



NC-ASSE RECORDER

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OSHA release's semiannual agenda

Some of today's more prominent topics in the occupational safety and health field are included in OSHA's semiannual regulatory agenda published in the Dec. 10 *Federal Register*.

According to the *Federal Register* notice, all Department of Labor agencies "have carefully assessed their available resources and what they can accomplish in the next 12 months, and have adjusted their agendas accordingly."

OSHA's agenda includes diacetyl exposure in its proposed rule stage. Diacetyl, a major component in artificial butter flavoring, has been linked to bronchiolitis obliterans – a potentially fatal lung disease. Unions petitioned for an emergency temporary standard to protect employees against "popcorn lung" but were denied by OSHA in September. Additionally, OSHA will review the Methylene Chloride standard (29 CFR 1910.1052) to determine the continued need for the rule.

Final action was scheduled for April on a revision to OSHA's standard covering electric power transmission and distribution – electrical protective equipment.

Items in the prerule stage include occupational exposure to crystalline silica and beryllium. OSHA denied petitions in 1999 and 2001 seeking an emergency temporary standard covering beryllium's risks, and has conducted research and field tests to assess exposure and control methods. This information, according to the agenda, would be used in the development of a proposed rule that addresses beryllium exposure.

The only completed action listed on the agenda was a review of the Lead in Construction standard (29 CFR 1926.62). The review determined in September that the rule is still necessary to protect construction workers from lead-related illnesses such as kidney disease.

In addition to releasing the

semiannual agenda, OSHA also exceeded its 2007 inspection goals. OSHA conducted 39,324 inspections in fiscal year 2007 – a 4.3 percent increase from its stated budgetary goal of 37,700, according to annual enforcement statistics released Dec. 28 by the agency.

Total violations of OSHA's standards and regulations numbered 88,846 – a 6 percent increase from FY 2006 – and citations for serious violations increased 9 percent to 67,176.

OSHA administrator Edwin G. Foulke Jr. said the statistics show the agency's enforcement commitment remains strong.

(Reference: OSHA, NSC)

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February 14th Meeting—EPA tour

This month's meeting will be a tour of the Federal EPA building located at 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, RTP, NC 27711. The tour will begin at 11:00 am. A photo ID will be required and we will be meeting in room C114. Our tour guides will be Tim McClellan and Marshall Grey, who both work for the EPA.

The RTP building is the center of the EPA's national air research programs and air quality office responsible for issuing regulations and policies to reduce air pollution across the country. Research has improved understanding of exposures to air pollutants and their health effects and provided new technologies for use in pollution

prevention and mitigation.

Other research conducted includes safe drinking water, risks to children from environmental contaminants, and human health risk assessments to pesticides.

See the EPA website for more information (www.epa.gov).

1st Annual James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament

Where:

Brook Valley Country Club, Greenville, NC.

When:

April 4th, 2008.



James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament

The First Annual James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on April 4th 2008 at Brook Valley Country Club in Greenville, NC. The East Carolina University American Society of Safety Engineers Student Section will be administering the event. Dr. Kohn was a well respected faculty member at East Carolina University and proud supporter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. As you may know, success of the M.S. in Occupational Safety program at ECU is a result of Dr. Kohn's effort and vision.

The (foursome) golf tourna-

ment will begin "shotgun style" at 1:00pm with registration starting at 11:00am. Entry fees will include: golf, cart, prizes, and food. The top teams will receive cash awards. Additional prizes will also be awarded throughout the day! A local favorite, *CPW's: Fine Food and Spirits*, will be providing lunch and a remarkable dinner.

The price per tournament participant is \$75 (\$300 per team). We will have many individual golfers, and will create teams, so please don't be shy if you don't have a foursome. We are also looking for hole spon-

sorships. If you are interested in having your business, organization or name advertised on a tournament hole; the contribution minimum is \$100. Scholarship funds are handled directly by the East Carolina University Foundation and all donations are fully tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, a tax deduction receipt will be provided to you.

Please contact Mike Behm, PhD, CSP, Assistant Professor at ECU for further information (252.328.9674).

2008 Business Environmental and Safety Training (BEST) Conference

The 2008 BEST Conference is an opportunity to receive free training on a variety of safety, health, and environmental topics and to network with professionals in these fields. The conference also showcases vendors who supply services, supplies, and products in environmental, health, and safety areas. The BEST Conference is intended for professionals in-

involved with:

- Environmental Compliance and Reporting
- Industrial Hygiene
- Safety and Health
- Emergency Planning and Response.

