

Environmental, Health and Safety News

August 2015

We're Proud of Our Work

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The re-posed of our work

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Manufacturing Division of a local client

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Something to Think About!!

Not doing more than average is what keeps the average down. -- William Winans

Let Safety Reign as King in 2015

HazCom Revisited

Our friends at Jackson Kelly PLLC, specifically Kristin R.B. White, Attorney, recently sent out the latest compliance directive from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on the topic of the revised Hazard Communication Standard. We have not visited this topic for over a year and it warrants a review. While we have tried to provide appropriate training via this venue as well as through toolbox talks and face to face training, newer hires may need this review. And due to the scope of the changes, more seasoned employees need a refresher as well.

"The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently issued a compliance directive regarding enforcement of the revised Hazard Communication Standard. Employers will recall that under the Standard, they were required to train workers on the new label requirements and safety data sheets ("SDS") by December 1, 2013. Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors had to comply with revised SDS requirements by June 1, 2015. Distributors have until December 1, 2015 to comply with labeling provisions as long as they are not re-labeling materials or creating SDSs. Employers have until June 2016 to update their Hazard Communication Program and provide additional employee training for any newly-identified hazards on the SDS or labels. The compliance directive issued by OSHA explains how the standard is to be enforced during this transition period and after the standard is fully implemented on June 1, 2016. Some of the highlights from the instruction include:

- Guidance to inspectors as to how to judge the adequacy of the company's hazard classification of its chemicals;
- Information regarding what to look for on labels, SDSs and in training programs;
- The criteria or data that supports various hazard classification; and
- Inspection and Citation guidelines.

A concerning portion of the directive instructs inspectors to consider issuing a general duty clause violation where there is potential exposure to a chemical with no permissible exposure limit ("PEL"). . . .

. inspectors are instructed to review an SDS to determine if it spells out appropriate measures to protect employees from overexposure such as through appropriate Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE"). As a result, the inspectors are instructed to refer to an employer's SDSs to begin investigating whether serious chemical exposure hazards exist and whether the employer has discharged its duty under the general duty clause to abate or reduce the hazard, if there is no PEL for the chemical. . . ."

I present this quoted text as a means of emphasizing the importance of training. By now you most likely have been seeing some of the newly formatted SDSs and labels. It is very important that this new information is formally shared with all employees. ("Formally shared" means that the training was documented.) Training materials have been provided, as previously mentioned, to all locations. Go back to that material (EHS Newsletters from April 2013, October 2013, February 2014 and several toolbox talks) and share it with any newer employees and review it with the others as well. If you need assistance, contact your local EHS manager: Heather Scott, Mike Tolin, Tyler Kalber, Steve Henderson, Mark Michael, Greg Bridges, Terry Jones or me.



Have a Safe and Healthy August!!



We are on the web
www.irvmat.com

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Environmental, Health
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**Safety is never an accident: it is
always the result of high inten-
tion, sincere effort, intelligent di-
rection and skilled execution! It
represents the wise choice of
many alternatives!!**

Distracted Driving—Revisited

Here we are at the first of August, schools will soon be back in session, and the construction season is rolling full force. Traffic delays are something that you should expect if travelling very far.

Many construction projects on the interstates and on the more highly trafficked roads occurs after hours in the hopes of reducing the congestion associated with lane restriction during the daylight hours. But as I work on this Newsletter I am notified of an awful traffic crash that resulted in multiple deaths. It occurred near midnight July 23rd. A semi-tractor/trailer unit failed to slow in a construction zone, plowed into the back of two automobiles and another semi. A mother and two children, the driver of the semi that failed to slow and the driver of the first automobile died at the scene. A fire resulted from the crash and is likely the cause of some of the deaths. Why would the driver of the semi that caused the accident fail to slow down. !? Maybe we will find out and maybe we won't. He is no longer around to give his story.



The point being - -
Don't drive distracted,
don't drive under the
influence of intoxicating
substances, don't drive
sleepy. **And be extra
careful in construction
zones.**

While the recent tragedies of the unprovoked shootings at various places around the United States occupy most of the air time on the news, far more people are killed and injured on our highways.

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below, confirming the material was reviewed: _____ August 2015

Each one of us needs to actively and purposefully make up our minds to make driving our number one priority when behind the wheel of any multi-ton hunk of metal. Federal and State Rules that limit the time spent behind the wheel of trucks and Company rules that require a minimum amount of down time between work shifts are for a reason. YOUR SAFETY and the safety of the rest of the driving public. When you are on the road, heed the advance warning of the construction ahead signs by slowing down and watching for quickly changing conditions. Practice those defensive driving tips that you have been given:

- **When driving a vehicle, that is the most important task. Never text, make phone calls, or engage in any other activity while driving.**
- **Always keep your eyes moving, constantly looking at your side and rear view mirrors, up, behind and to both sides of the vehicle. Maintain a visual of 2-3 vehicle lengths in front of you, more when possible.**
- **When changing lanes, physically turn your head around to check your blind spot. Followed by checking your side and rear view mirrors.**
- **Always look out for motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians and smaller vehicles.**
- **Leave at least 2 seconds in front of you and the car in front of you. During inclement weather increase this to at least 5 seconds. (For large trucks start with a 5 second rule.)**
- **Always give yourself an out. Avoid remaining next to other automobiles, move ahead or drop behind them to allow yourself room for maneuvering in case something happens and so they may see you in their mirrors.**

Always drive as if your life depends on it!