Final Beryllium Rule Lowers Exposure Limit for Workers

In its final rule to protect workers from beryllium exposure, OSHA has reduced the PEL for beryllium to 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over eight hours, and established a new short-term exposure limit for beryllium of 2.0 micrograms per cubic meter of air, over a 15-minute sampling period. The final rule lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for beryllium couldn’t come soon enough, according to safety industry advocates.

About 62,000 workers are exposed to beryllium during their work day, including 11,500 construction and shipyard workers, according to the agency.

Beryllium, either inhaled or through skin contact, contributes to an increased risk of lung cancer, chronic lung disease and various sudden on-set respiratory ailments among workers.

Read more:
Occupational Exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA) in U.S. Manufacturing Companies

You may have seen water bottles labeled “BPA Free” or heard that certain foods contain BPA. BPA (or bisphenol A) has been in the news over the past several years. BPA is weakly estrogenic; that is, BPA may mimic some of the hormone-like effects of estrogen. BPA is used primarily in making polycarbonate plastic and some epoxy resins. The general population is exposed to BPA mainly through diet. Trace levels of BPA may be present in food or beverages in contact with polycarbonate containers or epoxy resins coatings on the inside of cans. As a result, BPA has been detected in the urine of over 92% of the general population. But what about the exposures of people who work with BPA? The few studies that have measured worker exposure to BPA have focused mainly on cashiers handling point-of-sale thermal receipt paper coated with BPA and workers in Chinese factories. No published data were available on the BPA exposure of workers in U.S. factories.

Read more: https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2017/01/05/bpa/

Asthma among Employed Adults, by Industry and Occupation — 21 States, 2013

Workers in various industries and occupations are at risk for work-related asthma* (1). Data from the 2006–2007 adult Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Asthma Call-back Survey (ACBS), an in-depth asthma survey conducted with respondents who report an asthma diagnosis, from 33 states indicated that up to 48% of adult current asthma might be related to work and could therefore potentially be prevented (2).
Identification of the industries and occupations with increased prevalence of asthma might inform work-related asthma intervention and prevention efforts.

To assess the industry-specific and occupation-specific proportions of adults with current asthma by state, CDC analyzed data from the 2013 BRFSS industry and occupation module, collected from 21 states for participants aged ≥18 years who, at the time of the survey interview, were employed or had been out of work for <12 months.

**CDC Considers Lowering Threshold Level for Lead Exposure**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is considering lowering its threshold for elevated childhood blood lead levels by 30 percent, a shift that could help health practitioners identify more children afflicted by the heavy metal.

Since 2012, the CDC, which sets public health standards for exposure to lead, has used a blood lead threshold of 5 micrograms per deciliter for children under age 6. While no level of lead exposure is safe for children, those who test at or above that level warrant a public health response, the agency says. Based on new data from a national health survey, the CDC may lower its reference level to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter in the coming months, according to six people briefed by the agency. The measure will come up for discussion at a CDC meeting January 17 in Atlanta.
Estimating Diesel Fuel Exposure for a Plumber Repairing an Underground Pipe

We estimated the diesel fuel exposure of a plumber repairing an underground water line leak at a truck stop. The repair work was performed over three days during which the plumber spent most of his time in a pit filled with a mixture of water and diesel fuel. Thus, the plumber was exposed via both the inhalation and dermal routes. While previously asymptomatic, he was diagnosed with acute renal failure 35 days after working at this site.

No measurements were available for estimating either inhalation or dermal exposures or the cumulative dose and, therefore, two different approaches were used that were based on simple models of the exposure scenario. The first approach used the ideal gas law with the vapor pressure of the diesel fuel mixture to estimate a saturation vapor concentration, while the second one used a mass balance of the petroleum hydrocarbon component of diesel fuel in conjunction with the Henry's Law constant for this mixture. These inhalation exposure estimates were then adjusted to account for the limited ventilation in a confined space. The inhalation exposure concentrations predicted when handling the water layer alone is much lower than that expected from the organic layer. This case study illustrates the large differences in inhalation exposure associated with volatile organic layers and aqueous solution containing these chemicals. The estimate of dermal exposure was negligible compared to the inhalation exposure because the skin presents a much smaller surface area of exposure to the contaminant compared to the lungs. The methodology presented here is useful for situations where little information is available for more formal mathematical exposure modeling, but where adjustments to the worst case exposures, estimated simply, can provide reasonable exposure estimates.

