



NC-ASSE RECORDER

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Professional Certifications...Are They Right For You?

Have you thought about getting a professional certification? Well, you should. Professional certifications are a great way to show your current employer, and prospective employers, that you have a higher level of knowledge in a particular area of safety and health expertise. They often result in increased compensation (\$). In addition, they mean R-E-S-P-E-C-T... from your peers.

Although the CSP (certified safety professional) may be one of the more recognizable certifications in the safety and health field, there are other certifications that may suit you and your career plans better. For example, if you have interest in occupational health issues, you may want to explore the CIH (certified industrial hygienist).

With the way organizations are growing, expanding, and diversifying, it has become more criti-

cal for safety and health professionals to combine areas of expertise. A safety professional may be asked to become involved in corporate insurance issues. In this case, the ARM (associate in risk management) behind your name will be helpful. If your revised job description now includes working more closely with hazardous materials, then the CHMM (certified hazardous material manager) may be more appropriate. Since the national disaster on September 11, 2001, many safety professionals are now responsible for security issues, and the CPP (certified protection professional) designation can be useful here.

The **2008 Region VI Professional Development Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC on September 15-19, 2008** offers multiple opportunities to explore professional certifications. Pre-conference sessions

include an ARM review course and an Associate Safety Professional review course (the ASP is the first part of the CSP).

In addition, **the opening session keynote speaker for the PDC is Dr. Robert Emery** CSP, CIH, ARM, CPP, CHMM, CHP (certified health physicist) and RBP (registered biosafety professional). That's right, Dr. Emery has professional certifications in safety, industrial hygiene, risk management, security, hazardous materials, health physics, and biosafety. You don't want to miss his keynote address on *Crisis Communication and Media Interaction* or his breakout session on *The Compelling Display of Health & Safety Data to Facilitate Desired Decision Making*. Go to www.asse-region6.org for more information on the PDC schedule and Dr. Emery's impressive bio.

OSHA Issues Guidance Document on Portland Cement

OSHA in February issued a guidance document* designed to help protect workers from developing skin problems associated with portland cement.

Estimates show portland cement – any building material with adhesive properties when mixed with water – accounts for at least 25 percent of all work-related skin problems, OSHA said. Portland cement damages the skin due to its caustic, abrasive and water-absorbing qualities; it also con-

tains the toxin hexavalent chromium.

The new guidance document offers ways to prevent skin-related injuries in cement and cement-related industries. Tips to avoid hazards presented by the product include selecting the proper personal protective equipment and using pH-neutral or slightly acidic soaps

A lawsuit filed against OSHA by labor unions and trade groups pointed out that the agency's

new Hexavalent Chromium standard omitted portland cement. In a settlement reached last April, OSHA agreed to take steps to use existing standards and requirements and apply them to portland cement.

More than 1 million employees work with portland cement or concrete containing the product, OSHA said.

* For the document, go to www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/cement-guidance.html

Transportation Notification System (TNS)

TNS was developed by the North Carolina DOT's Division of Motor Vehicles and DOT's Information Technology Branch in 2003 in response to problems that state transit agencies were having with drivers whose licenses became suspended without the employer knowing about it. This was creating a serious potential liability for the agencies.

The solution developed is an on-line process in which the employer is granted access to its drivers' records after signing a memorandum of understanding and enrolling its drivers on-line. Under the system, NC DMV notifies the employer whenever it sends a notice of adverse action (suspension notice, disqualification, etc.) to an enrolled employee. To date, almost 6% of all drivers enrolled developed some prob-

lem that required notification of the employer.

The employer at any time can access the system to view its drivers to identify what endorsements the driver might have, how many driving points are on his record, when he is up for renewal, restrictions on the license, etc. The employer has controlled access to the system using a RACF user ID. The DMV Driver License Help Desk monitors usage to ensure against any abuse. (Only employees can be enrolled. When an employee resigns, retires or is terminated, he must be removed from the system). The Help Desk is also available to employers to assist in understanding records or resolving technical issues. While TNS is most helpful for monitoring drivers with a commercial license, it has also proven helpful

for monitoring any drivers using company or agency fleet vehicles.

Currently, TNS is still operating in pilot mode with no cost to users, due to the lack of resources to expand fully. Approximately 20,000 drivers are tracked through the system currently, with about 100 employers using the system. NC DOT has all of its commercial drivers monitored through TNS. In 2004, the program won a joint national award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) for the best IT project contributing to highway safety. For more information, please contact Barbara Webb, Manager, Driver License Technology Services,

MSHA Publishes Final Rule on Mine Rescue Teams

The Mine Safety and Health Administration published a final rule*† the agency said will require underground coal mines to have better trained rescue teams that are ready for an emergency.

