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Great Places . . . Safe Places

South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, Sept. 28

The South Dakota Safety & Health Conference is just one month away! Take advantage of the early-bird deadline Friday, September 16, to get reduced rates on registration and on lodging at the Sheraton Sioux Falls (605-331-0100).

Join us September 28 to gain practical solutions that will help you reduce workplace injuries and related costs. Take advantage of local and national experts, 50+-plus exhibitors, the chance to network with colleagues, and, at the heart of the conference, educational sessions (full-day, half-day and 45-minute breakouts) that offer a great way for you to build your professional skills and earn credentials at the same time (e.g., CEUs and HR Strategic Business credits). For complete conference details, see http://www.southdakotasafetycouncil.org/conf/11index.cfm.

Find more details on page 2 and page 3 or link to:

Complete conference brochure
Full- and half-day sessions
Breakout sessions
Registration form

Questions? Contact us at sdsc@southdakotasafetycouncil.org or 605-361-7785/800-952-5539.

Upcoming Training

September 26 OSHA 30-hour General Industry Training Course
September 26 Principles of Occupational Safety & Health (30 hours)
September 28 South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, Sioux Falls
October 5 First Aid/CPR/AED Employee Training, Hands-on
Great Places, Safe Places…South Dakota

Join us for this year’s South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, September 28th at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center:

- Participate in a power-packed program designed by safety, health, and human resource professionals just for you!
- Learn the latest about developing strong teams, leadership, OSHA compliance issues, HR issues, basic workplace safety and safety management from national and local experts.
- Meet with the exhibitors to find products and services that support your workplace safety, health and human resources programs.
- Network with your peers.

If the safety and health of your organization’s employees is ALL or PART of your job, you should plan to attend the South Dakota Safety & Health Conference. Join your colleagues at South Dakota's largest (and best!) safety and health gathering. Register NOW to be a part of the action!

Special Features

- Start your day by re-charging your batteries with Jack Mattefy, nationally-recognized speaker, author, and educator who will inspire, challenge, and motivate you to find your passion. The passion Jack brings is absolutely infectious!
- A full-day of interactive seminars for human resource managers, with pre-approved credits.
- Attend the nineteenth annual Governor’s Workplace Safety Awards Luncheon and help us honor “the best of the best.” Governor Daugaard and Lt. Governor Michels have been invited to honor South Dakota employers for achieving excellence in safety. Join us and laugh with our luncheon speaker, comedian Jan McInnis – the Work Lady – a frequent performer at major comedy venues around the country and freelance comedy writer for late night TV. She’ll offer clean fun and lots of laughs that focus on work, family and day-to-day “stuff.”
- Send several employees at an affordable rate by taking advantage of group pricing. Register three people from your organization at the regular price and each additional person can attend for only $145!

Registration form
Complete conference brochure

It’s Bigger and Better Than Ever!

Last year, 500-plus attendees packed meeting rooms to overflowing, networked, and filled the Exhibit Hall, learning about new safety, health and HR products and services. Join us for that same energy this year!

Whether you represent a large manufacturer, a small service organization or a unit of government at any level, if you’re responsible for workplace safety and health, you need to keep current on a broad range of issues. Find the tools and information you need at the South Dakota Safety and Health Conference — and stay connected!
**Opening Session:** 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.  
Finding Your Passion: How to Become More Engaged at Work

**Full-Day Session:** 9:25 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Introduction to Occupational Safety

**Half-Day Sessions:** 9:25 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
Turning Your Human Resources Department into a Profit Center  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
How to Save a Life: CPR/AED Certification

**Breakout Sessions:**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Finding Your Passion: How to Become More Engaged at Work...and Engage Others!</td>
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<td>Advancing Your Job Safety Analysis Program</td>
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<td>Conducting Effective Inspections</td>
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<td>Federal OSHA: Flooding in Minot</td>
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<td>ProCare Wellness Program</td>
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<td>10:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Finding Your Passion: How to Become More Engaged at Work...and Engage Others!</td>
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<td>Advancing Your Job Safety Analysis Program (continued)</td>
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<td>How to Manage an OSHA Inspection</td>
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<td>Best Practices, Practical Approaches</td>
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<td>Fall Protection in General Industry</td>
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<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Finding the Funny in Communications</td>
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<td>Hire the Best and Avoid the Rest</td>
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<td>Alex, OSHA for $500, Please — Breathing Life Into Your Presentations</td>
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<td>Prevent MSDs: Creative Ergo Programming</td>
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<td>Wellness and Safety: A Winning Combination for All</td>
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<td>3:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Case Law Update/Decisions, Industry Trends and Challenges</td>
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<td>Hire the Best and Avoid the Rest (continued)</td>
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<td>Safety Committees: Only the Good Ones Achieve</td>
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<td>Prevent MSDs: Creative Ergo Programming (continued)</td>
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<td>Global Harmonization: Impact on HAZCOM</td>
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EPA Revises Chemical Data Reporting Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is increasing the type and amount of information it collects on commercial chemicals from chemical manufacturers through the revised chemical data reporting rule (CDR). The rule also requires that companies submit the information electronically to EPA, rather than on paper, and limits confidentiality claims by companies. The CDR Rule, which falls under the Toxic Substances Control Act Inventory Update Rule (IUR), requires more frequent reporting of critical information on chemicals and requires the submission of new and updated information relating to potential chemical exposures, current production volume, manufacturing site-related data, and processing and use-related data for a larger number of chemicals. More information about the rule at http://www.epa.gov/iur/. 