Read more: Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene Accepted author version posted online: 12 Dec 2016 (Available with an AIHA membership)
The Mystery of American’s Ailing Flight Attendants

From oozing blisters and wheezing to rashes, itchy eyes, and sore throats, numerous American Airlines Group Inc. flight attendants say their new work uniforms are making them sick. But after a battery of tests and a tense back-and-forth among their union, the airline, and the uniform supplier, it's still not clear what exactly is behind the rise in health complaints.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), which represents flight attendants for American, has asked the carrier to recall the new garments, which went to 70,000 employees starting in September.

The airline says it has spent more than $1 million for three rounds of toxicological tests that, so far, haven't turned up any obvious causes for the maladies.


New Guide Will Help Small Businesses Comply With OSHA's Silica Rule for Construction

OSHA has released a Small Entity Compliance Guide for Construction that is intended to help small business employers comply with the agency's Final Rule to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica. The guide describes in easy-to-understand language the steps that employers are required to take to protect employees in construction from the hazards associated with silica exposure. All covered must: provide respiratory protection when required; restrict silica exposure from housekeeping practices where feasible; implement a
written exposure control plan; offer medical exams to workers who will need to wear a respirator for 30 or more days a year; communicate hazards and train employees; and keep records of medical examinations. Enforcement of the final rule in construction is due to begin June 23, 2017.

Read more: https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt111516.html (scroll down towards bottom of the page)

Radiation

The 50 Jobs with the Most Radiation Exposure

Certain career-pro come with inherent dangers. Logging workers and fishermen experience the most fatalities on the job, but there are other professions in which the dangers are not so obvious. Over time, being exposed to certain chemicals and toxins at work can lead to serious problems, particularly during 40-hour work weeks. For example, humans are exposed to small amounts of radiation — a type of energy emitted from the sun or X-rays — nearly every day. It is also used as an effective treatment against cancer. However, higher doses of radiation over a long period of time can cause mutations in our genes and lead to cancer. Large amounts of radiation exposure can lead to extreme sickness and even death.

Using data from the Occupational Information Network, the experts at CareerTrends, a career research site powered by Graphiq, found the jobs with the most radiation exposure. The data comes from an O*NET Survey in which respondents were asked "How often does this job require exposure to radiation?" and responded with a number from one to five, with one corresponding to infrequent exposure and five corresponding to the most exposure. Using this data, CareerTrends created a "Radiation Exposure Score" from one to 100 and found the 50 jobs with the highest scores. Each job's approximate average salary is also listed, using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Careers are listed from least to most radiation exposure. Ties are broken by approximate annual salary, with the lower salaries ranking higher.

Read more: http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/careersandeducation/the-50-
Sun Exposure at Work Could Lead to One Skin Cancer Death a Week

The findings, published in the British Journal of Cancer, showed that construction workers had the highest number of deaths (44% of deaths), followed by agriculture workers (23% of deaths). Public administration and defence workers - including the police and the armed forces - accounted for 10% of deaths.

The researchers, based at Imperial College London’s Faculty of Medicine, estimated there are 48 deaths and 241 cases of melanoma skin cancer each year in Britain caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun at work.

Read more: http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandevent

New Guide on Ventilation Standards Released by ASHRAE

A manual to help users navigate the changes in ASHRAE 2016 ventilation standard is now available. The User Manual for ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2016; Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality provides information on the requirements of the standard and includes tables, illustrations and examples to aid users in designing, installing and operating systems for ventilation in buildings.
"The manual elaborates on the requirements in the standard published earlier this year," says Hoy Bohanon, Chair of the Standard 62.1 Committee. "The standard contained changes that impact high rise residential spaces, the indoor air quality procedure, laboratory exhaust and demand control ventilation. The manual provides guidance on how to incorporate those changes and others."

The manual also contains:

- Information on the intent and application of Standard 62.1
- Sample calculations and examples
- Best practices examples complying with the requirements of this version of Standard 62.1
- Useful reference materials
- Guidance for building operation and maintenance personnel
- Instructions for the user in the application of tools used for compliance with Standard 62.1

Read more:

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**PPE**

**NIOSH Announces It Will Not Revoke Approvals for 1-Hour Escape Respirators Prior to Jan. 4, 2018**

Citing concerns that the underground mining industry might soon face a shortfall of NIOSH-approved one-hour escape respirators, NIOSH announced that it would allow the continued manufacture and sale of devices that meet older specifications. The announcement was published in the Dec. 28, 2016 issue of the Federal Register and was accompanied by a short guidance document (PDF) available from the website of the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory.

