NEWSLETTER – September 2011

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EDITORIAL
The Board of Director’s election is over and we have three awesome professionals to add to the current members. Committees are meeting and formulating proposals for the Board Meeting to be held in Philadelphia on October 30, 2011.

If you have thoughts, ideas or suggestions to make ISHM better and stronger please send them to me and I will make sure it is presented to the proper committee.

You are welcome to attend the Board of Directors meeting if you wish. We ask that you notify us ahead of time so we may assure we have enough seating for all.

Finally, ISHM is excited about a new program designed to recognize an outstanding ASHM annually. This award is in partnership with Westex. See Section Four for Details.

A reminder that this year will be a short lead time so please take quick action on nominating outstanding ASHM candidates for this award.

**Safety, have we lost our Focus?**

I try to stay abreast of the safety profession by reading several magazines and websites monthly. In addition, I am fortunate to talk to a number of highly skilled safety managers on a frequent basis and I blatantly pick their brains as much as possible.

The more I read and learn the more confused I become. When did safety come out of the trenches and into the psychoanalysis world?

I call Warren Brown my friend. I certainly respect him as a person and a safety professional. He has won countless safety awards and is frequently asked to speak at large international events, not to mention he is a recent past president of ASSE and soon to be chair of the ISHM Board of Directors. Hopefully that sets the stage for the respect I have for Warren. He corrects me when I refer to an accident. Today it is PC to call the event an ‘incident’. Why???

An employee lying on the plant floor with a large and bleeding cut in his leg probably does not care if it’s an incident or an accident. On this topic Warren is all-in and I am all-confused. A toddler spills his chocolate milk and mom runs to the rescue, reminding the child that it was just an accident (should it now be incident?). Listen to the evening news. “Tonight traffic on the I-15 is at a standstill due to multiple incidents (?)”. Certainly mixed messages are being sent. Are we devoting time deciding on terminology and not on accident/incident prevention? I fail to see how it helps prevent injuries. (Sorry Warren)

Then we have Behavior-Based Safety. WOW, this is a system loaded with pitfalls. First, a line manager who wants to change a process or get a new piece of equipment will go to senior managers and explain the cost of the new stuff and then the financial gain to be achieved and finally, a bottom-line analysis. With BBS we can quantify start-up costs but can we predict how long it will take to realize the change in behavior and more importantly can we quantify the improvement to the bottom line? Safety is always at a disadvantage because it is so difficult to predict an improvement in costs.
There are other issues of course but it seems to me while we are trying to implement this brand new system we are losing focus on worker and property protection.

I do not wish to offend the safety professionals who recommend or who make their living with Behavior Based programs but I would like to propose that prior to implementing such a sweeping change that an organization go to the workforce and see what they think will work best. It has been awhile since I was a site/area safety manager and I know I have lost touch with the reality of production and safety, therefore I would need to go to the professional ironworker, assembly line worker or hospital staff and make sure that whatever program is recommended will actually provide the gains promised in safety and risk. And finally on BBS, if the person at the top of the company management tree is not convinced and supportive it will not work!

We need to fix working level issues. I have attended production/staff meetings where they advertise that safety is always first on the agenda. They seem to go something like:

“Good morning, was anybody hurt this week? Any lost time accidents/incidents? None, Great safety is working, now on to the schedule”. Of course this is not the case in all companies or divisions but it is frequent enough that it is worrisome. My thought is that we should fix this before we worry about what to call an injury or what to name our safety program.

Safety and Risk are so complex that we need to devote all of our time to issues of protection. Squabbling over terminology is counter-productive. We should use any available ‘down’ time learning to speak ‘financial’. Then we will start effecting positive changes. (As always these are my thoughts and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or position of ISHM or its members).

**COC Quizzes**

Each month MANCOMM posts 10 new questions about OSHA requirements. By taking the exam you will improve your regulatory knowledge and if you are a CSHM you earn 0.2 COC points. Upon completion of the quiz you are able to print a certificate for your records. You can reach the quiz by clicking on the MANCOMM logo on the ISHM home page. Or you can follow this link: [http://www.mancomm.com/AffiliateQuiz.aspx](http://www.mancomm.com/AffiliateQuiz.aspx)
Remember the quiz changes monthly generally within the first week.

**ASHM of the year Award**

ISHM is pleased to announce a partnership with WESTEX a leader in FR material manufacturing. We were attracted to WESTEX because of their uncompromising commitment to safety and their support of the safety management function.
Jointly, ISHM and WESTEX will annually honor an Associate Safety and Health Manager (ASHM) of the year. The award will normally be presented in conjunction with the NSC EXPO, this year to be held in Philadelphia.

The awardee will receive an airline ticket (coach fare) to the NSC EXPO host city, two night’s hotel accommodations, a plaque and an electronic marvel such as an IPOD or equivalent. We hope you agree this is a wonderful program. Our goal is to help honor ASHM’s who are excelling in the workplace.

This year 2011, is going to be really tight in meeting the NSC deadline so we ask for your assistance in meeting our timeline. Here is the schedule.
Nominations must be in the ISHM office No Later than October 7, 2011.
The committee will make a selection by October 14th so that the honoree can make travel arrangements.
This year’s award will be presented November 1, 2011 in Philadelphia.

The forms necessary (The nomination must be on the provided form) are included as an attachment to this newsletter.