



The Newsletter of the Northern Delaware Section, DelMarVa Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Park Ridge, II. Vol. 5, NO. 5, September 2015

The Value of Investigating... Near-Miss Incidents

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When an incident happens, a physical change has occurred. When a near-miss happens, there is no physical change so there is a tendency to overlook the potential and move on. In a near-miss, there was no negative consequence so there may be a strong temptation to ignore it and not report it. An incident investigation reveals what *did* happen, while a near-miss investigation uncovers what *could* happen. The real value of a near-miss investigation is to prevent these near-miss incidents from becoming a future trip to the Emergency Room or an EPA reporting.

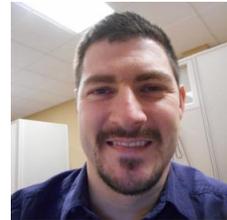
All incident investigations require that employees and contractors believe that reporting any incident or near-miss is a learning opportunity to be shared so that next time it's not worse. A good investigation looks for facts and objectively considers ways to prevent the incident from happening again. The purpose of the investigation should never be to criticize or lay blame but rather to learn and prevent future occurrences.

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The Chairs Message:



Marcus Suhr, CSP, CHCM

Greetings fellow safety professionals, Here it is already September! You know fall is here when the refineries are starting their turn-arounds. Our profession requires us to constantly adapt to new situations, standards, and regulations. One of those new regulations is the confined space in construction rule. Please take the time to update yourself on the new regulation for yourself and for your workers.

I want to take time to thank George Pearson for his volunteer service as Secretary of our Section. George is going to transition into focusing on the newsletter and we are looking for someone to become Secretary so if you are interested, please let us know. Remember, annually you get an additional COE point for serving on the board. I also want to take time to thank Mike and Marie for their time spent on supporting the Section as well. We wouldn't have much of a Section without all of you!

Also keep in mind that Erin Patterson, Area Director for OSHA in Delaware will be speaking at our Section meeting Tuesday September 15th. See page 3 for details

Mitigate risk where you find it, and risk averse travels.

Marcus Suhr, MS, CSP, CHMM | EHS Professional
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The challenge of a near-miss investigation is to go public with what could easily be covered up.

Occasionally, incidents involve materials of construction or the environment but usually incidents involve human behavior. Studies have shown that about 85% of incidents were the result of human behavior or choices. Human and system contributing factors frequently involve training and job cycle checks. These recommendations may *take* longer to complete, but are more likely to have a greater impact on reducing future incidents.

An open and honest atmosphere is essential for a complete understanding of the incident or near-miss and how we can take actions to prevent them from becoming possible future serious injuries. It's important to understand that when we conduct a near-miss investigation, we reduce the likelihood of something bad happening again. Remember that the investigation is to learn how to prevent a future injury or environmental upset. Companies should encourage the reporting of near-miss incidents and investigate to the same degree as though this was an actual incident.

If the potential outcome of a near-miss was a serious injury, a "Why Tree" analysis should be considered. If a "Why Tree" is conducted, follow standard protocols and conduct as a separate meeting. If possible, the investigation should be conducted within 24 hours of the near-miss and should include all the necessary people to provide input and draft a robust recommendation. When conducting the investigation try to preserve the evidence, talk to all pertinent witnesses and establish a time line. After all the facts have been gathered, look for key factors that caused or contributed to the near-miss event. This information will help establish the specific cause of what went wrong and what corrective actions/recommendations need to be taken. Although the recommendation is initiated from a specific cause, it should be evaluated for broader application so that like situations can be prevented from having a similar impact. After the investigation, it's important that this incident and recommendations be shared with others who might benefit from these learnings. One other advantage of conducting an investigation is that the documentation should transcend personnel changes and time. Future knowledge is built on past experience.

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The OSHA Column: Info And Updates...

OSHA issues temporary enforcement policy for confined spaces in construction

Editor's Note: Because of the importance of the new Confined Space standard in Construction we thought it be in the interest of our members that we reprint our July issues article on OSHA issuing temporary enforcement policy for confined spaces in construction.



