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The Occupational Safety and Health Education Program: Partnership for Safe, Secure & Healthy Workplaces

The 2010 OSHEP Conference will be held on February 24, 2010, at the Hilton East Brunswick in East Brunswick, NJ. See page 4 for more information and to register for the conference.

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THE OSHEP NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication developed and written by the Occupational Safety and Health Education Program, a partnership between New Jersey State AFL-CIO and Rutgers University, and funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Around the Tri-State Area...

...47-year old worker Yuquan Chen of Brooklyn was killed on the job on December 7, 2009, after a slab of granite fell on him inside a New York City construction supply store.

...New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed legislation in early December 2009 that prohibits simultaneous demolition and asbestos removal activities in the same building. The measure is aimed to improve construction safety standards. It's the last of a dozen pieces of legislation crafted in response to the fatal August 2007 fire at the former Deutsche Bank building that killed two firefighters. Under the new law, any future simultaneous demolition and asbestos removal activities would be prohibited unless specially approved and monitored by the departments of Buildings and Environmental Protection and Fire Department. It takes effect in 180 days.

...OSHA announced in a press release that the agency has issued citations to Cambria Contracting Inc. for 11 alleged willful violations of the OSHA construction asbestos standard for failing to train and protect its workers at a Buffalo, N.Y., jobsite. The Lockport, N.Y., demolition contractor faces a total of \$484,000 in proposed penalties.

...OSHA has cited Sunoco Inc. in Marcus Hook, PA, for workplace safety and health violations. Proposed penalties total \$32,000. The agency's Philadelphia Area Office initiated the investigation following an ethylene complex explosion at the Marcus Hook refinery in May 2009. As a result of the investigation, the company was issued one repeat violation, with a penalty of \$25,000, and two serious violations, with a penalty of \$7,000. The repeat violation includes the company's failure to establish and implement written procedures to maintain the on-going mechanical integrity of process equipment. OSHA issues a repeat violation when it finds a substantially similar violation of any standard, regulation, rule or order issued to the same employer within the previous three years.

...OSHA has cited Solid Waste Transfer & Recycling Inc. of Newark, N.J., for alleged safety and health violations for a total of \$212,400 in proposed penalties. OSHA inspected the site on June 3 as part of its proactive program targeting companies in industries with high injury and illness rates. As a result, the company received citations for four willful violations totaling \$198,00 and six serious violations totaling \$14,400 in penalties.

...OSHA has proposed \$72,000 in fines against Sorbara Construction, a Lynnbrook, N.Y., concrete contractor, for alleged repeat and serious violations of safety standards after a worker fell at a New York City worksite.

...\$70.7 million in new funding for federal 9/11 health programs was approved by the house in December 2009. The funding is contained in the conference report for the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations bill (H.R. 3288).

Middlesex CLC and NJ State AFL-CIO Blood Drive

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is stepping up to the challenge and will host a **Union Blood Drive** in partnership with the Middlesex County Central Labor Council and IBEW Local 456 on **Thursday, January 28, 2010**. We strongly encourage you to participate in this important campaign by recruiting your members to call **(609) 989-8289** and register for the blood drive on January 28, 2010, or to organize your own local/union blood drive.

For more information on the campaign, you can visit the Save 3 Lives campaign website at www.njsave3lives.com. Many of you may be aware of the fact that New Jersey has for some time and continues to face a critical and severe shortage of blood. To prevent a crisis in the state's blood supply, the New Jersey Workplace Blood Donor Coalition, a partnership of public and private sector New Jersey employers, labor and business organizations, is asking New Jersey employers and organizations to work together to double the number of people who routinely donate blood in New Jersey.

Visit www.njsave3lives.com for more information on how to organize your own workplace blood drive.

Updates from the OSHA Regulatory Desk

U.S. Department of Labor OSHA has recently released its Fall 2009 regulatory priorities. Coming close on the heels of the confirmation of the new Assistant Secretary of Labor, David Michaels, the Agency is well on its way in charting an aggressive course of action for better enforcement. Here are OSHA's major projects:

- **Airborne Infectious Diseases.** This will address tuberculosis, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and influenza. A Request for Information to examine measures to improve worker protection from airborne diseases will be published in March 2010.
 - **Occupational Injury & Illness Recording and Reporting Requirements (MSDs).** The agency is proposing to revise regulation on Recordkeeping and Reporting Occupational Injuries to restore a column on the OSHA 300 log for recording work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).
 - **Cranes and Derricks.** The agency is planning to issue a final revised rule in July 2010. This rule dates back to 1971 and is partially based on outdated consensus standards.
 - **Crystalline Silica.** This rulemaking revision will update existing permissible exposure limits and establish additional provisions to protect workers from exposure to respirable silica dust. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is planned for publishing in July 2010.
 - **Combustible Dust.** OSHA is engaged in early rulemaking stages to develop a combustible dust standard for general industry. An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in October 2009, with stakeholder meetings being held during this month.
 - **Hazard Communication Standard—Global Harmonization System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.** OSHA is revising its HazCom standard to make it consistent with GHS. The new standard will include more specific requirements for hazard classification, as well as standardized label components and a standard approach to conveying information on material safety data sheets. The proposal was published on September 30, 2009, with hearings scheduled for March 2010.
 - **Beryllium.** OSHA is developing a rule to update the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and establish additional provisions to protect exposed workers. A peer review of health effects and risk assessments is planned for March 2010.
 - **Diacyetyl.** The agency is currently working on the proposed regulatory text for this standard. A peer review of health effects and risk assessments is planned for October 2010.
 - **Walking/Working Surfaces.** This proposed standard will update OSHA's existing Subpart D&I. The Agency plans to issue a proposal in March 2010.
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New OSHA Administrator is Announced

Dr. David Michaels was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate and was sworn in on Dec. 9 as Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Dr. Michaels is well known as a scientist and has conducted epidemiologic studies examining the hazards facing printers, construction workers, bus drivers and other groups of workers.