Read more:  
New NIOSH Sound Level Meter App

Imagine if workers around the world could collect and share workplace (or task-based) noise exposure data using their smartphones. Scientists and occupational safety and health professionals could rely on such shared data to build job exposure databases and promote better hearing health and prevention efforts. In addition, the ability to acquire and display real-time noise exposure data could raise workers’ awareness about their work environment and help them make informed decisions about potential hazards to their hearing. The idea was so intriguing that in 2014, the NIOSH hearing loss team evaluated 192 sound measurement applications (apps) for the iOS and Android platforms to examine their suitability and accuracy in relation to professional sound measurement instruments (Kardous and Shaw, 2014). Of the 192 apps the team examined, 10 iOS apps met the outlined criteria for functionality, features, and calibration capability, and of those, 4 iOS apps met our testing criteria. Read more about that study in the blog So How Accurate Are These Smartphone Sound Measurement Apps?

Read more: https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2017/01/17/slm-app/

Ototoxicity: Medications that Cause Tinnitus

Ototoxic medications are those that are toxic to the cochlea or vestibular (balance) structures in the ear. These medications have the potential to cause hearing loss, tinnitus and/or dysequilibrium such as dizziness and vertigo.
Ototoxicity came to the forefront of clinical attention with the discovery of streptomycin in 1944. Streptomycin was successfully used in the treatment of tuberculosis; however, a large number of patients were found to develop irreversible cochlear and vestibular dysfunction. Ototoxicity was also shown with the later development of other aminoglycoside antibiotics. Today, many well known pharmaceutical agents have been shown to have toxic effects on the cochleovestibular system. The list includes aminoglycosides and other antibiotics, platinum-based chemotherapy medications, salicylates, quinine and loop diuretics.

Read more: https://www.tinnitusformula.com/library/ototoxicity-medications-that-cause-tinnitus/

Copper Oxide-Embedded Textiles Help Reduce Healthcare-Related Infections

A study yesterday in the American Journal of Infection Control suggests that using copper oxide-impregnated biocidal textiles in long-term care medical facilities can reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

The 7-month study involved all patients in two ventilator-dependent wards at a long-term care hospital. In the first intervention period, investigators replaced all the textiles (lines, patients' clothes, and towels) in one ward with copper-oxide impregnated textiles, while the other ward used regular hospital textiles. Previous studies have shown that embedding nonsoluble copper oxide in textiles permanently endows them with potent broad-spectrum antimicrobial properties.

After a 1-month washout period, in which both wards used regular textiles, the investigators then switched the textiles in the two wards for the second intervention period, with the ward that received the treated textiles in period one getting the control textiles, and vice versa. Hospital personnel were blinded to which ward received the treated textiles and which received the control textiles, and all standard infection control measures were observed in both wards. In addition, the characteristics of the patients in the two wards were roughly the same.
Blood Test Can Predict Life or Death Outcome for Patients with Ebola Virus Disease

Scientists have identified a ‘molecular barcode’ in the blood of patients with Ebola virus disease that can predict whether they are likely to survive or die from the viral infection.

A team at the University of Liverpool, in collaboration with Public Health England, Boston University and other international partners, used blood samples taken from infected and recovering patients during the 2013-2016 West Africa outbreak to identify gene products that act as strong predictors of patient outcome.

Certain Anti-Influenza Compounds Also Inhibit Zika Virus Infection, Researchers Find

Researchers from the University of Helsinki have shown that three anti-influenza compounds effectively inhibit Zika virus infection in human cells. The results provide the foundation for development of the broad-spectrum cell-directed antivirals or their combinations for treatment of Zika and other emerging viral diseases.

Globalization, environmental changes, population growth and urbanization make emerging virus diseases a major threat to
public health. An example of such epidemics is the Zika outbreak which is ongoing in the Americas after emerging in the Pacific region.

**Smartwatches Know You’re Getting a Cold Days before You Feel Ill**

Once we had palm-reading, now we have smartwatches. Wearable tech can now detect when you’re about to fall ill, simply by tracking your vital signs.

