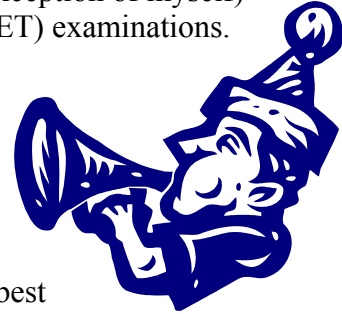




*From the Director...*

After intensive study sessions and years of providing environmental, health and safety training, I am very pleased to announce that the entire training staff (with the exception of myself) sat for and passed the coveted "Certified Environmental Trainer" (CET) examinations. Congratulations to:

- Michael Drabo, CET
- Roberta Spratt-Ritter, CET
- David Truman, CET



Our training staff is dedicated to providing clients with the absolute best training available. Their technical competency, use of adult teaching principles and having fun in the classroom are demonstrated by their dedication to achieving the CET certification. I am proud of their accomplishments. Please help me in congratulating each one of them.

Sincerely,

*E. Rush Barnett*

E. Rush Barnett, CSP, CIH  
Director of Training

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**OSHA UPDATES FREE DOWNLOADABLE eHASP SOFTWARE**

OSHA has posted to its website a new version of the free downloadable electronic Health & Safety Plan software (eHASP).

<http://www.osha.gov/dep/etools/ehasp>

The updated e-HASP2 (Version 2) Program continues to use Windows-based software and includes decision logic to assist the user in determining the appropriate controls for health and safety hazards on their sites. The integrated chemical database has been improved with more chemicals and updated exposure limits. Some of the other notable upgrades for e-HASP2 include: 1) upgrades to pick-lists, 2) function to add new chemicals that are not in the chemical database, 3) function to export reports to a word processor for editing, 4) new "preview chapter" button, and 5) a newly designed job hazard analysis (JHA) chapter.

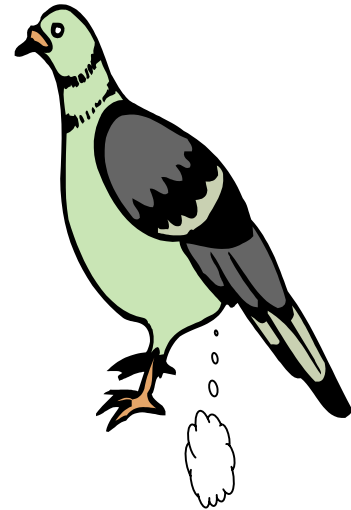
e-HASP2 is an electronic and interactive program that is intended to be used by health and safety professionals to provide "model" language that is acceptable to OSHA in preparing a site's HASP. You can also draw on the chemical database and embedded decision logic to assist them in identifying the hazards associated with site-specific contaminants and in choosing effective site controls for worker protection.

**HASP<sub>2</sub>**

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## HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH AVIAN FECAL DUST

It has been recognized by environmental health professionals that dried avian excrement (feces) presents a significant occupational health hazard to exposed workers. This is especially true for construction workers and others who are involved in the renovation or demolition of old abandoned buildings where years of roosting has resulted in large piles of bird feces, dead birds, nesting materials, and live birds.



The inhalation of avian fecal dust presents a significant potential exposure to fungi and/or bacteria, some of which can cause serious infections in humans. As human activities or wind currents disturb bird feces, soil or feces-contaminated dust, microbe-containing aerosols are created that can be inhaled into the lungs. An infection could result.

Common “flu-like” symptoms of infection include coughing, fever, restricted breathing, and general body fatigue that can last a few days. Major infections may cause long-term disability and even death. Infection can also occur if a worker gets fecal dust or droppings into a wound or cut. Bird feces found anywhere should be considered as hazardous. (Note: bat feces present similar health hazards since some of the same molds that grow on bird feces, also grow on bat feces.)

Handling contaminated construction debris presents a significant health risk. To prevent infections and possibly serious illness or death, workers on affected construction sites must wear proper personal protective equipment, HEPA respirators, and follow good personal hygiene. A primary infectious agent that has been associated with avian fecal dust is *Histoplasma capsulatum* which causes Histoplasmosis disease. This disease affects a person’s lungs, but its symptoms can vary greatly. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has developed a guidance document entitled, “Histoplasmosis – Protecting Workers At Risk,” revised edition (see link below).

