



ASSE NEWS



American Society of Safety Engineers — Colorado Chapter — April 2005

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NEXT MEETING:

DATE: TUESDAY – April 12, 2005

PLACE: Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80237

TIME: 11:00 Registration
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 Program

DIRECTIONS:
I-25 to Belleview Rd. Exit
East on Belleview Rd. to Syracuse
North on Syracuse to Garcia's.

COST: \$15.00 with reservation by 5:00 P.M. Friday,
April 8th. \$20.00 at the door without a reservation.

**For Reservations call: 303-615-7588
Or Email: Bervin.Hall@Pinnacol.com**

SPEAKER: Brad Baptiste, BS, MPA
OSHA Region 8 - VPP Manager

TOPIC: Overview of OSHA's VPP Program

The April meeting will be held in conjunction with the local AIHA chapter, so make sure you RSVP early as this is usually a well attended meeting.

Mr. Baptiste will provide an overview of the VPP program, discuss the benefits for organizations to submit for VPP status, and provide some case studies on local companies that have achieved VPP status successfully.

Brad Baptiste is the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Manager for OSHA in Region VIII, which includes the States of North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Brad has been with OSHA since 1991, and he has served as an Industrial Hygienist, a Safety Compliance Officer, and as a Team Leader in area enforcement offices. Brad received a BS in Biology from Texas Christian University and a Masters in Public Administration from Louisiana State University.

LOCAL NEWS: Colorado Chapter's Dan McLain Honored by NSSGA

Dan McClain, Director of Training and Program Development for Lafarge Construction Materials has been named the 2004 National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association James M. Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year. The coveted award will be presented at NSSGA's Annual Convention on Mar. 16 in Las Vegas, and again at an awards luncheon on Oct. 11 in conjunction with NSSGA's Environment, Safety and Health Forum in Washington, D.C.

McClain is an active member of NSSGA's Safety and Health currently serving as Chair for both the Training Subcommittee and the Guarding Task Force. As chairman of the Training Subcommittee, he has been involved in the development of a Haul Truck Training CD and the Crystalline Silica Risk Communication series. As Guarding Task Force chairman, he played a vital role in assisting MSHA revise its Guarding Guidebook, republished in 2004. His contributions attributed to the vast improvement from previous editions by assisting MSHA to modify its enforcement philosophy on guarding. He also worked closely with MSHA to successfully incorporate a risk assessment approach to machine guarding, which is reflected in MSHA's "Machine Guarding DVD."

TIPS: Climbing the Ladder

by *Joe O'Connor*

Each year, thousands of workers are injured while working on ladders. Falls from ladders result in cuts, bruises, broken bones, and in some cases, lost lives. The three most common causes are ladders in poor condition, improper selection and improper use. To prevent accidents and comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, employees must be trained. The following information on ladder safety should be shared with employees.

Rungs or steps on portable ladders must be dimpled, knurled or treated to minimize slipping. A metal spreader or locking device must be provided on stepladders. The device must hold the front and back sections in position when the ladder is in use.

Ladders must have at least one point of access clear at all times. Two or more ladders must be used when the ladder is the only means of entering or exiting a work area with 25 or more employees. Two ladders must also be provided when two-way traffic may occur at the same time.

Defective ladders must be repaired or removed from service and marked or tagged. Ladders must be repaired by professionals trained to restore them to their original conditions. Never paint or cover a ladder with opaque materials that will prevent workers from identifying defects. A ladder removed from service should be tagged or marked "Dangerous Do Not Use." Immediately notify your supervisor.

Ladders must be capable of supporting loads and must meet specific performance and design criteria. Ladders are classified by maximum weight capacities, which includes the worker's weight and his tools. The classifications and weight limits are as follows:

CLASS IA: 300-lb. maximum capacity (Heavy Duty)

CLASS I: 250-lb. maximum capacity (heavy duty)

CLASS II: 225-lb. maximum capacity (medium duty)

CLASS III: 200-pound maximum capacity (light duty)

Make sure employees inspect ladders before use. Ensure that:

- oThe ladder has no burrs or sharp edges.
- oThe ladder is equipped with safety feet in good repair.

- oThe ladder has no structural damage.
- oThe rope of the ladder is free of frays or worn sections.
- oStepladders are equipped with spreaders or other locking devices in working order.
- oSupport braces and other hardware are not damaged.
- oAll screws and bolts are tight.
- oSteps and rungs are not damaged and are in place and firmly attached.
- o The ladder is free of oil, grease and other slip hazards.
- o All metal parts are lubricated.
- o Ladders have not been damaged by fire or corrosive chemicals.