Michael Snyder at Stanford University in California experienced this first-hand last year. For over a year he had been wearing seven sensors to test their reliability, when suddenly they began to show abnormal readings. Even though he felt fine, the sensors showed that his heart was beating faster than normal, his skin temperature had risen, and the level of oxygen in his blood had dropped.

**Five Little-Known Diseases to Watch Out for in 2017**

The phrase “emerging disease”, to describe an infectious disease that is new to humans or which is suddenly increasing its geographical range or number of cases, dates back to the 1960s. But it was the realisation in the late 1970s and early 1980s that the world was in the throes of previously unrecognised pandemics of genital herpes and AIDS, that really propelled the term into the mainstream.

The causative agent of genital herpes was type 2 herpes simplex virus (HSV-2), a pathogen that was reasonably well-known at the time, but whose capacity for explosive spread had been underestimated. AIDS, on the other hand, was a completely new infectious agent – one which we now
know had been spreading unrecognised since the early 20th century.

**Environmental Health**

How Reliable Are Cancer Studies?

A project that tried to reproduce the results of 50 landmark papers turned into an arduous slog—and that’s a problem in itself. In recent years, scientists have been dealing with concerns about a reproducibility crisis—the possibility that many published findings may not actually be true. Psychologists have grappled intensively with this problem, trying to assess its scope and look for solutions. And two reports from pharmaceutical companies have suggested that cancer biologists have to face a similar reckoning.

In 2011, Bayer Healthcare said that its in-house scientists could only validate 25 percent of basic studies in cancer and other conditions. (Drug companies routinely do such checks so they can use the information in those studies as a starting point for developing new drugs.) A year later, Glenn Begley and Lee Ellis from Amgen said that the firm could only confirm the findings in 6 out of 53 landmark cancer papers—just 11 percent. Perhaps, they wrote, that might explain why “our ability to translate cancer research to clinical success has been remarkably low.”

What Does the Environment Have to Do With Diseases that Affect the Immune System?

The rise in recent decades of diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis suggests that factors in the environment are contributing. In 1932, New York gastroenterologist Burrill Crohn described an unusual disease in 14 adults. The patients had bouts of abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, and lesions and scars on the bowel wall. Doctors in other parts of North America and Europe were seeing it in their patients, too. They called the rare condition Crohn’s disease. After World War II, the number of new people getting inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn’s disease and a related condition called ulcerative colitis) skyrocketed across the West in countries such as the U.S., Canada and the UK. In the last three decades, IBD has begun to crop up in newly industrialized parts of the world like Hong Kong and China’s big cities.

Read more: https://ensia.com/features/environment-diseases-immune-system/

Synthetic Chemicals Understudied Drivers of Environmental Change

The increased use of synthetic chemicals, including pesticides and pharmaceuticals to attack unwanted organisms, has outpaced the rates of change in rising atmospheric CO2 concentrations and other agents of global environmental change over the past 45 years, a new Duke-led analysis reveals. Despite this trend, U.S. ecological journals, meetings and funding sources still devote less than two percent of their pages, talks and dollars to studies on these chemicals,
creating a disconnect between real-world needs and scientific focus.

Read more: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-01/du-scu012417.php

Social Environment Has a Sizable Impact on Health and Disease in Mice

The genetics of nearby mice can have a large impact on one animal's weight and health, according to a report by Amelie Baud and Oliver Stegle of the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL - EBI) in Hinxton, United Kingdom, published on January 25th, 2017 in PLOS Genetics.

Researchers know that human and animal health can be influenced - both positively and negatively - by how individuals interact with each other on a daily basis. But studying those social effects can be challenging, as they are difficult to pick apart and quantify.

Social effects can be measured without looking at behaviours or other characteristics of nearby mice directly, instead examining only how the genetic makeup of one animal impacts the traits (called phenotypes) of another animal it lives with. This is called 'social genetic effects'.

Read more: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-01/p-seh012017.php

Ergonomics

Common Causes of Neck Pain

Poor posture is the most common reason many people will complain about neck pain during their lifetime. Luckily, several lifestyle habits that cause neck pain can be reversed. Most people experience pain in
the back of the neck, where the postural muscles are located. There are actually several groups of muscles that are continuously working to hold the head upright, including the trapezius, splenius capitis, erector spinae, and suboccipital groups. These postural muscles become tight, tense, and overworked when the head is too far forward.


