



From the Director...

The leadership at AMA recently completed a strategic planning retreat to better define our firm's vision, goals and direction for the next several years. Strategic planning is an exercise that is undertaken in both large and small, public and private, companies. It's important to think about environmental compliance and safety as part of a strategic plan and establish goals and objectives. Where does your organization stand?



As we move forward through these tough economic times, I challenge your team to make the effort to establish a strategic plan for safety and compliance. One that communicates your values, states your mission, and clearly and succinctly defines your objectives. Create performance objectives that have measurable outcomes and identify a method to evaluate your progress.

"Any injury is one too many", and "Safety First" are both worthy statements, but they are tag lines more than they are viable goals or objectives. They do not define how these goals will be achieved. Furthermore, those within the organization should be clear on the organizational values and establish a corporate culture that embraces them.

I think in the end, your organization, your fellow employees, your clients and our economy will all benefit.

Sincerely,

E. Rush Barnett, CSP, CIH
Director of Training

Dealing With Chemical Hazards

One of the best approaches to safe handling with hazardous chemicals is to give those chemicals the proper respect. It's an attitude that is in the best interests of your fellow workers, your family, and yourself. Discipline yourself to recognize the potential hazards of chemicals and how to take the proper precautions for use, handling and storage.

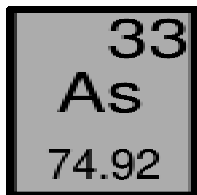


Chemical contact can cause dermatitis and add to your overall exposure. Chemical vapors and fumes can poison you, suffocate you, or blind you. Chemical vapors can cause fires and explosions.

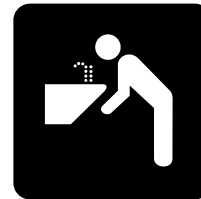
Never gamble or use guesswork with chemicals. Consider every chemical as hazardous and take the proper precautions. Learn the toxic properties, flash point temperatures, permissible limits of exposure, acute effects and chronic effects. Read the container labels and consult the MSDS for the chemical.

Your best protection against injury when using, handling, or storing chemicals is to avoid direct contact and inhalation of the vapors. It is better to overprotect yourself rather than underprotect. Accept responsibility for safe handling and use of chemicals. Chemical spills, strong odors, leaking valves, and any suspicious conditions should be reported to your supervisor.

ARSENIC IN DRINKING WATER



Arsenic - chemical symbol As - is an element that occurs naturally in rocks and soils. While not produced domestically, arsenic has been imported and used in manufacturing wood preservatives, lead-acid storage batteries, ammunitions, wheel weights, and other uses in the electronics industry. In the past it has also been used in herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Arsenic was even used in embalming of human remains throughout the US during the late 1800's.



Arsenic can make its way into water supplies, both surface water and groundwater. In the United States, aquifers with the greatest concentration of arsenic occur in the western states followed by sections of the Midwest and Northeast. In Maryland, naturally occurring arsenic above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) can be found in groundwater in some parts of Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore – specifically the Piney Point and Aquia aquifers, and the Federalsburg and Monmouth aquifers. The MCL is set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In order to lower the risk of cancer occurrences in the US, EPA lowered the standard from 50 ppb (parts per billion) to 10 ppb. This new MCL went into effect in 2004 with all public drinking water supplies to be compliant by 2006.

Public water systems are required to monitor their drinking water regularly for compliance with the MCL and to report their results. If you are on a public water system, you can request the utility provide you with their sampling results. If you are on a well system and you live in one of the affected areas, you may want to have your water tested for arsenic.

MD Lead Risk Reduction Affected Properties and Rental Dwelling Units

Recently, an MDE-accredited lead inspection contractor was struggling with a unique Lead Risk Reduction Standard scenario: Why aren't college dorm rooms included in the scope of COMAR 26.16.02? The question as to whether these types of facilities must be registered with MDE arose after a university decided to inspect a dormitory, which was constructed well before 1950, for lead-based paint. As you probably expected, the "property" did not qualify for Lead-Free status. So, would the university be required to obtain a Risk Reduction certificate for every dorm room when a change in occupancy occurs?

