



OSHEP NEWSLETTER

SAFETY AND HEALTH - WORDS TO LIVE BY

CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM CURRICULUM REACHES FINAL STAGES

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO has entered the final stage of curriculum review for the Security Awareness and Preparedness Program. In conjunction with the New Jersey Institute of Technology and a grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the program will provide training to workers in the New Jersey Chemical and Petroleum Sectors. The next phase of the program is to pilot the training at a facility to polish the program before facilitating courses for trainers representing over 100 workplaces throughout the state.

The curriculum review committee included representatives of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, the New Jersey Departments of Environmental Protection and Labor and Workforce Development, the Attorney General's Domestic Security Preparedness Planning Group, the New Jersey Office of Counter-Terrorism, New Jersey Institute of Technology, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Chemistry Council of New Jersey, the New Jersey Petroleum Council, Conoco Phillips Bayway Refinery, United Steel Workers of America and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

As the representative of over a million workers, with a well-established record of providing quality safety education programs for employers in the State, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO looks forward to providing a well-defined, comprehensive and standardized curriculum for Plant Security in the Chemical and Petroleum industries. The training will be conducted as a Train-The-Trainer program utilizing the "Small Group Activity Method" which involves discussion, workbook activities and incident scenarios for the trainees. With over 75,000 workers in the Chemical and Petroleum industries, there exists a strong need to provide basic security awareness training for all employees in New Jersey.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the development of this important program. We are proud of the collective effort of academia, labor, industry and government to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of New Jersey.

OSHEP OFFERS 10 Hour and 30 Hour OSHA OUTREACH COURSE

OSHEP trainers can provide your membership with free OSHA Outreach courses, by request. The ten-hour and 30-hour course are voluntary training programs intended for hourly workers, supervisors and safety professionals.. The participatory workshop is facilitated by experienced OSHA-authorized instructors and is ideal for entry-level workers, those wishing to enhance their knowledge, and for anyone with safety and health responsibilities.

Participants of both courses are introduced to OSHA policies, procedures, and standards and industry safety and health principles. Upon completion of either course, participants will receive an OSHA 10 hour or 30-hour card. If your organization is interested in scheduling a course, please call Christine Rampolla at 609-989-8289.

OSHA WEAKENS STEEL ERECTION STANDARD

WASHINGTON -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced it is revoking a provision of the steel erection standard that addresses the slip resistance of walking surfaces of coated structural steel members.

The provision requires that coated structural steel meet a specified level of slip resistance when measured using ASTM test methods. The technical developments that needed to occur for employers to comply with the provision by its effective date, July 18, 2006, have not occurred. The ability to comply with the slip resistance provision depends upon two technical developments: (1) completed industry protocols for slip testing equipment, and (2) the availability of suitable slip resistant coatings.

Rulemaking comments indicated that the test methods are not likely to be completed by the July effective date because ASTM will not have completed the required validation process. Comments also indicated that ASTM will likely withdraw the test methods altogether because they are brand-specific rather than generic. Lack of completed test methods has delayed the development of suitable slip resistant coatings. In addition, there has not been adequate testing of coatings to determine whether they have sufficient durability in the variety of applications in which they will be used, especially in corrosive environments.

In 2004, OSHA conducted a limited reopening of the rulemaking record, as part of a settlement to resolve legal challenges to the slip resistance provision. The Agency asked for comments on whether suitable and appropriate test methods, and slip-resistant coatings could reasonably be expected to be available by July 2006. In the settlement agreement, the Agency also committed to publishing a notice by January 18, 2006 reaffirming, amending, or revoking the provision.

The steel erection standard is the first OSHA safety standard developed under the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990 and the Department's Negotiated Rulemaking Policy. The standard addresses the hazards that have been identified as the major causes of injuries and fatalities in the steel erection industry. The slip resistance provision was not intended to be the sole or primary means of protecting workers from fall hazards. Rather, it was intended to complement other requirements in the steel erection standard as part of a collective strategy for reducing these fall-related injuries and fatalities.

FREE SAFE SCHOOLS COURSES FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

Attention AFT members: The Safe Schools Program at UMDNJ is offering Occupational Safety and Health Courses for school teachers in New Jersey at no charge. (<http://eohsi.rutgers.edu/ss/sched3.html>)

Safe Schools is a project supported by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs to assist schools in reducing risk to occupational safety and health hazards. The project is administered through the Public Education and Risk Communication Division Center of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI).

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