Safety

BLS: Nearly 5,000 Workers Died On the Job In 2015

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 4,836 workers were killed on the job in the United States in 2015, a slight increase from the 4,821 who died in 2014. At the same time, the rate of fatal workplace injuries dropped slightly, from 3.43 to 3.38 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, Transportation incidents were the leading cause of worker deaths, accounting for more than one-fourth of all fatal work injuries in 2015.

Read more: https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt011817.html

UV-Light Disinfection Might Cut Hospital MRSA, VRE Rates

An expensive type of ultraviolet (UV) light treatment called UVC was associated with a 30% drop in the incidence of infections with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) but did not affect Clostridium difficile rates when used for cleaning hospital rooms between patients, according to a study yesterday in The Lancet.
The study, conducted by Duke Health researchers and funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was conducted from 2012 to 2014 at nine hospitals in the Southeast, including three Duke University Health System hospitals, a Veterans Affairs hospital, and small community facilities. It included 21,393 patients.


10 Top Patient Safety Issues For 2017

Health equity. In 2001, the Institute of Medicine established six aims for improvement in healthcare: to make it safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable. While great strides have been made toward the first five, progress on health equity has lagged, according to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. IHI called health equity the "forgotten aim" in a 2016 whitepaper.


Bureau of Labor Statistics Names Most Dangerous Jobs in America

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent release of its Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data caught the attention of Time magazine, which noted that the death rate for workers over the age of 65 is nearly on par with the rate for electricians—the 20th most dangerous job in the country.

changes.
Due to an increased life expectancy and financial reasons, the workforce in America has continued to get older. BLS expects 24.8 percent of workers to be older than 55 by 2024. The agency also listed the most dangerous jobs, with occupations such as loggers, fishers, and aircraft pilots topping the list for 2015. Loggers saw 132 deaths per 100,000 workers, while the national average is 3.4 deaths per 100,000 workers.

**Study Confirms Under-Recording of Workplace Injuries, on-Site Medical Units Potential Factor**

A recent article by two OSHA physicians, published in the *Journal of Safety Research*, describes the agency's efforts to improve employer recordkeeping. It also examines under-recording, which leads to inaccurately low counts of worker injuries. Under OSHA's recordkeeping and reporting requirements most employers with more than 10 employees must keep a record of serious work-related injuries and illnesses.

Minor injuries requiring first aid only do not need to be recorded.

The article identifies that poorly operated on-site nursing or first aid stations are a rarely recognized cause of under-recording. As an example, in some poultry plants, OSHA found that these stations were staffed by emergency medical technicians and licensed practical nurses with little to no nursing or medical supervision, who functioned without appropriate protocols and provided care beyond their scopes of practice. In some cases, workers were seen multiple times without referral for a definitive evaluation, diagnosis and treatment. By restricting treatment to first aid and preventing access to higher level medical care, these cases were kept off employer recordkeeping logs.

**Read more:**
https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt011817.html (scroll down towards the bottom)
Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters during Training Exercises

During the period from 2001 to 2014, the United States Fire Administration reported that approximately 11% (150 out of 1,396) of fire fighter line-of-duty deaths were training-related. The leading cause of training-related deaths was heart attacks (55%), followed by traumatic injury (28%). The remaining 17% were other types of cardiovascular disease and other diverse circumstances.

Read more: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2017-113/pdfs/2017-113.pdf

Using Drones for Emergency Management

With new technology comes a variety of applications that can have tremendous benefits to organizations, society – and, of course, the way we handle emergency management. Technology gives emergency management a new way of handling the given crisis, and perhaps, a new perspective for how to use resources a bit more effectively. Drones have been in the news a lot lately with some of the policies that have come about their uses in the federal government. President Obama used drones during his administration. Similar to other pieces of technology that are developed for the military, drones have an interesting application in emergency management and are giving emergency personnel new ways to manage a developing crisis.

Deployment Health

Helmet Sensors to Record Blast Exposure in at-Risk Soldiers

Explosions in the battlefield can cause all sorts of injuries that are immediately apparent, but they can also cause ones that are not. Soldiers exposed to blast pressure and shock waves can go on to develop traumatic brain injury (TBI) well after the danger of more visible damage has passed. Looking to make faster and more informed decisions on this front, the US Navy is developing small sensors that, when paired with specialized scanner, can quickly convert blast pressure into a clear signal of whether or not that soldier should stand down.