OSHA is instituting a 60-day temporary enforcement policy of its Confined Spaces in Construction standard. Full enforcement of the new standard, which goes into effect Aug. 3, is being postponed to Oct. 2 in response to requests for additional time to train and acquire the equipment necessary to comply with the new standard.

During this 60-day temporary enforcement period, OSHA will not issue citations to employers who make good faith efforts to comply with the new standard. Employers must be in compliance with either the training requirements of the new standard* or the previous standard. Employers who fail to train their employees consistent with either of these two standards will be cited.

Factors that indicate employers are making good faith efforts to comply include: scheduling training for employees as required by the new standard; ordering the equipment necessary to comply with the new standard; and taking alternative measures to educate and protect employees from confined space hazards.

OSHA issued the Confined Spaces in Construction final rule on May 4, 2015. OSHA estimates that the rule could protect nearly 800 construction workers a year from serious injuries and reduce life-threatening hazards. For more information see osha.gov.

Editor's note: Source for the OSHA column is recent issues of OSHA's Outtakes monthly newsletter.

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Calendar of Events for 2015

INTRODUCING ERIN PATTERSON, THE RECENTLY APPOINTED OSHA AREA DIRECTOR FOR DELAWARE,

Date: September 15, 2015

Time: 5:30 Networking and business, 6:00 PM Speaker

Location: TekSolv
130 Executive Drive Suite 5
Newark, DE 19702

Contact: Marcus Suhr at
302-824-1695 (c)

Please send us your suggestion for topics you would like Ms. Patterson to address. Contact Marie Wright mwright@worthandcompany.com

Excerpts from a recent OSHA release (Jun 22, 2105); Allen Harim A Delaware poultry company faces \$38,000 fine from OSHA. The agency cited the company for exposing employees to musculoskeletal disorder hazards that affect joints. The agency determined that workers performed tasks without controls to prevent injuries.

“The combination of musculoskeletal disorder hazards, lack of proper medical treatment for musculoskeletal disorders and underreporting of injuries at this plant must be addressed by the company,” said Erin Patterson, director of OSHA’s Wilmington office. “Workers should not have to work in pain, especially when these injuries are preventable.”

ASSE/AIHA 4 HOUR JOINT SEMINAR

Date: October /November

Time: To be Determined

Location: To Be Determined

Topics and Speakers: To Be Determined

There is more to come on this event.

Call for speakers:

We are looking for speakers for our fall seminar jointly being planned with AIHA Delaware. We are particularly interested in global views of safety and health practitioners who are willing and prepared to present to our joint group. Please contact Marie Wright at mwright@worthandcompany.com.

Call for articles:

One of our goals with this publication is to continually contribute to the safety body of knowledge. Please send your transcript to me at gwpearson38@gmail.com. * * *

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Agricultural Outreach

OSHA participates in Penn State's Ag Progress Days



OSHA representatives participated in [Penn State's 2015 Ag Progress Days](#) in Rock Springs, Penn., last month to educate the public about protecting the safety and health of workers performing [agricultural operations](#). Nearly 500 exhibitors from 34 states and 4 provinces of Canada attended this event that showcased innovations in agriculture. It was the first year OSHA staffed a booth at the highly-regarded event. Representatives distributed agency [agriculture resources](#) such as fact sheets and QuickCards, and talked with farmers, their families and others engaged in the agriculture industry.

Webinars and Conferences

Upcoming OSHA Webinar addresses inspection procedures for Hazard Communication standard



OSHA and the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication are conducting a free webinar on inspection procedures for enforcing the [Hazard Communication Standard](#). The Webinar will be held at 2 p.m. ET, Sept. 9. Lana Nieves and Sven Rundman from OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs will discuss the [Inspection Procedures for the Hazard Communication Standard*](#) enforcement directive and the requirements for manufacturers and importers to develop compliant safety data sheets by June 1, 2015. Register for this free event [here](#). * * *