



## OSHEP NEWSLETTER

### SAFETY AND HEALTH

#### **SECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS FOR THE CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES:**

##### **Classes Full; New Dates Added**

Due to overwhelming demand, an additional train-the-trainer course has been added to this Spring's calendar. April and May courses are now full, and interested participants can register for the train-the-trainer course being held on Wednesday, June 6 through Friday, June 8, 2007. To date, over 100 companies in New Jersey have sent representatives to the Train-the Trainer Course. If you are interested in registering for this class, please call Christine Rampolla at (609)989-8289.

##### **OSHEP Staff Train Entire Workforce At Two N.J. Chemical Facilities**

In addition to preparing worker-trainers to conduct onsite Security Awareness and Preparedness Training for their co-workers in the chemical and petroleum sectors, OSHEP continues to provide outreach, training assistance, and direct training for small employers. In March and April, OSHEP trained the entire workforce at Cardolite Corporation in Newark, NJ and Synray Corporation in Kenilworth. The 4-hour training was offered on premise to employees working at the facility in different departments. The training fostered great discussion about security issues for the chemical industry in general and specific responsibilities and issues for the company in particular. OSHEP staff received positive feedback from the employees who indicated that the training had created greater awareness among them regarding security issues and employer and employee responsibility for facility security awareness. Direct training is coordinated between OSHEP and chemical and petroleum sector companies that are required to provide this mandatory training to their employees. OSHEP is currently scheduled to deliver on-site training to several more companies this Spring.

##### **WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY**

Each April 28, Workers' Memorial Day is observed in nearly one hundred countries. It has been recognized as an international commemoration day for dead and injured workers since 1996. At this time, we rededicate ourselves to the fight for safe workplaces as we remember those who have died in workplace catastrophes, suffered diseases because of exposure to toxic substance or have been injured because of dangerous conditions. The theme of this year Workers' Memorial Day is "Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. It's Time."

Through the innovative Rutgers University/New Jersey State AFL-CIO Occupation Safety and Health Education Program (OSHEP), we have kept true to one of the major tenets of the labor movement and strived to create safer workplaces for our more than one million members. In addition to tens of thousands of hours of direct training we have provided, the OSHEP program has also prepared countless workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to return to their jobs and contribute positively to the overall safety of their worksites.

Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs. Unfortunately, even with the efforts of the labor movement, simply reporting to work puts workers across this country at risk for serious injury or death. It is clear that when it comes to workplace safety, our job is not done, and we are committed to continuing to build upon our efforts until every worker is afforded the opportunity to be safe on the job.

The first Workers' Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and there is also a day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, people in hundreds of communities and at worksites recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

For more information on Workers' Memorial please visit,  
<http://www.afcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/>

### **A TRIBUTE TO WORKER SAFETY ADVOCATE GEORGE TAYLOR**

George H.R. Taylor, 95, an AFL-CIO labor leader who helped draft the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970, died of pneumonia March 23 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. He was a longtime resident of Bethesda. A staunch defender of workers' rights, Mr. Taylor dedicated his life to making sure employees had safe workplaces. He worked for the AFL-CIO from 1959 until his retirement in 1983, the last eight years as its director of occupational safety and health.

OSHA "never would have passed without him," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said in a statement, but Mr. Taylor felt that the legislation never lived up to the expectations of workers. "We thought the law, if aggressively administered, would do a great deal," he said in 1976. "But it just hasn't lived up to its promise."

Mr. Taylor "helped build the foundation for the workplace and environmental protections in place today," AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney said in a statement. "He was an unreconstructed and unrepentant 'New Dealer' who spent his life's work fighting for justice and fairness and demanding that government serve the interest of ordinary citizens. Millions of workers have been protected from injury and illness because of his tireless work."

## **BUILDING TRADES UNIONS REACH AGREEMENT WITH OSHA ON HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM LAWSUIT**

The Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, along with the Laborers' International Union of North America and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, reached a settlement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that will require OSHA to inspect U.S. construction sites for safety procedures to reduce worker exposure to Portland cement. Portland cement contains hexavalent chromium, or "hex chrome," a known carcinogen and toxin hazardous to skin, eyes and lungs. Skin exposure to cement containing hex chrome can lead to a career-ending disease called allergic contact dermatitis.

The agreement requires OSHA compliance officers to ensure that employers using Portland cement are following regulations for safe working procedures. Compliance officers will evaluate whether proper washing facilities and supplies, personal protective equipment, access to material safety data sheets, adequate worker training, and accurate injury and illness recordkeeping are in place. For more information visit the Center to Protect Workers' Rights at [www.cpwr.com](http://www.cpwr.com)

## **CONGRESS TURNS UP HEAT ON OSHA**

OSHA became the target of Congressional scrutiny during a March 22 hearing on Capital Hill. The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board unveiled a report alleging that OSHA failed to provide effective oversight of BP's Texas City refinery. Fifteen workers were killed and 180 others were hurt in a 2005 explosion.

The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board revealed that between 1995 and 2005, OSHA conducted only nine "comprehensive, planned process safety inspections" throughout the country, and none in the refining sector.

Rep. Phil Hare, D-Ill, said that it is clear to him that Congress needs to take a "long look at OSHA and its effectiveness" and to see how much funding it is willing to allocate toward hiring more OSHA inspectors for refineries.