The BEST Conference is a major outreach activity of the Wake County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

For more information, go to the Wake County LEPC website (www.wakegov.com/lepc).

Location and Date:

The McKimmon Center
NCSU
February 20, 2008
1101 Gorman St.
Raleigh, NC

SAFETY 2008, the National Professional Development Conference

SAFETY 2008 is the premier professional development event year after year for Safety, Health and Environmental (SH&E) professionals. It features the most extensive educational and networking opportunities offered to the profession. More than 200 sessions will offer you a wealth of information where you will learn from the successes of other organizations, understand

the latest safety methodologies, and take away examples and strategies to use in your everyday workplace that will benefit your career and organization. Whether you are new to the profession or a seasoned executive, SAFETY 2008 has something for everyone. There is a host of concurrent session options as well as many pre- and post-seminar sessions.

This year's location is in Las Vegas, NV.

Please see the official SAFETY 2008 website for more information (www.asse.org/education/pdc08/index.php).

Gaps in U.S. Public Health preparedness

The United States has made "significant progress" on preparing for public health emergencies, but several critical gaps are still present, according to a new study.

The nonprofit Trust for America's Health in December released its fifth annual report on state-by-state health preparedness, titled "[Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters, and](#)

[Bioterrorism.](#)"

"The improvements in state preparedness are encouraging, but the job of preparing the United States for major health emergencies is not nearly done," said Jeff Levi, TFAH executive director.

Areas of concern noted in the report include:

7 states have not purchased their share of antivirals to stockpile for pandemic influ-

enza as requested by the federal government.

13 states lack adequate plans to distribute emergency vaccines, antidotes and medical supplies. 21 states do not provide sufficient legal protection from liability for health care volunteers responding to an emergency.

(Reference: Trust for America's Health)

NIOSH offers medical guidance on nanoparticle exposure

NIOSH is seeking comment until Feb. 15 on an interim guidance document intended to safeguard workers against nanoparticles.

The guidance document addresses the medical screening of workers potentially exposed to nanoparticles during the manufacture and industrial use of nanomaterials. There is currently insufficient

evidence as to whether working with such particles can lead to damaging health effects, NIOSH said. The agency said it hopes the guidance will lead to discussions and recommendations for improving upon the document.

While waiting for science advancements in understanding the threat nanoparticles may pose, NIOSH suggests taking

exposure control measures and establishing medical surveillance to assess the controls.

(Reference: NIOSH)

Working third shift a cause for cancer?

Working overnight soon will be listed as a possible carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a London-based branch of the World Health Organization.

The agency is basing its decision on a number of previous studies indicating women working overnight shifts were more prone to breast cancer, men working overnight were more prone to prostate cancer, and animals that have their light-dark schedules reversed

developed more tumors. Some scientists believe working overnight increases cancer rates by disrupting the body's natural circadian rhythms and impeding the development of melatonin – a tumor-suppressing hormone that is produced at night.

According to the agency, the link between third-shift work and the development of cancer was first proposed in 1987 by a researcher at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington. An exact tie-in has

not been conclusively identified, and the connection has been met with skepticism by some who attribute rises in cancer incidence to other factors in workers' lives.

(Reference: WHO)



Founded in 1911, ASSE is the oldest and largest professional safety organization. Its more than 30,000 members manage, supervise and consult on safety, health, and environmental issues in industry, insurance, government and education. ASSE is guided by a 16-member Board of Directors, which consists of 8 regional vice presidents; three council vice presidents; Society president, president-elect, senior vice president, vice president of finance and executive director. ASSE has 13 practice specialties, 152 chapters, 31 sections and 52 student sections.

For more information, visit www.asse.org.

Upcoming Events

February ASSE Meeting

Tour: EPA Building
Guides: Tim McClellan,
Marshall Gray
Date: 2/14/2008
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, RTP 27711

BEST Conference:

Date: 2/20/2008
Time: Vendors open at 7:30 am
Location: McKimmon Center at NC State University
Cost: Free

March ASSE Meeting

Topic: EQ Industrial Services Disaster
Speaker: Brian McFeaters, Apex Fire Chief
Date: 3/13/2008
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Bentley's at Crossroads (Cary)
Cost: \$20.00

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