Federal OSHA Regulatory Agenda, Web Chat Available Online

Federal OSHA’s regulatory agenda was the subject of a recent web chat, during which participants submitted questions about the status of upcoming regulations and raised issues. Among the topics: the proposed Injury and Illness Prevention Program (I2P2), hazard communication standard, bloodborne pathogens standard, crystalline silica standard and issues for construction, electrical standard, confined space entry for construction, ergonomics and much more. You can find the regulatory agenda online (scroll down the list of DOL/OSHA items) as well as a transcript of the web chat (it will load in the box on left side of page titled “Regulatory Agenda Chat with OSHA – Replay”).

In response to the publication of the regulatory agenda, Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, criticized the absence of action on a beryllium standard. Ten years ago Public Citizen petitioned OSHA to reduce the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of beryllium from its current level of 2 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) to 0.2 ug/m3. Public Citizen noted that beryllium – which is used in metalwork, electronics manufacturing, the nuclear energy sector and laboratories that work with nuclear materials – is known to cause cancer and other fatal diseases when inhaled. The U.S. Department of Energy enacted a standard of 0.2 ug/m3 in 2000.

Blogs, Commentary and Other Bits of Interest

From EHS Today: New research makes a compelling argument for the value of safety, indicating that once accountability for safety is reached, companies can leverage that to improve quality, production, cost control and customer service. Read the full article at EHS Today.

The Textile Rental Services Association of America (TRSA) is challenging a recent study that suggests workers who use laundered shop towels may be at risk of exposure to heavy metals. TRSA called the study’s claims unsubstantiated and pointed out the research was released by an industry with a vested interest in the study results. See the full post.

NFL Player Suit Tackles Employee Protection

Employer liability and employee responsibility are key elements of a piece on slate.com examining a lawsuit brought by 75 players against the NFL. The suit claims the NFL failed to inform players of possible long-term effects of concussion, and also failed to provide adequate protection. The players accuse the NFL of misrepresenting the science linking concussion and cognitive problems, comparing it to the tobacco industry’s denial that cigarette smoking caused health problems. Writer John Culhane asks the question “Does the case have merit?”
New from Federal OSHA: Heat Tool App, Scissors Lift Alert, Recordkeeping Advisor

Federal OSHA has added a new heat tool app to its free resources. It’s currently available for Android only, with apps coming soon for iPhone and Blackberry. OSHA has posted educational materials about heat-related illnesses, including a curriculum for workplace training online, available in English and Spanish.

The agency recently issued a hazard alert on using scissor lifts in response to the death of a Notre Dame student worker who died last fall while filming a football practice from a lift. The alert outlines hazards and how to reduce them, and provides links to additional resources.

OSHA also recently launched a new interactive web tool to help users determine whether injuries and illnesses are work-related and recordable under the OSHA recordkeeping rules. The OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor adapts to user responses and does not store any information provided.

Research on Use of Hearing Protection in Construction Receives NIOSH Award

A recently-concluded four-year study assessed the effectiveness of a three-component intervention in motivating construction workers to effectively wear hearing protection devices during periods of high noise exposure. The study was implemented at eight construction sites near Seattle. The project received the NORA Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety. More details on the NIOSH web site.

More from NIOSH: STOP STICKS Campaign, Trench Cave-ins, Selecting SCBAs

The STOP STICKS campaign, developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is focused on reducing sharps injuries, a significant hazard for health care workers. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C from needlesticks and other sharps-related injuries in the workplace.

Preventing Worker Deaths from Trench Cave-ins offers recommendations on engineering controls, protective equipment, and safe work practices to minimize hazards for workers during trenching and excavating.

A new NIOSH fact sheet: What’s special about CBRN self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)? provides information about equipment designed to protect against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. The fact sheet discusses the significance of CBRN SCBA standards and test procedures and describes how to determine if an SCBA is NIOSH-approved for CBRN protection.

