EDITORIAL

ISHM sends this newsletter and other important information monthly via email. Each time we send out an email many are rejected by the recipient’s server or company firewalls. Many others are not opened. Sadly, for all of those, the important information concerning ISHM and your certification will be missed. We ask that you add manager@ishm.org to your allowed list so that our correspondence to you will get through the firewalls. Then as you try to work your way through hundreds of emails we ask that you at least take a quick look at those with ISHM in the subject line.

Frequently we add new features and job postings on the ishm.org website. We recommend that you frequently visit there to catch up on the latest involving your organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year there will be an election to replace three members of the Board of Directors whose term expires September 30, 2011. The newly elected members will join the board for six years and will be instrumental in guiding ISHM as the organization grows and becomes more influential in the world of safety. Please drop an email to manager@ishm.org expressing your desire to be on the board. Please hurry as nominations will close on April 15, 2011.

CSHM EXAM QUESTIONS

Maintaining the CSHM exam requires a large bank of test questions in order to maintain currency and also to enable us to retire questions that perform poorly. This is a long winded way of saying we need more test questions. You can earn 1 COC point for every five (5) questions accepted by the exam committee.

From the latest edition of ISHN

Revisiting Heinrich's 'Accident Triangle'

By Dr. Mike Williamsen
January 31, 2003

ARTICLE TOOLS

Rather than focus on compliance, concentrate on safety fundamentals

H.W. Heinrich changed the world of safety fundamentals forever with his pioneering work in the 1930s. One of his concepts that
continues to make me think is his accident triangle (pyramid) - for every 300 unsafe acts there are 29 minor injuries and one major injury.

It's the concept that we all are familiar with. So many near misses lead to an analogous number of first aid injuries and onward through the logic to recordables and ending in the inevitability of a fatality.

This inevitability of disaster has always bothered me. If I cross the railroad tracks too many times I will die, or drive to work too many times or something else like that. I am not a fatalist, so what is there that will enable the industrial workplace to overcome this fatalistic teaching?

My work with companies and individuals that have done both well and poorly in safety always leads to individual behaviors as a key factor after workplace conditions, training and safety standards are addressed. So how do we attack the fatalism of Heinrich's triangle?

If we build a safety triangle (pyramid) on the "stone" of excellent fundamentals that modify behaviors and actions, we can limit the base of improper activities that lead to 98 percent of the injuries in Heinrich's model. Each time I have gone down this road the results have been similarly excellent.

Focus on fundamentals

The fundamentals of upper management visibility in safety, middle management involvement, focused supervisory performance, hourly employee active involvement and training that both teaches and reinforces these basics of excellence has significantly reduced injuries. The approach has direct similarities to the six sigma process of continuous improvement (define, measure, act, improve, control). Here's how it applies to safety:

- Define the correct behaviors that eliminate unsafe acts and injuries;
- Train all personnel in these behaviors;
- Measure that personnel are indeed doing these correct behaviors;
- Reward their accomplishments of these correct behaviors.

By eliminating dangerous behaviors there are never enough dangerous actions to get us to a more serious level of safety injuries in Heinrich's pyramid. The key is to not focus on compliance, or reward "acceptable injury levels/goals." Instead, concentrate on the fundamentals that eliminate the activities/behaviors that move us up the Heinrich inevitability triangle.

OSHA budget could lose $100 million this year (4/7)

April 7, 2011

Cuts would have a "devastating effect" on worker safety

With Congress and President Obama apparently at an impasse over the remaining
six months of the fy 2011 federal budget, a shut down on Saturday, April 9 seems imminent.

“The odds of this happening are actually pretty high as both sides cannot seem to agree on anything,” says Aaron Trippler, director of government affairs for the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

If a shutdown does occur, all non-essential personnel will be furloughed and many agencies shut down.

Trippler said the proposed fy 2012 budget – which will be taken up once the current fiscal year’s budget is decided -- includes approximately $100 million in cuts to NIOSH funding.

However, a $100 million reduction in OSHA’s budget could come sooner – during the remainder of fy 2011 – if proposals by Republican legislators are enacted.

“It’s hard to even imagine what a $100 million cut in OSHA funding might do to occupational safety and health,” said Trippler. “The proposal calls for huge cuts in enforcement and safety and health statistics, as well as cuts in state program funding, standard setting, technical support, etc.”

He urged AIHA members to contact their elected officials about the fy 2011 OSHA appropriations. “Let them know that cuts of this magnitude would have a devastating effect on worker health and safety.”

Trippler said many people involved with occupational safety and health – AIHA members as well as non-members – believe cuts are needed to bring federal government spending under control.

“This is probably true, however cutting programs that impact health and safety should be the last ones to be considered. Let’s hope both sides can compromise and move the country forward with a reasonable approach.”

STAY SAFE!!