<http://www.cdc.gov/elcosh/docs/d0600/d000679/d000679.pdf>

It should be noted that OSHA does not specifically regulate worker exposure to avian fecal dust. However, OSHA does recognize that mold can be a health hazard and has provided guidance documents and many related references on their web site. Therefore, it is possible that failure to protect workers could be cited under OSHA’s General Duty Clause since Histoplasmosis and other similar fungal infections are recognized hazards.

Protecting workers is the prudent course of action and the latest version of the CDC guidance document is a “standard of care” that can be used to that end. If a building is going to be demolished, then controlling airborne fecal dust is critical. Water sprays and other dust suppression techniques may not be enough to control dusts during demolition. Consequently, removal of accumulations of bird feces (or bat feces) *before* demolition may be necessary in some situations. Schools, day-care facilities, hospitals, clinics, and prisons are occupied by persons who may be at increased risk for developing symptomatic Histoplasmosis.

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## WHO CAN REPAIR DETERIORATED PAINT IN MD RENTAL HOUSING?

OK, so you have deteriorated paint on either the interior or exterior of the affected rental property in Maryland. Is it acceptable for a non-accredited painting contractor or building maintenance crew to repair the paint to an intact condition so that the property can pass the visual inspection for paint conditions? After all, painting is painting.



According to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment, Lead Accreditation & Oversight Division, if the deteriorated paint is being repaired (repainted) for the purpose of complying with the Lead Risk Reduction regulations, then the work must be performed by trained and accredited lead contractors.

If repainting activities are being performed solely for the purpose of building maintenance, an accredited lead contractor is not required. However, if your rental property has failed a visual inspection for paint conditions, the paint must be fixed by an accredited lead contractor that is employing accredited lead supervisors and Maryland-trained lead workers.

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## EXTERIOR SURFACES “ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN”

Can a Maryland-accredited Lead Visual Inspector or Risk Assessor issue a passing inspection certificate if deteriorated paint is observed on an exterior painted surface that the inspector decides is **not** accessible to a child under the age of 6?

According to Environmental Article §6-801, *Exterior surfaces* include:

- All outside surfaces of an affected property that are **accessible to a child** (i.e. fences, porches, other buildings, play equipment, benches, laundry poles); and
- All painted surfaces in stairways, hallways, entrance areas, recreation areas, laundry areas, and garages within a multifamily dwelling unit that are common to individual dwelling units and are **accessible to a child**.

Sure sounds like they can, however, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has been issuing Notice of Violations with Penalties (NOVP) to inspectors who issue passing certificates to properties with deteriorating paint on surfaces (such as cornices) that are clearly not “accessible to a child”.

MDE’s enforcement position is that **all** the exterior painted surfaces must be intact. So, it doesn’t matter if a child can access the surface or not. If a paint chip falls from that cornice 20 feet above the sidewalk, the deteriorating paint that was determined not to be accessible to a child has now become accessible because any child could pick up that paint chip from the sidewalk.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Since the inception of the Maryland Lead Risk Reduction program, there has been a 93% reduction in childhood lead poisoning.

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**E. RUSH BARNETT, CSP, CIH TO RECEIVE NATIONAL ASSE AWARD**

It is with great pride that AMA announces that our very own Director of Training, Rush Barnett will be receiving the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) 2005-2006 Charles V. Culbertson Outstanding Service Award. This award is to recognize his dedication and significant service to the ASSE. This award demonstrates Rush's commitment to the safety profession. Congrats Rush!!!

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**GET "THE MONITOR" ELECTRONICALLY DELIVERED**

We are offering an electronic email version of this newsletter and our training schedule. The electronic version will be sent two weeks earlier than the hard copy and will be in .pdf format. We will also send out more frequent updates to our training schedule. To subscribe to the electronic version send email to: [cvaux@amatraining.com](mailto:cvaux@amatraining.com).

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**AMA HISPANIC TRAINING RECHARGED!**

AMA has recharged its Hispanic Training. AMA is now offering Spanish asbestos, lead, mold and H&S courses in Annandale, VA, as well as, Hanover, MD in order to service the metropolitan DC, northern VA and Baltimore areas. Please check our website for course offerings.



**Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, Inc.**

**The Monitor**

Phone: (410) 684-3327 Fax: (410) 684-3724

[www.amatraining.com](http://www.amatraining.com)

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