The answer lies in definitions found in the Environmental Articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland. An "Affected property" means, "a property constructed before 1950 that contains at least one rental dwelling unit." Since the dormitory was built before 1950, and universities charge fees for dorm rooms, it stands to reason that this facility is an affected property. However, a "Rental dwelling unit" means "a room or group of rooms that form a single independent habitable rental unit for permanent occupation by one or more individuals that has living facilities with permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation."

Dormitory rooms are excluded from the Lead Risk Reduction Standard since they are not intended for permanent occupation, and do not contain permanent provisions for eating and cooking. Even suites have shared restrooms and kitchens.



Appeals Court Reverses OSHRC Ruling for Multi-Employer Worksites

(Monitor 28 reported on the initial ruling)



A recent court decision has upheld an OSHA policy to cite a general contractor for safety violations committed by a subcontractor. On Feb. 26, the 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 decision that agreed with the Secretary of Labor interpretation of the multi-employer worksite policy as it pertains to construction contractors and subcontractors.

In June 2003, prime contractor Summit Contractors, Inc. (Summit) was cited by an OSHA compliance officer because a subcontractor of Summit, All Phase Construction, Inc. (All Phase) had masonry work employees not protected against a fall from a scaffold. All Phase was also cited. Because Summit was considered the “controlling” employer under OSHA’s multi-employer worksite policy, Summit was cited for the hazard even though none of Summit’s employees were being directly exposed to the fall hazard.

Summit successfully argued to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) that under 1910.12(a) an employer only has to protect its own employees and not those of any subcontractor. The prime contractor’s citation was vacated. Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, then filed a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in 2007.

The appellate court sided with the Secretary of Labor and overturned the OSHRC decision. Per 1926.16 Rules of Construction, “In no case shall the prime contractor be relieved of overall responsibility for compliance with the requirements of this part for all work to be performed under the contract.” (Safety + Health/April 2009)

EPA Declares Asbestos Health Emergency in Libby

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the first time has declared a public health emergency in a contaminated community, targeting Libby, Montana for immediate federal attention. The declaration by EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, will not result in an evacuation, but will require an extensive cleanup and better health protections for residents with asbestos-related illnesses.



Asbestos contamination from the now-closed vermiculite mine at Libby has been cited in the deaths of more than 200 people and illnesses of thousands more. Jackson said the public health emergency declaration was the first one the EPA has made under authority of the 1980 Superfund law that requires the clean up of contaminated sites.

Investigations performed by the federal Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry have found that occurrences of asbestosis near Libby are staggeringly higher than the national average for the period from 1979 to 1998, Jackson said. EPA is working with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is making available a \$6 million grant to provide asbestos-related medical care to Libby and residents of Troy, another Montana town.

Jackson called Libby a “tragic public health situation” that has not received the recognition it deserves from the federal government for far too long.

(Matthew Daly, Associated Press Writer, 6/17/2009)

AMA NIOSH 582 Now Listed

AMA's 40-hour *Collecting and Analyzing Air Samples (NIOSH 582 Equivalent)* is now listed on the AIHA Registry Program, LLC.

Effective April 10, 2009, AMA's NIOSH 582 Equivalent Course is listed on the AIHA website for having met the requirements of the AIHA Registry Programs, LLC. AMA is the only training provider in Maryland, Virginia, or DC that is listed on the AIHA website (http://www.aiha.org/llc_registry/niosh.htm). AMA is one (1) of only eleven (11) in the country to be listed!



Even though AIHA Registry Programs does not endorse any program, being listed does indicate that the course outline, training materials and reference documents, equipment, instructor qualifications, certificate and final examinations meet the NIOSH Equivalency requirements.

The AIHA Registry Programs listing is intended to help analysts find a recognized NIOSH 582 Equivalent Course. So check out our website, www.amatraining.com and click the icon for asbestos courses to see the course schedule.

AMA is now a proud member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC)!!!

AMA is offering a Mold Refresher Course to prepare Workers and Supervisors for the American Indoor Air Quality Council Exam. See inside schedule for details.

**Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, Inc.****The Monitor**

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Training Schedule Enclosed

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