Before coming to OSHA, he was a professor and interim chair at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services' Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. Dr. Michaels has been widely published in a variety of journals such as *Science*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Scientific American*. He is the author of "[Doubt is Their Product: How Industry's Assault on Science Threat-](#)

[ens Your Health](#)" published by the Oxford University Press

Dr. Michaels has previously served as assistant secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health in the Department of Energy where he was responsible for protecting the health of workers, communities and the environment around the nation's nuclear weapons facilities.

Dr. Michaels is invited as the keynote speaker for the 2010 Occupational Safety and Health Education Conference to be held on February 24, 2010, at the Hilton East Brunswick in East Brunswick, NJ. For more information about the conference and the workshops offered, see page 4 of this newsletter.

Women Hotel Workers more susceptible to injuries

A recent article in New America Media by Seth Sandronsky highlights a study of occupational injuries found that working women and ethnic minorities employed in the U.S. hotel industry are more prone to injuries.

Researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health found that female hotel workers were 1.5 times more likely to suffer injuries than males. Injuries to Hispanic female workers at hotels were nearly twice that of white females. In a comparison of male workers, the study found that injuries to Asian and Hispanic male employees were 1.5 times greater than white males.

The findings from this study are based on analysis of OSHA data collected on nearly 3,000 workers injured in five hotel job categories at 50 unionized properties of Hilton Worldwide, Hyatt Hotels, InterContinental Hotels Group, Marriott International and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide. The study was done in collaboration with UNITEHERE, AFL-CIO, which represents 100,000 hotel workers at more than 900 properties in the United States and Canada. The companies supplied the OSHA data to the labor union UNITEHERE, AFL-CIO. In turn, the union provided financial help. Joanna Shimekan, an independent con-

sultant statistician associated with the University of Illinois School of Public Health, analyzed the data.

According to the study, every fifth employee in the study worked in housekeeping, and had the highest risk of being hurt, researchers found. The most common injury in every job category was to the upper extremity, according to the researchers. Injuries to the back and lower extremities of hotel workers were next in frequency. The study did not pinpoint data according to company, gender, ethnicity, race and job factors and injury disparities. According to Laura Punnett, ScD, co-author of the study, the excess risk among Hispanic housekeepers compared to other housekeepers is more difficult to explain, and would require further study. The study presented at the recent APHA meeting will appear in the peer-reviewed *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* in January.

More information on this study can be found at <http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/>.



**The Occupational Safety and Health
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Partnership for Safe, Secure & Healthy
Workplaces**

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The OSHEP Partnership

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO and the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations work together to make workplaces safer and to enhance the skills of New Jersey's workforce. Funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, OSHEP partners with employers, local unions and other organizations to create an active "culture of safety" in workplaces through innovative training and education.

For more information on training and other services provided by OSHEP, please contact OSHEP at 609-989-8289 or visit us on the web at www.njafclcio.org/oshep.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.njafclcio.org/oshep>

The 2010 OSHEP Conference Workshops and Schedule—Feb 24, 2010

The Occupational Safety and Health Education Program is proud of its long tradition of providing excellent training, education and awareness to New Jersey's hard working men and women. Our extensive network includes professionals, activists, educators and rank-and-file union members from all walks of life. Each year, the staff at New Jersey State AFL-CIO and Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations work hard to put together the annual one-day Safety and Health Education Conference. This year the 2010 OSHEP Conference will be held on February 24, 2010 at the Hilton East Brunswick in East Brunswick, New Jersey. We're excited to introduce newer topics, cutting edge discussions on current safety and health issues and speakers who are well known experts in the field of safety and health. This year, the conference will also play host to a blood drive to address the chronic and severe shortage of blood in New Jersey. Organized in collaboration with the New Jersey Workplace Blood Donor Coalition, this blood drive also aims to raise awareness of the importance of being a blood donor. We humbly request your support in making this conference and the blood drive a big success. Here's the schedule and the highlights for this year's conference.

SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.— 9:00 a.m.	Registration/Con. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.	Opening Session
9:45 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.	Networking Break/Vendor area
10:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.	Session I
11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	Session II
2:30 p.m. — 2:45 p.m.	Networking Break/Vendor area
2:45 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.	Closing Session

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Assistant Secretary of OSHA as Keynote (Invited)
Health Hazards in the Construction Industry
OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements
Hazard Communication Becoming Globally Harmonized
OSHA Updates with OSHA Area Directors
Stress Management
Aging Workforce Safety and Health Issues
Safe Patient Handling

To register, please call 609-989-8289 or visit <http://www.njafclcio.org/oshep> to download the registration form.