Read more: http://newatlas.com/helmet-sensor-blast-soldiers/47400/

US Army Unveils New Physical Assessment Test

The U.S. Army has launched a new physical fitness test designed to determine if new recruits and soldiers can meet the physical demands of certain jobs such as infantry and armor specialties.

The Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or OPAT, will be administered to all recruits as a way to assess their fitness for military occupational specialties, or MOSs. U.S. Army Recruiting Command estimates the test will be administered each year to
about 80,000 recruits and thousands of cadets.


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Nanotechnology

**EPA Issues Nanomaterials Reporting Rule**

EPA issued a final regulation Jan. 11 requiring one-time reporting and recordkeeping of exposure and health and safety information on chemical substances at the nanoscale level. The information is to include the specific chemical identity, production volume, methods of manufacture and processing, exposure and release information, and existing information concerning environmental and health effects, "insofar as known to or reasonably ascertainable by the person making the report," it states.

Read more: [https://ohsonline.com/articles/2017/01/16/epa-issues-nanomaterials-reporting-rule.aspx](https://ohsonline.com/articles/2017/01/16/epa-issues-nanomaterials-reporting-rule.aspx)
Army

Army Scientists Use Fluorescent Gels to Study Blast Pressure on the Brain

Scientists at the Army Research Laboratory have developed a gel substance with fluorescent properties that mimics the texture and mass of the human brain. Their goal is to show the scale of damage to the brain under the pressure conditions that Soldiers encounter in combat or training.

Read more: https://www.army.mil/article/180292/army_scientists_use_fluorescent_gels_to_study_blast_pressure_on_the_brain

White House

Trump Puts Freeze On New Regulations

A memorandum issued on Jan. 20 by the White House Office of the Press Secretary prohibits executive departments and federal agencies from sending regulations to the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) until a department or agency head appointed or designated by President Trump reviews and approves the regulations. Regulations sent to OFR not yet published in the Federal Register must be withdrawn for review and approval. The memorandum also directs executive department and agency heads to “temporarily postpone” for 60 days effective dates of published regulations that have not yet taken effect. This regulatory freeze potentially affects several
Updated Workplace Carcinogen Policy Emphasizes Elimination

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is moving toward a more protective approach in evaluating carcinogens under a new policy for cancer-causing chemicals published Dec. 27. The carcinogen policy, in the works since 2010, changes how NIOSH classifies carcinogens and sets recommended exposure limits for chemicals in the workplace.

“Underlying this policy is the recognition that there is no known safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, and therefore that reduction of worker exposure to chemical carcinogens as much as possible through elimination or substitution of engineering controls is the primary way to prevent occupational cancer,” NIOSH Director John Howard wrote in the document.

Read more: https://www.bna.com/updated-workplace-carcinogen-n73014449164/

Occupational Health Issues in the USA

Happy New Year. As we start afresh in 2017 I wanted to share my recent editorial in the British journal, Occupational Medicine, “Occupational health issues in the USA”. The article highlights some of the occupational safety and health issues identified as needing attention by the industry sector groups of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). Each area is highlighted below. We
welcome input on how to best protect workers in these areas in the comment section below

Read more:
https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2017/01/10/howard/

OSHA

OSHA Issues Final Rule on Slip, Trip, and Fall Hazards

The US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today released a white paper, *Sustainability in the Workplace: A New Approach for Protecting Worker Safety and Health*, highlighting the importance of including worker safety and health in the growing movement toward sustainability and corporate responsibility. Sustainability strives to balance social, environmental, and economic considerations to achieve long term success and viability. Responsible firms currently embrace the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit to achieve sustainability goals.

