



OSHEP NEWSLETTER

SAFETY AND HEALTH

SECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR THE CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRY INTRODUCES NEW DATES

Class space for the Security Awareness and Preparedness Program training classes is limited. The three-day comprehensive train-the-trainer programs at Rutgers University are scheduled for:

Monday, March 26 – Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Wednesday, April 25 – Friday, April 27, 2007
Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, May 25, 2007

Last year saw successful implementation of the Security Awareness and Preparedness Train-the-Trainer curriculum. We are scheduled for several upcoming direct training classes at facilities around the state. Direct training and/or assistance in training is a service the OSHEP partnership offers for those facilities that do not have the training resources to meet requirements set forth by the state for security awareness and preparedness. If you are interested in scheduling training at your facility, contact Christine Rampolla at (609)989-8289.

CHEMICAL SECURITY UPDATE

- Governor Jon S. Corzine today announced a new proposal to more than double the number of facilities required to conduct reviews for Inherently Safer Technology as part of a proposal to increase chemical security throughout the state. Inherently Safer Technology ensures that companies identify how they can reduce the potentially hazardous materials they use; substitute safer materials; use the least dangerous process condition or form; or use equipment and processes that reduce danger to public safety and to the environment.
- US Senator Frank R. Lautenberg challenged the Bush Administrations recent proposed regulations that seek to preempt the authority of state and local government to adopt chemical security protections. The Senator said this effort is a direct attack on New Jersey, the state with the strongest chemical security laws in the nation, and he demanded action. Monday, at Rutgers University Law School, lawmakers and government officials testified at a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security and Water Quality, chaired by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg.

Governor Jon S. Corzine testified about the importance of state and local authorities in ensuring chemical plant safety and security. Last October, federal legislation addressing chemical security was signed into law as part of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act. Corzine went on to voice his concern about DHS' claim of preemption authority in the proposed regulation despite no clear grant of authority from Congress. Congressman Frank Pallone testified that DHS has "willfully disregarded the intent of the United States Congress by preempting state and local laws and regulations on chemical security."

Governor Corzine's testimony spoke to the innovative pieces of New Jersey's comprehensive security program including best practice standards for the chemical and petroleum industries, mandatory Inherently Safer Technology (IST) Assessments and the Worker Training Program lead by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and Rutgers University. Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Pallone praised the state initiatives and the inclusion of labor, industry and academia in this process.

Today's hearing also included testimony from U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Representative Donald Payne, and representatives from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO commends our U.S. and State representatives for leading the fight to protect New Jersey's necessary, strong chemical security regulations.

- Commissioner Jackson issued an Administrative Order this week to ensure that workers and union representatives are able to participate in DEP inspections of both TCPA and Discharge Prevention Containment and Control program facilities. These efforts will provide yet another mechanism for workers and union representatives to point out potential hazards and vulnerabilities to both management and government representatives.

632 WORKPLACES IN NEW JERSEY RECEIVE OSHA LETTERS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has identified and sent letters to more than 14,000 workplaces (632 in New Jersey) with the highest occupational injury and illness rates and is urging the employers to take action to remove hazards causing the high rates. The employers are those whose establishments are covered by Federal OSHA and reported the highest "Days Away from work, Restricted work or job Transfer injury and illness" (DART) rate to OSHA in a survey of 2005 injury and illness data. For every 100 full-time workers, the 14,000 employers had 5.3 or more injuries or illnesses which resulted in days away from work, restricted work or job transfer. The national average is 2.4.

The letter encourages employers to consider hiring an outside safety and health consultant, talking with their insurance carrier, seeking assistance from OSHA's on-site consultation program or contacting the workers' compensation agency in their state for advice. The letter tells the employer where the OSHA consultation program in that state may be contacted. The data collected was designed to provide establishment specific injury and illness information.

Please, [CLICK HERE](#) for a copy of the letter sent to employers and [CLICK HERE](#) to see if your employer is on the list. If your employer reported a high DART rate, you should consider contacting OSHEP at (609) 989-8730 to hear how our training services would benefit your workplace.

AFL-CIO AND UFCW DEMAND TO IMPLEMENT JOB SAFETY RULE

Faced with a lawsuit, the Bush Administration said it will issue a final rule on employer payment for personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers. The rule would require employers to pay for such safety items as protective clothes, lifelines, face shields, gloves and other equipment used by an estimated 20 million workers. The AFL-CIO and UFCW filed a lawsuit against the Bush Administration over its failure to finalize payment of the PPE rule. A final ruling is expected by November 2007. This is a victory for workers who have suffered needlessly while awaiting action by the Bush Administration.

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