When setting up a ladder, make sure employees follow proper procedures. The ladder must be placed on a level and stable surface. If the ground is soft, the ladder can be placed on a wide board. Some ladders are equipped with automatic levelers. These devices will mechanically adjust the legs and automatically level the ladder. The feet of the ladder are parallel with the surface the ladder rests against.

An extension should be positioned before extending it. The distance from the ladder base to the supporting structure should be one-fourth the length of the ladder. Some ladders have a slope guide pasted to the side rail. A ladder used to access an upper-landing surface must extend at least three feet above the landing.

Ladders must be secured, Anchor the ladder at the top to prevent movement. In addition to anchoring, a grab rail must be installed if the ladder does not extend three feet above of the landing. The bottom of the ladder can be tied or a co-worker positioned to hold it in place. If the ladder is placed in front of a door, lock, guard or block open the door. Barricade passageways, doorways and driveways.

Make sure employees observe the following work practices when using a ladder.

Never use aluminum ladders when working near exposed electrical lines.

No more than one person is on a ladder at a time.

Shoes with clean, nonskid soles are worn.

A rope or hoist is used to lift tools.

Employees face the ladder when climbing it.

Three points of contact are maintained when climbing a ladder. (Two feet, one hand or two hands, one foot)

Tools are kept in a tool hanger or holder.

The last two steps on a stepladder are not used.

The last four ladder rungs on a single or extension ladder are not used.

The body is centered on the ladder between the side rails.

Sharing these practices with employees is part of preventing accidents. Employees must be held accountable for following safety procedures. Make sure employees have the equipment needed for the job and repair or remove defective equipment from service as described in this article.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Montana and Idaho Safety Conference – April 6-8

The Big Sky Section, Snake River Chapter, and Craters of the Moon Chapter are sponsoring the subject conference in Butte, MT April 6-8. We are very excited about the sessions and speakers. The conference will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6 with Richard Hawk as the keynote speaker for the luncheon. That afternoon we have sessions on Safety Management, Ergonomics, and the first part of the 10-Hour Construction session. Thursday brings the continuation of the 10-Hour Construction course along with Health & Industrial Hygiene, Security & Emergency Preparedness, and Accident Investigation & Prevention. Our luncheon keynote speaker on Thursday is Daryl C. Smith. Friday brings three new sessions: OSHA

Investigations, Behavior Based Safety, and Training Innovations in the Mining Industry. The conference ends around Noon on Friday, April 8.

We would like to encourage you to advertise this conference within your chapters and we hope to see many of you in Butte. You can find more information regarding the conference, including a draft program, registration form, and some speaker bios at <http://snakeriver.asse.org>.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please feel free to contact me.

Louise A. Auchampach, OHST
Owner/Consultant
Safety & Health Solutions
208-863-8478 - Phone
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Online Registration Now Available for Safety 2005, New Orleans

ASSE members can now register online for Safety 2005, the Society's annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition. Safety 2005 will feature more than 200 sessions, 300 exhibitors, special pre- and post-conference seminars, conference proceedings on CD, numerous networking events and more. Learn the latest strategies to expand your knowledge base and network with peers at the premiere SH&E event of the year.

UTAH CHAPTER ASSE ANNOUNCES

22nd Annual Utah Conference on Safety & Industrial Hygiene

Thursday October 6, 2005

Friday October 7, 2005

At

University of Utah Student Center

Contact Information:

Luz Dominguez
RMCOEH – University of Utah
391 Chipeta Way, Suite C
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
Phone: 801-581-4055
Fax: 801-585-5275

One day of selected short courses (Wednesday, October 5) will be offered prior to the 2-day general and concurrent session conference

Co-Sponsored by: ASSE, AIHA, Utah Safety Council, and The Rocky Mountain Center

ELECTIONS

The Chapter Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations from Chapter members that would be interesting in serving on the Chapter's Executive Committee by running for the open office of Secretary for the next term, 2005 to 2006. Interested parties should mail, e-mail or phone their interest to one of the following committee members:

- Wendy Johnson at 303-966-7674 wendy.johnson@rfets.gov or
- Dan McClain at 303-250-3263 Dan.McClain@lafarge-na.com

Principles of Machine Guarding Class A Success

Sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of ASSE. Thanks to all those who attended. Proceeds from the seminar will go to support chapter activities and support the development of a Northern Colorado ASSE Section to service ASSE members located north of Denver to the WY boarder.



