur website. Previously, advertisements had been in our newsletters. Our new method of “going electronic” will give local firms an advantage by providing a logo whereby a hyperlink is behind your personal logo and you will be in charge on where it will take the visitor.

This can include pricing coupons for visitors from our site on either your products or services. Again, the rates will be modest as they have been in the past, but provide a wider audience with the possibilities of greater marketing efforts – all at your choosing. Interested in advertising with us? Please contact the AIHA-RMS Web Manager (webmanager@aiha-rms.org).

We’re moving forward in a positive direction for our members; please take the ride with us!

Submitted by: Daniel Felzien
OSHA releases Best Practices: Protecting EMS Responders during Treatment & Transport of Victims of Hazardous Substance Releases

From the Executive Summary:

In 2005, OSHA published the Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers guide that provided guidance for those healthcare facilities that receive and treat victims of hazardous substance releases.

At the request of stakeholders that participated in the development of that guide, OSHA has developed a similar guide for emergency medical service (EMS) responders who provide medical assistance during an incident involving a hazardous substance release.

This guide is intended for employers of EMS responders and discusses the measures these employers need to take to protect their EMS responders from becoming additional victims while on the front line of medical response.

EMS responder refers to all levels of emergency medical personnel involved in incident response (e.g., emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, and others who perform similar duties).

While many EMS responders are cross-trained (e.g., EMT and firefighter), this guide applies to these workers only when they are functioning as EMS responders. Industrial hygienists, safety specialists, and public health professionals who might be assigned in the Incident Command System as a technical specialist or safety officer during a catastrophic event will benefit by reviewing this publication.

Check out OSHA’s website for more information on this topic. Search the Publications link.

Submitted by: Bob Acker

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Education Opportunities

AIHA to host a teleweb on “OSHA’s Proposition to adopt the Globally Harmonized Hazardous Communication” November 19 from 14:00-16:30

If anyone happens to be in New Delhi, India in early December AIHA is hosting a course on “Reducing Silica Hazards in Construction and Mining”. It is an all-day course, so make sure you pack a lunch.

For anyone wishing to brush up on your “Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene”, an online course on that very topic begins on January 11, 2010. The course is offered by The

North Carolina Institute for Public Health

“REACH—A Risk Management Strategy” will be offered by AIHA via teleweb January 26, but you’ll have to get up early b/c it runs from 04:00-14:00(?!)

ACGIH on December 10, is hosting a webinar from 12:00-14:30 MST on “Ethical EH&S: Effective Implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Global Economy”. Take a minute and reread the title—you’ll get it.

And on January 27, ACGIH is hosting a webinar (same Bat-

time, same Bat-channel) on “Explosive Dusts in Industrial Ventilation Systems”

As usual, open that email you received from Barb O’Kane to check out anything that may be missed here.
As Seen On TV

This may be opening a can o’ worms, but who cares, it’s a fun topic. Our occupation has an uncanny ability to leave people baffled when we tell them we are an Industrial Hygienist, even though we’ve had a national organization since the late 1930’s. While manning the duty desk (I work for OSHA btw) I had an individual laugh, rather uncontrollably, when I mentioned the words industrial hygienist. He’d never heard of such an occupation. Having just finished my MS from CSU and worked through various internships, my family still regards my occupation as “something in science”, except my Dad. He worked at a rock quarry for 25+ years and he knows all too well about government regulation via MSHA. He still considers me as “working for the enemy”.

Be that as it may, I thought it would be fun to use this newsletter as a springboard for self-recognition. I mean self in an organizational/occupational sense, and so leads to the purpose of this section “As Seen On TV”.

We’ve all seen an episode of some show where our favorite character has gotten him or herself in some sort of predicament. The land of make-believe can be fun for some, but as a member of health and safety world (which happens to also reside in the real world) the premise of the situation can be just too much to bear. I think our professional oath should include something to the effect that “will not watch horribly inaccurate scenes unfold on television without raising the health and safety flag”.

If you’ve watched a show or movie where they got it all wrong, tell me about it. Send me a brief description of the scene and tell me what they did wrong. Dirty Jobs anyone? Anyone seen The Office where Michael kicks a ladder out from underneath Daryl who then falls and breaks his leg?

Send me an email to joe.dartt@gmail.com with subject: As Seen On TV.

Community Emergency Response Teams

Thanks to all those who submitted content for this newsletter: John Colvin, Leslie Hill DeCoster, Dan Felzien, and Bob Acker.

Volunteers undergo 36-hours of training to acquire and exercise basic skill sets, including fire safety, search, rescue, triage, first aid, terrorism and disaster psychology. The training course culminates in a community-based disaster preparedness exercise.

Professionals who are interested can take a free, web-based correspondence course (http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/i5/is317.asp) that provides a foundation for the training course described above. Contact your county emergency response manager for the live course.

Submitted by: Bob Acker

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