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ISSUES In The SPOTLIGHT

Founded in 1980 to provide on-site evaluations of potential safety and health hazards.

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Spotlight on Safety Newsletter

Industrial Health & Safety's July Spotlight on Safety has been released . The purpose of this newsletter is to provide friends and clients a greater understanding of the dynamic world of occupational safety and health, and to keep them acquainted with the various changes in policies and laws that will affect their facilities.

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General Interest

Staying Cool in the Heat

With the onslaught of the heat of summer, it is important to remind our readers how important it is to keep one's employees safe and cool during this weather. OSHA has some free products available to assist in dealing with the heat. The primary dangers with the increased temperatures include heat stroke, dehydration, and heat exhaustion. Heat stroke can be fatal. So, to prevent these problems, OSHA has the following publications available:

Working Outdoors: This fact sheet offers ideas to protect against diseases such as Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus, as well as protecting against UV radiation and staying safe from extreme heat.

OSHA's Heat Stress Card: This card focuses specifically on heat related illness and death. It includes ideas to prevent heat-related injuries, ways of identifying warning signs and symptoms, and ideas for treatment.

Protecting Yourself Against Harmful Sunlight: This pocketcard has information about performing self examinations to detect skin cancer. It is available in both English and Spanish.

You can download these publications and obtain more information by going to OSHA's [publication website](#) or by

calling (202) 693-1888.

Respirator Loses NIOSH Approval

NIOSH (the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) that is known for studying and approving various personal protective devices, has announced that it will no longer approve the use of the International Safety Device (ISD) Model 5000 Air Capsule 5-Minute Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus. NIOSH announced that the respirator did not meet performance requirements during the agency's testing. For more information about this decision, visit their website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/pdfs/ISD-042706.pdf>

OSHA's New Campaign

A new, multi-year campaign has begun to focus on the safety of the younger members of the workforce. The project, "The Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign," focuses on workplace safety hazards particular to young people who are often employed seasonally. There is also a focus on education, both of the employers, the young workers, and the workers' parents. The first part of this campaign focuses on landscaping hazards. OSHA has a resource kit available that informs young people about the dangers associated with that work area, including heat, machinery, and pesticides. There will be more resource kits available soon. For more information, visit:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/landscaping/index.html>

Spanish eTools Available

Due to the large number of Spanish-speaking workers in many areas that require education about hazards and safety, OSHA has been developing more tools in Spanish. One recent publication is a safety pamphlet for those in the construction field, and is available at: http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction_sp/index.html. The hazards discussed include falls, electrical injuries, and trench safety. There are also other Spanish tools available at OSHA's Spanish publications webpage, at: <http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/spanish/publications-sp.html>.

There is also a new Spanish language newsletter that is being produced by OSHA's New York Region. It includes a variety of articles relating to topics of safety and health. For more information, visit the website at:

<http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/spanish/RO2HispanicNewsletter1-1v04-10-06.pdf>, or e-mail OSHA at prvi-osha-news@dol.gov.

Safety Apparel Leads to Tax Exemptions

To encourage employers to do what is right and protect their employees, Connecticut has made safety apparel tax exempt. The safety equipment must be used by the employee to protect their safety, and is included whether it is purchased or leased. For more information and a list of what materials are qualified, visit the website at: <http://www.ct.gov/drs/cwp/view.asp?a=1511&q=285342>.

New Safety and Health Topics Page

As a new addition to the many topics page, the Concrete Industry now has a web page published by OSHA. There is information available at: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/products/topics/concreteproducts/index.html>.

There is a great deal of information about protecting workers and ideas to minimize safety hazards in the workplace.

OSHA Teams Up with Girls Scouts

As a new addition to the Girl Scout use of patches to certify that the scout has learned about a certain topic, Girl Scouts will now be able to receive patches relating to safety and health issues. The patches were designed as part of a day-long girl scout safety and health day. For more information, visit:

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/success_stories/compliance_assistance/req1_2_girlscouts.html

School Specific Issues

"School Building" Definition Clarified by the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General

In 2004 the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) established a policy that any building owned by a Local Education Agency was a "school building." This definition was clearly at odds with the "school building" definitions set forth in the EPA AHERA regulations and the Connecticut Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Regulations, which provided six specific criteria for a "school building."

The new DPH interpretation imposed a hardship on several IH&SC school customers, so IH&SC asked DPH for a written confirmation of their intent to enforce a "school building" definition other than the one set forth in the applicable regulations. DPH forwarded our request to the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General (OAG).

The OAG disagreed with DPH, and rendered the informal opinion that the "school building" definition provided in the regulations was the definition that should be used. The OAG's opinion is described in "Topic #2 of DPH Circular Letter [EHS #2006-21](#).

As a result of this opinion, the definition of a "school building" reverts to buildings that meet the following criteria set forth in the EPA AHERA Regulations:

- Any structure suitable for use as a classroom, including a school facility such as a laboratory, library, school eating facility or facility used for the preparation of food
- Any gymnasium or other facility which is specially designed for athletic or recreational activities for an academic course in physical education
- Any other facility used for the instruction or housing of students or for the administration of educational or research programs
- Any maintenance, storage, or utility facility, including any hallway, essential to the operation of any facility described in this definition of "school building" under paragraphs (1), (2), or (3)
- Any portico or covered exterior hallway or walkway
- Any exterior portion of a mechanical system used to condition interior space.

Office of the Connecticut Attorney General Broadens the Definition of "In Session" as Applied to School Asbestos Abatement

Historically, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has interpreted the term "in-session" to mean the period from the opening bell to the closing bell on mandated school days. This definition is important, because the Connecticut Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Regulations requires schools to obtain special dispensation from the DPH to perform asbestos abatement while school is "in-session."

In May of 2006, the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General (OAG) issued an informal opinion that "in-session" should include any time when "students" are present in a "school building." In practice, the DPH is now interpreting in-session as anytime anyone under 18 (other than an employee of the school) is in a school building for any reason. Applying this interpretation, a school building must be clear of all persons under 18 years of age anytime any asbestos abatement - including spot repairs - is underway unless the school gets special permission from the DPH. The OAG's opinion on this matter is described in "Topic #1" of DPH Circular Letter [EHS #2006-21](#).

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