NEW - JOB POSTINGS

SEMA recruiting for Project Safety Manager

Need a CSP with at least 5 years of construction safety experience including safety program development, OSHA 500 training certified, and accident investigation and reporting knowledge. Project is anticipated to last approx. 3 years with potential for continued employment with the company. Salary is dependent on qualifications. Position includes a vehicle and compensation package including 401(k), health, dental & vision insurance. Send a resume and salary requirements to:

SEMA Construction
7353 S. Eagle St.
Centennial, CO 80112
(303) 627-2626 Fax
Attn: Safety Department

Field Safety Specialist

Job Description: Reporting to the Corporate Safety Manager, the Field Safety Specialist provides support to Labor Ready Branch Managers to assist them in achieving their goal to reduce work related injuries. Support includes both training in safety and OSHA related matters, and analysis involving customer specific loss experience and recommendations regarding worksite safety practices.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Act as a field consultant and resource for customer specific safety issues.
- Conduct routinely scheduled visits to branches to evaluate and discuss customer related safety issues.
- Develop specific customer loss information for use in evaluating loss experience.
- Provide Branch/District Manager with direction regarding OSHA Regulations pertaining to specific or general customer worksite safety issues.
- Accompany Branch Managers on worksite safety inspections and instruct them on the use of inspection forms and in conducting inspection.
- Review lag time reports with Branch Managers to assist them in improving the timeliness of claim reporting.
- Work in conjunction with Labor Ready Claim Coordinators to improve the use of light duty for workers with light duty restrictions.
- Ensure compliance with all aspects of Labor Ready Injury and Illness Prevention program, and provide reports to the Director of Risk Management regarding activities.

An IDEAL Field Safety Specialist will have the following skills and/or characteristics:

- Minimum of 2yrs of College Education or equivalent experience. 4yr degree preferred.
- Completed minimum of OSHA basic safety training or similar program, or other related experience with safety. Professional designation (ARM, ASP, OHST, CSP) desirable but not mandatory.

- Experience in working with OSHA regulations, safety, training, or worker's compensation.
- Experience with multiple location organizations, branch level operating management, and multiple layers of management.
- Ability to understand and communicate health and safety regulations both state and federal.
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and written in English.
- Able to work on his/her own with little daily direct supervisor
- Computer proficient.
- Current valid driver's license.
- Able to travel regularly.

Labor Ready provides an excellent benefit package that includes, Competitive annual salary, Opportunity for Advancement (based on performance), 401K, Stock (NYSE) Purchase Program, Educational Reimbursement, Business Allowance and a Comprehensive Medical/Dental Program.

To apply for this position, you must submit your resume, cover letter, and salary requirement to:

Email: jobs@laborready.com

Fax: 877-750-9834



State of Colorado

Open Competitive
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Department of Transportation

Job Title: Region Safety Specialist (General Professional III or IV)

Position Number: 30649

Job Location: DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION – Greeley (Location Code 819)

Salary: General Professional III: \$3257 - \$4839 per month

General Professional IV: \$3959 - \$5881 per month

Release Date: March 8, 2005

Apply By: March 25, 2005

Employment Type: Full-Time

Class Code: H6G3XX

Information About The Job:

CDOT employees are encouraged to apply as a promotional opportunity or a transfer opportunity by following the directions in the announcement.

**** There will only be one position filled at either the General Professional III or IV level. The level at which each position is filled will depend upon the qualifications of the applicants interested in this position.**

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE: As the Region IV safety program manager and leading safety expert, the position is responsible for developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating occupational health and safety policies and programs for approximately 400 to 600 employees in the designated transportation region at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The position develops methods of identifying existing and potential facility, office, work zone, equipment and material handling, and other occupational health and safety hazards and risks; works with Region personnel to identify existing safety and health hazards; determines causes of accidents; develops innovative programs and policies designed to reduce and/or prevent occupational health and safety hazards and risks; evaluates the effectiveness of these and other hazard control programs and policies in the Region and develops and promotes safety awareness programs. Position coordinates, facilitates, develops and/or delivers safety training classes.

As a member of the Region's executive management team, position works with Region management to identify and resolve unique Region occupational safety challenges, delivers executive presentations, and participates as a key member on the Region Accident Review Board and Region Safety Committee. Develops Region emergency response plans. The position effectively sells safety as a top priority and inspires a culture that values and accomplishes occupational health and safety goals, ultimately leading Region personnel in the successful effort to mitigate and/or prevent occupational risks and hazards. Other duties as assigned or required.

