



American Society of Safety Engineers
Protecting people, property, and the environment since 1911
Greater San Jose Chapter

<http://www.assesj.org> email:gsjc@assesj.org



September 2011 Newsletter

Regulatory Update:

New OSHA Rules Due in September

OSHA has stated that it intends to issue the Final Rule amending the Hazard Communication standard to incorporate the GHS changes in early September. This rule will modify the current Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to align with the provisions of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

The HCS requires that chemical manufacturers and importers evaluate the chemicals they produce or import and provide hazard information to downstream employers and workers by putting labels on containers and preparing safety data sheets. Under the current HCS all employers must have a hazard communication program for exposed workers, including container labels, safety data sheets, and training.

Prepare for OSHA's New Stepped-Up PPE Enforcement Program [SafetyXChange](#)

Here is what OSHA officers will inspect for under the new PPE compliance directive ... and what steps you can take NOW to protect against OSHA fines and penalties -- including coverage of the PPE payment rules.

One thing is certain: employers across the U.S. can expect to see OSHA compliance officers focusing far more heavily on PPE use during inspections.

On July 14th, and Bradford Hammock, a highly-recognized and respected OHS lawyer with Jackson Lewis LLP, and former OSHA lawyer, will provide the practical "how-to" help needed to make sure your PPE policies and practices comply with this new directive, and protect your company from possible OSHA penalties.

[Click Here to Register Online](#) Phone: 1-800-667-9300

Monthly Meeting Information:

Date: September 13, 2011

Time: 12 Noon

Location: [Santa Clara Biltmore Hotel and Suites](#)
[2151 Laurelwood Road, 95054 Santa Clara](#)

Presentation Summary: Confined Space Rescue

Speaker: Mr. Tony Smerdel of the Industrial Emergency Council will present "Confined Space Rescue".

The Industrial Emergency Council is a nonprofit organization and has developed a consortium of emergency preparedness and response organizations that include the California OES, NASA and the Menlo Park Fire Urban Search & Rescue Team. Their training is supported by the State of California and is certified by the California Fire Marshal's Office and the California Specialized Training Institute.

<http://www.iectraining.org/>

safetyphoto 
photos of hazards in the workplace





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HISTORIC MOMENTS IN SAFETY - 9/11 Changed the World Forever

[Dave Duncan](#) - Safety X Change

Ten years ago, on September 11, 2001, four coordinated attacks by the terrorist organization al-Qaeda brought much of the world to its knees and ushered in a new-normal sense of security, where no one is above suspicion.

The Attack

On that surreal day, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four large passenger jets with one unimaginable purpose in mind—inflicting as much death, mayhem and fear on the American public as possible.

Two of the hijacked jets were deliberately flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and a third plane was purposely crashed into the Pentagon. A fourth plane presumably targeted at the Capitol Building or the White House crashed into a field near Shankesville, PA, after some of the passengers fought back against the hijackers on board and attempted to regain control of the jet.

The attacks on the World Trade Center killed, 2,753 people, including more than 400 firefighters and police officers. The injured numbered more than 6,000.

Had the burning towers collapsed sooner or perhaps fallen sideways, the carnage could have been much worse. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) estimated that 17,400 people were in the Twin Towers when the terrorists struck.

Thousands of tons of toxic dust entered the atmosphere when the towers fell and numerous deaths have since been linked to exposure to these materials.

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who was killed by American forces in May 2011, at first denied responsibility for the attack, but in 2004 he admitted overseeing the plot.

The Response

In response to the 9/11 attacks, the George W. Bush administration swiftly announced a “war on terror” with a goal of bringing Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda to justice. The United States and Britain began bombing Afghanistan for harboring terrorist groups, beginning October 7, 2001.

The Bush administration enacted the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The Act created the Department of Homeland Security, whose mandates include preventing terrorism and enhancing security and securing and managing US borders. Also created was the USA Patriot Act, which gave the US government the power to detain foreign terror suspects without charges, along with the ability to monitor terror suspects’ telephone conversations, emails and Internet use.

