



## OSHEP NEWSLETTER

### SAFETY AND HEALTH - WORDS TO LIVE BY

#### **CHEMICAL SECURITY PILOT PROGRAM EARNS HIGH MARKS**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to announce the completion of the first ever Security Awareness and Preparedness Program training. Participants in the three-day pilot training course included representatives of ten New Jersey Chemical and Petroleum companies.

Twenty-Seven strategic partners from the labor movement, industry, academia and government contributed to the development of this program and are to be commended for their continued commitment to the workers and residents of our State. This first-in-the-nation training will provide workers in the chemical and petroleum industries throughout the state with critical security awareness skills and training techniques that will supplement other efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks. There are currently an approximate 100,000 workers employed in these industries statewide.

Building on our well-established record of providing quality safety education programs for employers in the State, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, along with our OSHE Program partners at Rutgers University, will strive to continually enhance this program to meet the changing needs of the workforce.

For more information about this program please contact Christine Rampolla, Program Coordinator, at 609-989-8730.

#### **OSHEP PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW TRAINER**

OSHEP welcomes Sal Lombardo as a member of our staff. Sal joins our staff with over 35 years of safety and security training. He was the former Deputy Director of New York City EMS operations. His experience included disaster planning, dignitary protection, internal affair investigation and program development. Sal is a trained EMT and Paramedic whose previous experience included directing the safety and security department of a major medical center. Under his leadership, a major chemical manufacturer received the State of New Jersey Governor's Award for Outstanding Safety and OSHA Performance distinction. Sal has a reputation of demonstrated expertise on the marriage of safety and security systems.

## **WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY**

In 1970, workers and their unions achieved a great victory when the federal government passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), also known as the safety "bill of rights." Unfortunately, now, more than 35 years later, more than 60,000 workers die from job injuries and illness, and another 6 million are injured on the job. On April 28th of each year, we mark the anniversary of the signing of this important law by commemorating those workers who have died or been injured on the job and renewing our fight to make safe jobs for all workers a reality. New Jersey State AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech addressed mourners at an Atlantic City Workers memorial event, "one death, or even one injury on the job that could have been prevented is unacceptable. We must continue working together to ensure that safe, healthy and secure working conditions are a reality for all workers."

Coinciding with Workers Memorial Day, the AFL-CIO has released their annual report entitled "Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect". The report provides national and state-by-state data on job fatalities and injuries and OSHA enforcement. This year's report shows an upward trend in the rate and number of job fatalities with the fatality rate increasing in construction, manufacturing, transportation and utilities. Fatalities also increased significantly among Latino and foreign-born workers. The full report: [http://www.aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/upload/doj\\_2006.pdf](http://www.aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/upload/doj_2006.pdf)

## **EX-WORKERS CAN SUE FOR WIFE'S DEATH FROM ASBESTOS**

In a precedent setting decision the State Supreme Court unanimously decided that companies who do not take certain safety precautions can be sued if their workers' spouses get sick from asbestos dust brought home on work clothes. Justice Jaynee LaVecchis wrote, "Anthony's soiled work clothing had to be laundered and Exxon Mobil, as one of the sites at which he worked, should have foreseen that whoever performed that task would come into contact with the asbestos that infiltrated his clothing while he performed his contracted tasks." Click Here for full Star-Ledger article.

## **OSHA TO EMPLOYERS: YOUR INJURY AND ILLNESS RATES ARE TOO HIGH**

According to Occupational Hazard, as many as 14,000 employers will be receiving notices from OSHA in the mail this month alerting them that their injury and illness rates are significantly higher than the national average.

In the letter, OSHA explains that the notification is 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," OSHA Administrator Edwin Foulke Jr. said. "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."

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