How To Apply:

Complete Applications include the following documents:

- 1) Official State of Colorado Application for Announced Vacancy
- 2) State of Colorado Demographic Information Form
- 3) Completed Narrative Training and Experience Evaluation (exam question response)

Mail completed applications to the Department of Transportation, 4201 E. Arkansas Ave., CHRM 124, Denver, CO 80222 by **5:00 p.m. the day of the apply by date listed above. Late applications or applications "post-marked by" the apply by date may not be accepted.** Applications can be obtained at the address above, any CDOT Maintenance office, any State Agency Personnel office, or on the CDOT Website at <http://www.dot.state.co.us/chrm/> (all public libraries have Internet access). Application may be faxed to CHRM at (303) 757-9081 and must be followed with a DUPLICATE hard copy application.

PINNACOL ASSURANCE Seeking LOSS PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Pinnacol Assurance, Colorado's leading workers' compensation insurance company, has an opportunity for an experienced safety professional to service the south Denver/Colorado Springs/Pueblo areas. This person will possess the advanced skills and abilities to conduct or assist in implementing one or more of the following loss prevention/cost containment services: on site safety inspections, accident analysis; ergonomic hazard analysis; claims management procedures; and return-to-work programs. Position requires considerable travel throughout the territory. Bachelor's Degree in safety or related field, 4 years of field experience; ASP/CSP certification a plus. Individual must be a self-starter, well organized and have good computer, communication, and presentation skills. We offer an excellent benefit package and competitive salaries. For prompt consideration apply online at www.pinnacol.com or fax your resume with salary history in confidence to: (303) 361-5348. Check out Pinnacol online at pinnacol.com or through our JOBLINE at (303) 361-4960. EOE

David Mabry
Human Resources
Pinnacol Assurance
303-361-4964 voice
303-361-5964 fax
david.mabry@pinnacol.com
www.pinnacol.com

Thanks for your interest in Pinnacol Assurance!

Robinson Brick Searching for Safety Coordinator – Denver, CO

Any and all interested parties should contact:

Gregory W. Knell, C.P.G., C.H.M.M.
Robinson Brick Company
1845 West Dartmouth Ave.
Denver, CO 80110-1308
office: 303-783-3061
cell: 720-314-7579

Time Warner Telecom looking for a Manager, Contingency Planning & Safety

Location: Time Warner Telecom – Littleton, CO

Reference:

External Posting Date:

Hiring Manager: Valerie Clark

Job Description:

JOB SUMMARY:

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Work with corporate departments and in the field to identify, document and make recommendations to minimize risks to Time Warner Telecom resources and facilities. Identify and document the business impacts due to a disruption of service. Develop, deploy, test and assist in maintaining disaster recovery plans within Time Warner Telecom and work in Corporate Risk Management to refine disaster recovery strategies. Assist in the continued development of the company's safety program. Conduct annual reviews to ensure that all disaster recovery plans and related documents are current. Develop and provide related training to Executive Management, City Management and staff, and the NOC. During a disaster situation, work with the internal and external recovery management teams to facilitate the recovery of a failed entity.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Four-year degree with courses in administration, telecommunications, environmental science or equivalent experience. A minimum of three years experience in developing, deploying, testing and maintaining contingency plans. Minimum of three years experience with networks and data center functionality and/or telecommunications' central offices. Additional requirements include knowledge of word processing tools, site surveys, and risk and business impact analysis experience. Professional designations, experience in quality improvement, process management and project management are desired. Strong leadership qualities and presentation skills a must.

SKILLS KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

Excellent communication skills are required. Address all internal and external issues relative to disaster recovery. This position is required to comply with disaster recovery expectations driven by the company and major customers. This position is required to understand, support and comply with requirements imposed on the corporation by the Federal government and State PSC/PUC's, including OSHA and the EPA. This includes defining, developing, and maintaining the associated process flows as well as maintaining joint recovery strategies. This position supports marketing during the RFP process and responds to any issues regarding disaster recovery. This position is also periodically asked to review and provide feedback on vendor/perspective vendor disaster recovery plans.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENT / WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The Physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by the employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, and be comfortable with face-to-face and over the phone meetings with audiences ranging from upper management to field personnel. Must have ability to process written information accurately in order to follow directions and delegate direction to others. Must be able to retain and document information accurately in order to follow directions and provide direction to others. Must be able to operate effectively under pressure, within required time lines and balance multiple projects concurrently. Ability to work flexible hours to ensure meeting internal and external customer expectations. Strong analytical ability is a must. Must be able to operate a PC proficiently.

Equal Employment Opportunity

It is the policy of the company to afford equal opportunities to all applicants and employees regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, non-disqualifying disability or status as a disabled or Vietnam era veteran.

