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EDITORIAL

2014 is in full swing and taxes are just around the corner. A great way to make everyone smile.

The ISHM offices suffered two computer issues that resulted in some misplaced files. Slowly we are getting everything placed where it should be. Please be patient with the hardworking staff as they are going the extra mile to assure the best possible service. Your organization is very lean in the personnel department which is normally just fine however we are lacking surge capability so on occasion there will be a delay in handling your requests.

Everyone in the office becomes very excited when we get replies to the newsletter and comments in general. Keep them coming!!

Thank you for your support of ISHM!!!!

ISHM new management program is now operational

The new ISHM customer management program is now operational. As you might expect there has been some issues to overcome but so far we have solved most know issues. It will only get better.
What’s New...?

ISHM has made efforts to make submitting inquiries, updating your personal information and making payments easier. We are pleased to inform current and potential certificants of our online payment portal and inquiry form.

To access these new features please visit the website at www.ishm.org and click on the Member Sign In (https://www.methodintegration.com/method/ThirdPartyLogin/ThirdPartyLogin.aspx?pid=/XXa4lkJjDHA0yvFGPLFLEu49XsaetBuozL7IS%2B1mGA%3D) to access our new online form for any inquiries you may have. These questions may range from, what certification would best fit your needs, the status of your application to renewal fees and dues or continuance of certification inquiries. You can also take advantage of making convenient online payments from this link.

The first time you log in you will need to create a user name, once it is submitted the system will send you a password for access.

3rd Annual Middle East OHS Strategy Summit

Get updated on:

- Discovering the essential link between process safety and human reliability
- Latest Approaches in Prevention: Slips, Trips, and Falls
- Storage and Handling of Hazardous Materials
- Focused and Cost Effective Medical Surveillance
- Preventing Heat-related illness

At the 3rd Annual Middle East OHS Strategy Summit scheduled on 7-9 April 2014 at Le Meridien Al Khobar, KSA. With over 14 hours of knowledge sharing sessions spread over 2 days, the summit will broaden and explore OHS issues in the region.

Hear from speakers representing:

- Health Ministers Council for Cooperation Council | BP | Ma’aden | International Society of Fall Protection | ADCO | Saudi Aramco

To know more get your copy of the agenda

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Credentialing Notes
Check out the first article in the news section reporting on the U.S. Census Bureau’s study, *Measuring Alternative Educational Credentials: 2012*. According to the report, 12 million adults had both a professional certification or license and an educational certificate; 34 million had only a professional certification or license; and 7 million had only an educational certificate. The report shows that, in general, these alternative credentials provide a path to higher earnings. The report also showed that among full-time workers, the median monthly earnings for someone with a professional certification or license only was $4,167, compared with $3,433 for one with an educational certificate only; $3,920 for those with both types of credentials; and $3,110 for people without any alternative credential. We’re interested in hearing your thoughts on this report. Email your comments and thoughts to us at callen@seacrestcompany.com.

Best regards,
Janice Moore & Cynthia Allen
SeaCrest Company

More can be found at: [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/education/cb14-10.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/education/cb14-10.html)

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**Ask the Lawyer**

**Question:** When writing a program for the monitoring of carbon monoxide (CO) on construction sites, can anyone practicing industrial hygiene write the CO program and monitor CO testing, or must the person be a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)? I assume that a CIH is not only competent but qualified by education and certification to oversee such a program and the required monitoring? Is the industrial hygienist referred to in the NIOSH publication number 11000 a CIH?

**Answer:** I will briefly answer each of the three questions:

1) No, a CIH does not need to be the person who develops a CO program and monitors the testing. The key is that the program must be compliant with OSHA standards, and the testing must be accurate. Generally speaking, it is more likely that a person who holds a CIH will write a compliant program, as well as a program suited to the particular facility, given that person’s background and qualifications.

2) Yes, it is reasonable to assume that a CIH who has maintained his/her certification is both competent and qualified to oversee a CO program and the required monitoring. Regardless who develops the program or conducts the testing, it must be compliant.


The issue underlying these three questions – the importance of certification versus the necessity of certification – is interesting. In other words, if OSHA does not require a person to have a certification in order to perform required tasks under OSHA’s regulations, what is the value of certifications? The short answer – and I cannot emphasize this enough – is that certifications are extraordinarily valuable.
It must be noted that OSHA recognizes certain health and safety certifications, including the CSHM. OSHA also requires that certified professionals perform certain functions under OSHA’s regulations, many of which relate to medical monitoring, surveillance and first aid. For example, audiometric tests must be performed by a licensed or certified audiologist or a similar professional. (29 CFR § 1910.95(g)(3)).

The primary value of health and safety certifications, however, is that they reflect a person’s background, education, training and experience in the health and safety field. Many employers will not hire a health and safety professional unless s/he is certified. And many companies have a policy that they will not enter into contracts with firms unless the persons who perform the work are certified. Persons who are certified earn, on average, significantly more than persons who are not certified. Just like certifications in other professions, such as a CPA in accounting, a health and safety certification demonstrates that the person has a strong background in the health and safety field, understands regulatory requirements, can write compliant programs, and is trained to recognize and address hazards in the workplace. Certifications, therefore, are extremely important.

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Board of Director Thoughts: Dr. Joseph DeMaria

Reducing Workplace Fatalities through Defensive Driving

Not only are traffic accidents the leading cause of death among the general population, they are also one of the top causes of workplace fatalities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 36% of occupational fatalities are associated with motor vehicles. The average crash costs an employer $16,500 with the cost to the employer rising to $74,000 when a worker has an on-the-job crash that results in an injury. With this in mind, it’s important to practice good defensive driving techniques.

The good news is that these crashes are largely preventable. Recognizing the opportunity that employers have to save lives, a growing number of employers have established fleet safety programs in their companies. No organization can afford to ignore a major problem that has such a serious impact on both their personnel and the company bottom line.

The National Safety Council has defined defensive driving as "driving to save lives, time, and money, in spite of the conditions around you and the actions of others." Driving defensively involves taking measures to reduce the risk of collision by anticipating dangerous situations, despite adverse conditions or the mistakes of others. Thus, the practice of specific driving techniques goes beyond that of following the general rules of the road.
Defensive driving is learning how to anticipate problems before they happen. Although defensive driving seems to imply that the driver is more on the defense than on the offense, defensive driving is in reality the ability to be proactive while driving, not passive.

You can drive defensively by employing a number of tactics. Defensive drivers are always aware of their surroundings, whether it’s obstacles, other drivers or pedestrians. When driving defensively, it’s important to scan surroundings, maintain a safe following distance, make smart decisions, be aware of other driver’s decisions, and act with speed and accuracy. By doing these things constantly, you can increase your safety on the road as well as the safety of other drivers.

Thus, defensive driving is the learned ability to anticipate possible outcomes in a given situation so that the driver is prepared with the skills to anticipate hazards rather than simply reacting to them. Driving defensively is an important aspect of any safety management program and can effectively help reduce workplace fatalities.