New Employer Guide to Hiring a Safety Professional

A new free publication from the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the “Employer’s Guide to Hiring a Safety Professional”, provides recommendations on the education, experience, and certifications to look for on five levels of practice: entry level, technician, manager, director, and executive levels. It also includes an FAQ section, an interview guide, information on the certification accreditation process, and hiring tips.
Controlling Workplace Hazards

When you encounter a hazard – chemical, biological, physical or ergonomic – in the workplace, measures must be taken to protect employees. Employers can take many precautions to protect their employees from occupational hazards, the most effective being elimination of the hazard altogether. This is not always possible, however, so employers need to use a variety of methods to provide a safe workplace.

For the safety of the crew, it is important that supervisors not only be on the lookout for potential risks, but also train their workers on hazard recognition and the appropriate steps to mitigate these hazards.

Hazard recognition

Before you can work to eliminate a hazard, you must first recognize it. The Geneva-based International Labour Organization offers the following tips for identifying health and safety hazards in the workplace:

- Observe the workplace. Using a checklist when performing safety inspections can be helpful in tracking potentially unsafe conditions.
- Listen to complaints and feedback from employees. A survey of employees can help determine where hazards may exist.
- Pay attention to circumstances that may have led to incidents and near misses in the past.
- Examine employee sickness records for any possible trends.

Methods of control

Once hazards have been identified, the National Safety Council recommends adhering to the following hierarchy to determine the most effective methods for hazard control:

**Engineering:** Hazards often can be designed out of equipment or the work process. Eliminating a hazardous work situation or process at the developmental stage is the most effective means of protecting workers. Examples of engineering controls include:

- **Substitution:** Replace toxic chemicals with less harmful ones.
- **Process change:** Modify methods or equipment to make procedures safer.
- **Isolation:** Reduce the number of workers who come in contact with a hazard by enclosing the process.
- **Exhaust ventilation:** Reduce hazards created from chemical gases by using a local exhaust ventilation system to suck fumes into a canopy or open tank. General ventilation, although less effective, is commonly used to bring “fresh” air into the workplace.
- **Wet methods:** Reduce dust generation by spraying water on dusty areas, or mixing water with materials that create dust.

**Administrative:** Hazards also can be reduced through administrative controls. Examples include:

- **Housekeeping:** Maintain a clean, organized workplace and always enforce proper storage of chemicals and hazardous materials.
- **Training:** Train employees on safe practices and ensure all are aware of OSHA guidelines and regulations.

**Personal protective equipment:** PPE should be used as a last resort, after all other means of hazard control have been exhausted.

Stay Safe on the Road

Think before you drink: Plan a safe way home

• Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys

• If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely

• Use your community’s Sober Rides program

• If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement

Whether you’ve had way too many or just one too many, it’s not worth the risk. Impaired driving has serious consequences: jail time, loss of driver’s license, higher insurance rates, and many other unanticipated expenses: attorney fees, other fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, lost time at work, and more.
Fall Driving Tips

• Autumn leaves drift by the window and right into the street. Driving in the fall presents its own colorful set of problems. Decreasing daylight and wet leaves create challenges for the unsuspecting driver. The South Dakota Safety Council offers these tips to help you navigate fall driving hazards.

• Patches of fallen leaves can be just as treacherous as patches of ice. Fallen leaves retain large amounts of water and can create a slippery surface. Drive slowly through them and avoid hard or panic braking.

• Fall brings the first frost. Be aware of slippery conditions that occur with frost. At freezing or near freezing temperatures, the moisture on bridges and overpasses will become ice much more quickly than the approach roadway. The roadways hold heat and the bridges do not; you can go from wet roadway to ice in just a fraction of a second.

• School buses are as common in the fall as dandelions in the spring. Be particularly careful around them. Your responsibility in the presence of a bus with an extended stop arm and flashing red lights is to stop and remain stopped until the warnings are withdrawn, regardless of your direction of travel. The only time a driver is not required to stop when approaching the front of the school bus is if the bus and the vehicle are on separated roadways.

• Frost, sunshine, wet leaves on the road, school buses, and kids horsing around on the way to school can be a disaster if they come together at the wrong time.

• Fall weather can present challenges to drivers. Rain, fog, sleet and wet snow require full driver attention. Remember the “four-second rule” when following other drivers, and in severe weather increase your following distance. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.

• Your commute to and from work may find you driving directly into the sun. Be sure your windows are clean, inside and out, and have sunglasses handy. If you’re driving away from a low sun, glare will not be a problem for you, but it can be for the drivers approaching from the other direction. It may help to use your low beam headlights, allowing you to be seen more readily.

• The decreasing daylight may also mean that some drivers will be commuting in twilight or dark conditions. A driver’s vision, including depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision, is compromised in darkened conditions.

Source: National Safety Council

Find the complete Fall Driving Tips fact sheet and many more in our online fact sheet library.