South Pole Safety, Engineer (2005- 2006) - Raytheon

We are seeking a South Pole Safety, Engineer to spend 13 months at the South Pole Research Station in Antarctica. The position will require pre-deployment training in our Centennial, CO office, and will deploy to the station in approx October 2005. You must be willing and able to deploy to Antarctica for a minimum of 13 months.

This contract deploying position will be responsible for developing and implementing construction safety and health plans; developing and implementing reporting/inspection procedures. Provides all construction safety training to qualified levels and competent person designation where necessary. Develops and issues operational procedures and technical guidance to all RPSC personnel in establishing and maintaining safety and health procedures. Provides technical assistance and advice to RPSC personnel in establishing health and safety programs, and resolves technical issues and problems.

Works with supervisors to encourage compliance. Documents all guidance according to accepted procedures.

Required Skills:

BS degree in Safety, IH or similar, 3-5 yrs. experience in Site Safety operations. Must have extensive experience with OSHA 1926, OSHA 1910, NEC, NFPA, ANSI Experience in developing and presenting training to all levels of employees is required. Qualified and competent in various safety training, which will include, fall protection, confined space, cranes and rigging, lockout/tagout, ladder safety, electrical safety, power tools, Proficient in use and selection of proper IH monitoring equipment & PPE Strong accident investigations skills, i.e. root cause analysis, failure analysis techniques.

Desired Skills:

OSHA training certifications, CSP, PSM Safety experience and Asbestos Abatement preferred.

Additional Polar Info:

The range for this position is 49K to 58K per year, commensurate with experience. All contract positions include competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package. For the time you are in Antarctica compensation also includes travel to and from the ice, room & board, and you are eligible for a performance-based bonus upon successful completion of your contract. FYI - Only authorized personnel are allowed on station and you need to remain on station for the duration of your contract except in case of emergency. Check out our website at www.polar.org. All applicants must be able to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency once employment is offered and pass strict physical, dental, and psychological (for winter-over positions) examinations as well as a pre-employment drug screen and background check in order to qualify for deployment. Failure to meet these requirements may result in withdrawal of employment offer or other employment action. All employees must also comply with applicable safety, environment, health, and waste management policies and procedure.

If you are looking for a challenging opportunity with a dynamic company, in one of the most unique places in the world, we encourage you to go to www.rayjobs.com and apply today!

Raytheon is an equal opportunity employer and considers qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, gender, age, color, religion, disability, veterans status, sexual orientation, or any other protected factor.

Greer Darley
Recruiting Specialist
Raytheon Polar Services Company
303.790.8606 ext 32120
800-688-8606 x 32120

NEWS

TALKING AND DRIVING

Motorists' cell phone use rising

More motorists than ever are using cellular phones while they drive, according to the latest survey by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The survey found at any given daylight moment in 2004, an estimated 8 percent of all motorists in the United States, or about 1.2 million drivers, were using cellular phones -- both hand-held and hands-free -- while operating vehicles. This compares to 6 percent in 2002 and 4 percent in 2000.

Five percent of motorists, or about 800,000 drivers, were using hand-held cellular phones at any given daylight time, compared to 4 percent of drivers in 2002 and 3 percent in 2000.

New compilation of research on how cell phones can distract drivers published and cited by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Access the following link.

<http://hfes.org/Newsroom/HFESdriverdistraction.pdf><http://hfes.org/Newsroom/HFESdriverdistraction.pdf>

'YOU LIKE ME! YOU REALLY LIKE ME!'

Surveyed Workers Give Companies High Marks for Recognizing Staff

MENLO PARK, CA -- The Academy Awards honor Hollywood's elite, but those walking the red carpet aren't the only ones receiving kudos for a job well done. A new survey suggests there's no lack of praise around the office, too. More than three-quarters (**76 percent**) of employees surveyed said their companies' efforts to recognize employee achievements are at least somewhat effective. **Thirty-five percent** believe their companies are very effective at acknowledging staff contributions.

The survey was developed by The Creative Group, a specialized staffing service that provides marketing, advertising, creative and web professionals on a project basis. It was conducted by an independent research firm and includes responses from 972 men and women 18 years of age or older and employed in professional environments.

Those surveyed were asked, "**How effective is your company at recognizing employee achievements?**" Their responses:

Very effective	35%
Somewhat effective	41%

Not very effective	16%
Not at all effective	6%
Don't know/other	<u>2%</u>
	100%

"Most businesses realize that it takes more than a steady paycheck to inspire outstanding employee performance," said Tracey Fuller, executive director of The Creative Group. "Staff members who know their contributions make a difference — and are rewarded — are more engaged and, ultimately, more productive on the job."