Read more:

APHC

October DOEHRS-IH SUPER STARS

Congratulations to Anniston Army Depot IH Program Office for their progress in the 8 Step DoD Exposure Assessment Model. ANAD installation IH staff have completed step 6 of the Exposure Assessment Model by assessing hazards identified during the basic characterization step. Performing an assessment is mandatory and users can satisfy this requirement with either a qualitative or quantitative assessment. DOEHRS-IH is versatile enough that statistical analysis can be done now on just one sample. More samples yields better statistical data.
This month’s featured self-development material on blackboard:

- The Hazards of Ethylene Oxide in the Workplace (1.0hrs)
- Basic Toxicology for the OHS Professional (2.5hrs)
- Introduction to Industrial Hygiene (40hrs)
- All About the Army IH Survey (2.5hrs)
- IT’S HERE! 2017 HAZWOPER 8hr Refresher Course NOW AVAILABLE

Self-enroll at https://alph-dohs.ellc.learn.army.mil

Face to Face Training Opportunities:

- May 8-12, 2017 Blueprint Reading & Design Review (APG, MD) **FULL COURSE**
- May 15-19, Intermediate Industrial Hygiene Topics Course (APG, MD)

**ONLY 9 WEEKS REMAINING UNTIL PHASE 2**

- May 22-26 Industrial Ventilation 40hr Course (APG, MD)
- Self-enroll at https://alph-dohs.ellc.learn.army.mil

Other FREE Training Opportunities:

**AIHA CIH Prep Webinars**

- Email: mrupert@sevengenlinc.com to register:
- Recorded Episode 1: Engineering Controls & Ventilation - [Link]
- Recorded Episode 2: Principles of Toxicology - [Link]
- Recorded Episode 3: Principles of Epidemiology & Biostatistics - [Link]
- Code: 9567345
- [Link]

**AIHA HPECC Webinars**

- 2nd Thurs each month; Time: 2-3pm ET 1-800-768-2983
- [Link]

- March 9, 2017 Computational Fluid Dynamics, Can it Truly Benefit the Industrial Hygienist or is it Just Colorful Fluid Dynamics?

Interested in receiving credit for FREE webinars?

You can view the HPECC recordings at the below links and get certificates!

- "Direct Reading Instruments for the Practicing IH"
  [Link]
- "Expedient Engineering Controls for Epidemics and Terrorism Events"
  [Link]
- "You’ve got something on your face (and hands)"
  [Link]
- "Lessons learned in selecting an all-hazards suite of direct reading instruments"
  [Link]

Don’t want to miss any more opportunities like these? Join HPECC on Facebook today.
[Link]
Upcoming Training

**Manage Your IH Monster**

LIVE Manage Your IH Monster Webinars: 210-249-4234 or DSN 421-3272 (overseas DSN 312)

- Mar 15th 0900 ET - Magic of Medical Surveillance
- May 3rd 0900 ET - Reinvigorate Radiation
- JULY 12th 0900 ET - Chase Away IH Managerial Nightmares

Registration & Recordings Currently Available: https://aiin-dons.elc.learn.army.mil

- Lab Interfaces
- Taming That SHOP Monster
- Cancer in the Military
- Taming The SEG Monster
- Don't Be Afraid of the Big Bad Budget
- De-Mystifying The Metrics
- All About ANOVA
- Business Objects At Its Best

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**Mar 15th 0900 Eastern Time**

*Magical Medical Surveillance*

Dial-In Access Code 12560#

**May 3rd 0900 Eastern Time**

*Re-Invigorating Radiation*

Dial-In Access Code 74477#

**July 12th 0900 Eastern Time**

*Chase Away IH Managerial Nightmares*

Dial-In Access Code 47140#
Army Industrial Hygiene News and Regulatory Summary

DOEHRS-IH

What's new with Army DOEHRS-IH?

Face to Face Training Opportunities: (APG, MD bldg. 6008 28 seats)

2017 Army DOEHRS-IH Initial COURSE DATES:
- Feb 27-Mar 3 ALMOST FULL
- Jun 12-16
- Aug 14-18
- Oct 16-20

DOEHS-IH Super Stars:

Congratulations to ANAD for assessing hazards in SEGs. Assessing hazards is crossing the finish line! All hazards (even physical/safety hazards) should get an assessment. IHs can do a qualitative or quantitative assessment in the SEG. Statistical assessments on one sample can also be done.
Professional Development and Career Programs

For Army Industrial Hygienists and Industrial Hygiene Technicians, Professional Development is through the Army Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Career Program, known as Career Program 12 (CP-12).

Career Programs were established to ensure there is an adequate base of qualified and trained professional, technical, and administrative personnel to meet the Army’s current and future needs.

Planned training and development are essential elements to building a successful career.

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