The rule, which implements Section 4 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, was published in the Feb. 8 *Federal Register*. Mines will be required to have one person knowledgeable in mine emergency response at each mine for all shifts, and rescue team members must be able to arrive at a mine from the mine rescue station within one hour. Additionally, the rule requires each mine to have two certified rescue teams and increases training hours from 40 to 96 annually.

"This regulation will help ensure that no matter where or when a mine accident occurs, dedicated men and women will be readily available and properly trained to assist in the rescue of their comrades underground," MSHA acting administrator Richard E. Stickler said in a statement.

In related news, MSHA in late January approved the first wireless system designed to track miners underground. The MineTracer Miner Location Monitoring System from Anaheim, CA-based Venture Design Services Inc. uses low-voltage DC power cables that, during an emergency, can become energized and operate wirelessly on battery power. Venture said in the future it will add text messaging and gas

detection to the system.

MSHA is currently reviewing 41 other communications and tracking approval applications, including several that are wireless. Provisions in the MINER Act require mine operators to adopt a wireless communications and electronic tracking system by June 2009.

Six miners were entombed and have never been located following an August mine collapse at Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah. Three others, including an MSHA employee, were killed during a rescue attempt.

* For a pdf file of the final rule, go to www.msha.gov/REGS/FEDREG/FINAL/2008finl/08-551.pdf



Eastern Kentucky University Adds New Occupational Safety Concentration to Online Master's Program

Beginning this May, EKU will add a new concentration in Occupational Safety to its online Master of Science in Loss Prevention & Safety degree program. The concentration is comprised of four courses, 12 credit hours, which can be added as a focus within the larger degree program or taken as a certificate for students who are not ready to pursue the full degree, but want the benefits of additional occupational safety instruction.

"Due to expressed interest from professionals in these fields, EKU is now offering an online graduate degree with options for certificates and concentrations," said Online Program Director Dr. Tom Schneid. "The College of Justice & Safety has a national reputation in areas that comprise homeland security, emergency response, fire protection, hazardous materials, security, emergency management and risk management."

Because the Occupational Safety option is comprised of specialty courses, the option will have a limited enrollment period restricted to application dates during the summer term. Application deadlines for the first intake for the Occupa-

tional Safety certificate and concentration are April 27, 2007 and June 8, 2007. Students missing these deadlines will have to wait until the Summer 2008 term to begin this track.

The four-course concentration or certificate in occupational safety is comprised of:

- **SSE 828 Industrial Safety Management** - Investigation and analysis of hazard control principles relating to the management of personnel, facilities, and equipment, including control procedures, work-task analysis, risk identification and countermeasures, safety training, and pertinent safety management techniques.
- **SSE 832 Construction Safety** - Introduction/analysis of general construction safety utilizing the key components of 29 CFR 196. Included in this study will be general safety & health provisions of OSH Act and a review of the various subparts of 29 CFR 1926.
- **SSE 834 Corporate Compliance** - The assessment, analysis and development of safety, emergency management, security and environmental compliance programs. This course will address the

regulatory requirements and best business practices for each of the compliance areas.

SSE 845 Personal/Environmental Hazards - Analysis and investigation of hazard and threat control principles relating to personal and environmental risks within the workplace. Investigation techniques, inspection methodologies, management techniques, and prevention programs essential to the manager within the safety, fire, and security functions are emphasized.

EKU's department of Loss Prevention & Safety is world renowned and offers the nation's only completely online Master of Science degree in Loss Prevention & Safety. This program is designed to meet the needs of today's working professionals in safety management, security, loss prevention, fire protection and administration, homeland security, risk management, and occupational health and safety.

For more information about the Master of Science in Loss Prevention & Safety online program, contact an EKU enrollment advisor at **1-866-277-9878** or visit the program Web site, http://safetymanagement.eku.edu/lp/default.php?src=O_PBASSE.

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 some-

thing 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).



American Society of Safety Engineers

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

April ASSE Meeting

Topic: Raleigh Convention

Center

Speaker: TBA (Skanska/

Barnhill Representative)

Date: 4/10/2008

Time: 11:30 am

Location: Buffalo Brothers,

3111 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC.

Cost: \$15.00

Nanotechnology Safety and Response Seminar

Speaker: Various

Date: 4/14/2008

Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Location: Dennis A Wicker

Civic Center, Sanford, NC

Cost: Free

Website: www.readylee.org

Statewide Safety Conference

Speaker: Various

Date: 5/14-16/2008

Time: 8:00 am

Location: Four Seasons,

Greensboro

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