Fuller noted that while many professionals rated their company's recognition programs highly, one in five signaled their firms could use improvement in this area. "Organizations that fail to adequately acknowledge staff achievements could see rising turnover as the economy picks up and more job opportunities become available," she said.

Fuller offered the following tips for recognizing employee efforts:

- **Break the chain.** Seasoned executives often require less encouragement than other workers and, as a result, may receive infrequent praise from their superiors. If you're a manager, don't pass this behavior along. By regularly recognizing the efforts of individuals at all levels, you show appreciation and encourage your team to do the same.
- **Make a sincere effort.** Praise needs to be genuine to be effective. Be thoughtful in your compliments or they will lose their meaning.
- **Think outside the bucks.** While money is a powerful motivator, it's not the only way to acknowledge extra effort. More affordable options include sending a hand-written thank-you note, mentioning a star performer in a company newsletter or staff meeting, or giving the employee an afternoon off.
- **Reward the right behavior.** Make sure formal rewards programs are tied to actions that are most important to the business, such as solving problems or providing superior customer service.

Department of Homeland Security Announces \$91.3 Million in Buffer Zone Protection Program Grants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today announced \$91.3 million in grant funding to protect and secure areas surrounding critical infrastructure and key resource sites such as chemical facilities, dams, and nuclear plants across the country. The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) provides targeted funding through states to local jurisdictions to purchase equipment that will extend the zone of protection beyond the gates of these critical facilities.

"This grant program reflects our commitment to continue to protect and defend the security of the United States against the threat posed by terrorism," said Matt A. Mayer, Acting Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, the office responsible for the Office for Domestic Preparedness. "Through this program, we will continue to work with the nation's prevention, preparedness, and response community and the private sector in our national effort to combat terrorism and secure our homeland."

Under the new grant program, states will be expected to submit Buffer Zone Plans (BZPs) and equipment purchasing plans to the Department by the end of April 2005, allowing the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) to perform a financial and programmatic review while the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) directorate performs a technical review and final approval of the plan. Following approval of the plans, local jurisdictions may use their approved funding to purchase any equipment found on ODP's Approved Equipment List and identified in their purchasing plan.

"The Department uses an integrated approach that provides federal, state and local officials and first responders with the necessary tools and resources to protect their community assets," said Gen. Patrick Hughes, Acting Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. "IAIP provides expert advice and guidance to their state and local partners as they prioritize specific vulnerability reduction efforts."

The Buffer Zone Protection Program provides both funding and coordination in bringing federal, state and local levels of government, law enforcement and the private sector together to create Buffer Zone Plans to reduce vulnerabilities in areas surrounding critical infrastructure and key resources.

ASSE NEWS

Primary belt laws reduce driver death rates by seven percent

Safety belt use laws in only 21 states and the District of Columbia are primary, meaning police may stop vehicles solely for belt law violations. In most states, law enforcement for belt use is secondary, so police cannot stop vehicles for this infraction alone. In a new study, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that when states strengthen their laws from secondary enforcement to primary, driver death rates decline by an estimated seven percent. Institute senior vice president Susan Ferguson said, "Where primary laws are in effect, drivers are more likely to buckle up because the perception is that they're going to be pulled over if they don't."

The most recent national observational survey conducted in 2004 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that belt use rates averaged 84% in primary states compared with 73% in secondary states. A number of observational studies have shown that shifting from secondary to primary laws boosts safety belt use, but the Institute's is the first study to evaluate the effect of this shift on traffic deaths. IIHS examined driver fatality data during 1989–2003 in 10 jurisdictions where secondary laws were amended to primary. Researchers compared these data with data in states where the laws remained secondary.

One indication that the primary laws led to higher belt use comes from rates among fatally injured drivers. In 1989, before any of the laws were changed, belt use rates among fatally injured drivers were similar — about 20 percent — in both groups of states. By 2003, the rates had risen to 47 percent in states that switched to primary laws, compared with 36 percent in the secondary states. The annual rate of passenger vehicle driver deaths per mile of travel declined in both groups of states, but it declined more in the states that changed to primary enforcement. Taking into account the timing of the change in each state and other factors that could have affected crash rates, primary laws were associated with a seven percent reduction in death rates.

Ferguson points out that during the study period "many states participated in special 'Click It or Ticket' safety belt enforcement campaigns. The enhanced enforcement began earlier in the primary states so it's important to note that changes in belt use laws along with the increased enforcement led to the decrease in fatalities." Based on the reduction in driver death rates, it's estimated that 2,990 lives have been saved in the study states because of the tougher safety belt laws. "If the 28 states that still have secondary laws were to switch to primary enforcement, about 700 lives would be saved each year. And if legislators in these states had enacted primary laws to begin with, more than 5,000 lives could have been saved since 1996," Ferguson says.