In an attempt to better secure commercial airplanes against high jacking, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assigned sky marshals to flights and mandated the reinforcing of airplane cockpits to prevent unauthorized access. Also, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act transferred airport security operations away from airports and to the federal government.

Ten Years Later

The world breathed a collective sigh of relief with the news that al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had been shot dead by US forces in May, 2011, but it would be naïve to believe that al-Qaeda no longer poses a threat to the US and other countries which have fought against extremists since 9/11.

The threat of another attack very much remains, as does the need for people to watch for and report any behavior that seems suspicious, both at work and in their neighborhoods.



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Topic: SPOT THE VIOLATION - An MSDS Quiz

[Glenn Demby, Esq.](#) – Safety X Change

A safety director takes inventory of hazardous substances and verifies that there's a complete, up-to-date MSDS for each one. MSDSs are assembled into a binder and kept in the manager's office. The safety director reminds workers and the company's safety committee that she'll gladly give the binder to anybody who wants to see an MSDS.

QUESTION

Which of the safety director's acts (or omissions) violated HazCom/WHMIS?

1. Not independently verifying accuracy of the information in the MSDS
2. Not preparing a company version of each MSDS
3. Making workers ask for MSDS instead of giving them direct access
4. Keeping MSDS in a paper binder rather than a computer system

ANSWER - 3

EXPLANATION

Hazcom & WHMIS require employers to make MSDS readily accessible to any worker who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals and substances. "Readily accessible" means that workers must have access to the MSDS when they're in work areas during work shifts. The worker should be able to see MSDSs without having to rely on somebody else. Keeping MSDSs in the office of a safety director or any other individual is problematic because that office may be far from the shop room floor or even off the premises. The office might also be kept locked during certain shifts.

WHY WRONG ANSWERS ARE WRONG

A is wrong because Hazcom and WHMIS allow employers to rely on MSDS information they get from their suppliers without having to analyze or evaluate a hazardous substance independently.

B is wrong because while companies can, they don't have to create a company version of an MSDS.

D is wrong because while making MSDS sheets available to workers via a computer terminal is an option (provided that the employer takes certain steps like making sure the equipment constantly works), it isn't mandatory.

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Upcoming Events

AIHA-NCS Dinner Meeting, January 11, 2011

When: January 11, 2010

Early Registration Ends:
January 7, 2011

Where:

Biltmore Hotel and Suites Santa Clara
2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara 95054

Time:

5:30 p.m. Social Hour (no-host bar)
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Presentation

Topic: The Science of Odors

Speaker:

Mel Suffett, PhD, Professor, UCLA, Environmental Science and Engineering Program

Professor Suffett will lead us in the science of odors and how to use the "Odor Wheel" to identify and evaluate odors.

Dr. Suffett is Professor of Environmental Health Sciences (EHS) and a core member of the Environmental Science and Engineering Program housed in the EHS Department. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Brooklyn College (1961), his M.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland (1964), and his Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Chemistry from Rutgers University (1968). Dr. Suffett joined UCLA in 1991 after 21 years experience at the Department of Chemistry and the Environmental Studies Institute at Drexel University where he was the P. W. Purdom Professor of Environmental Chemistry.

Professor Suffett has published more than 200 research papers and co-edited eight research treatises. He is the 1983 recipient of the F. J. Zimmerman Environmental Science Award of the American Chemical Society and the 2001 A. P. Black Award for lifetime achievement in drinking water quality research from the American Water Works Association. Professor Suffett teaches on topics related to water quality including the source, transport, fate and treatment of organic compounds in aquatic systems, and analytical and environmental chemistry. His research emphasizes chemical analysis and elucidation of underlying mechanisms of how organic compounds that are hazardous or cause off-odors in the environment interact in natural aquatic or water treatment systems.

[Download Brochure for More Information and Registration Form](#) (pdf)