OSHA Identifies 14,000 Workplaces with High Injury and Illness Rates

WASHINGTON -- Approximately 14,000 employers have been notified that injury and illness rates at their worksites are higher than average and that assistance is available to help them fix safety and health hazards, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today.

In a letter this month to those employers, Jonathan L. Snare, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, explained that the notification was a proactive step to encourage employers to take steps now to reduce those rates and improve the safety and health environment in their workplaces.

"This identification process is meant to raise awareness that injuries and illnesses are high at these facilities," Snare said. "Injuries and illnesses are costly to employers in both personal and financial terms. Our goal is to identify workplaces where injury and illness rates are high, and to offer assistance to employers so they can address the hazards and reduce occupational injuries and illnesses."

The workplaces identified had 6.5 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer (DART) for every 100 full-time workers. The national average during 2003 was 2.6 DART instances for every 100 workers.

For more information go to WWW.OSHA.GOV

DOJ Sues W.R. Grace Over Libby, Montana Asbestos Mine

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

Published: February 07, 2005

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency said today that a federal grand jury in the District of Montana has indicted W.R. Grace and seven current and former Grace executives for knowingly endangering residents of Libby, Montana, and concealing information about the health affects of its asbestos mining operations.

W.R. Grace and its executives, as far back as the 1970's, attempted to conceal information about the adverse health effects of the company's vermiculite mining operations and distribution of vermiculite in the Libby, Montana community, according to the indictment,. The defendants are also accused of obstructing the government's cleanup efforts and wire fraud. To date, according to the indictment, approximately 1,200 residents of Libby area have been identified as suffering from some kind of asbestos-related abnormality.

"A human and environmental tragedy has occurred in Libby," William W. Mercer, U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana, said. "This prosecution seeks to hold Grace and its executives responsible for the misconduct alleged."

In addition to W.R. Grace, the indictment names as defendants Alan Stringer, Henry Eschenbach, Jack Wolter, William McCaig, Robert Bettacchi, O. Mario Favorito, and Robert Walsh, all current or former employees of W.R. Grace.

"This criminal indictment is intended to send a clear message: we will pursue corporations and senior managers who knowingly disregard environmental laws and jeopardize the health and welfare of the workers and the public," Thomas V. Skinner, EPA's acting Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, said.

W.R. Grace operated a vermiculite mine in Libby, Montana from 1963 to 1990, as part of its Construction Products Division, which was headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Vermiculite was used in many common commercial products, including attic insulation, fireproofing materials, masonry fill, and as an additive to potting soils and fertilizers.

Asbestos is said to be one of the main industrial causes of cancer in the world. Exposure to asbestos increases the risk of Mesothelioma, a rare cancer of the thin membranes lining the abdominal cavity and surrounding internal organs, and other asbestos-related diseases.

The vermiculite deposits in Libby were contaminated with a form of asbestos called tremolite. Health studies on residents of the Libby area show increased incidence of many types of asbestos related disease, including a rate of lung cancer that is 30 percent higher than expected when compared with rates in other areas of Montana and the United States.

'Serious violations' led to fiery death of sanders, feds find

By Brock Parker/ Journal Staff
Thursday, March 10, 2005

The U.S. Labor Department is fining a local floor contractor for violating safety standards that might have prevented a fatal fire on Foskett Street last year.

David's Floor Services Inc., based out of 35 Osgood St., was fined \$70,000 by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration last week in response to a fire at a home at 4 Foskett St. last Sept. 2.

Two died in the fire - Toan Bui and Ha Vu - when flammable floor primer the men were using ignited and started a fire. A third man, Nam Dao, escaped the fire with burns over 80 percent of his body and a fourth man, Trung Lee, was also burned. All the workers were Vietnamese immigrants.

"Adherence to health and safety standards might have prevented this accident or, at the very least, minimized the respiratory, chemical, fire and other hazards to which these workers were exposed," said Richard Fazzio, OSHA's area director.

David Floor Services principals David Dang and Minh Dang did not return multiple calls to their Osgood Street office Tuesday.

OSHA's \$70,000 fine against the company is the result of 10 different "serious violations" of safety standards, including the failure of the company to train its workers to recognize and address unsafe conditions.

OSHA also found several hazards at the 4 Foskett St. home. Among the hazards facing workers at the home were the use of flammable sealant within 50 feet of an ignition source; the lack of fire extinguishers; a failure to train workers in fire prevention; and a lack of ventilation.

Bui and Vu had been sanding the floors on the third story of the Foskett Street home when the three-alarm fire started.

Somerville Fire Chief Kevin Kelleher said Tuesday that until the state begins regulating floor sanders, fires such as the Foskett Street blaze are likely to continue.

Massachusetts General Law 142 A exempts "any contractor or subcontractor who work exclusively" in finished floor covering from having to register with the state as a home improvement contractor.

"This is not an isolated event in Somerville," Kelleher said of the floor-sanding fire on Foskett Street. "I don't think that this fine is going to stop this. I think the industry has to be better monitored by the state. ... Those were hard-working guys that paid the price."

Kelleher said floor sanders often work with flammable materials, but aren't required to obtain work permits from the city's building department or fire department.

City spokesman Mark Horan said the city could pass an ordinance that would require floor sanders to obtain a permit to work in the city, but without the state forcing the workers to undergo formal training to get a license, the permit wouldn't do much good.

"Without state regulations, there's not much we can do," Horan said.

CHEMICAL SPILL SENDS 18 TO HOSPITAL

OSHA cites company

Valmont Coatings-Oklahoma Galvanizing in Claremore, Okla., has been issued citations and proposed penalties of \$126,000 for safety and health violations that sent 18 employees to the hospital.

The company is a hot-dip galvanizing business and employs more than 3,000 workers. Following an inspection that began Aug. 31, 2004, OSHA cited the company for one willful and eight serious violations for exposing employees to sulfuric acid during a clean up spill from the rupture of a storage tank.

The alleged willful violation was issued for failing to provide personal protective equipment to employees who responded to the acid spill.

The alleged serious citations included failing to ensure that the premises were free from hazardous conditions, failing to develop and implement an emergency response plan, failing to assure the senior emergency response official took charge of the situation at the site when the spill occurred, and failing to train employees in emergency response operations.

Solicitor of Labor: OSHA Will Expand Powers to Pursue 'Bad Actors' - 03/03/2005

A new program that gives OSHA greater powers to enforce safety rules throughout a corporation, including possible jail time for corporate officers, is likely to keep expanding, according to Howard Radzely, the top lawyer at the Department of Labor.

Speaking March 2 at the Midwinter meeting of the American Bar Associations' Occupational Safety and Health Law Committee meeting in Key West, Fla., Radzely outlined a range of tools the agency is using to go after "bad actors."

"We are really trying to focus our resources on those employers who are consistently not following the law or consistently have health and safety problems," Radzely said. "In many areas we have tried to expand the tools that we use in particular for the most egregious actors."

Radzely explained how the department is using three tools to increase its enforcement powers against employers who have shown they are not complying with OSHA rules:

- Expanded Enhanced Enforcement Program (EEP)
- Improving the process of referring OSHA violations to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution
- Continued use of egregious, or instance-by-instance, citation enforcement actions

Radzely devoted most of his time to EEP, a program he said he began to push for soon after he arrived at the department 4 years ago because it entails corporate-wide settlement agreements.

"In my view it's a win-win for everybody," Radzely said. The agency obtains broader relief using fewer resources, workers have safer workplaces quicker and employers correct the problem with a minimal amount of litigation expense.

OSHA's EEP is "beginning to gain steam," he said. While there were 13 such cases filed in the past 2 years, there have been four in just the last 2 months.

The program has five elements:

- Follow-up inspections by OSHA officials
- Expanded inspections at other worksites belonging to the corporation
- Obtaining the involvement of corporate headquarters
- Enhanced settlement procedures
- Section 11b powers enabling OSHA to hold the company and its officers in civil contempt should they fail to comply with OSHA rules

It is through Section 11b that OSHA could send company officers to jail, according to Radzely, who added that the Department of Labor has recently filed its first contempt proceeding under EEP.

EH&S LINKS

Ergoweb Inc.

www.ergoweb.com

Injury Control Resource Information Network,

University of Pittsburgh

www.injurycontrol.com

International Safety Equipment Assn.

www.safetyequipment.org

National Fire Protection Assn.

www.nfpa.org

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

National Safety Council

www.nsc.org

Professional Development Unit

www.uksafety.net

Public Entity Risk Institute

www.riskinstitute.org

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

www.rospa.com

U.K. Health and Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

U.S. Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada

Vermont Safety Information Resources Inc.

www.hazard.com

WorkCare

www.osh.net

Workers Compensation Research Institute

www.wcrinet.org

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