ISHM Supports EHS management at all levels in all departments

Re-certification

Every five years CSHM and CSMP holders must document sufficient COC points to maintain certification. ISHM offers a very cost effective way to obtain points by participating in our quizzes. 10 quizzes annually 2 points annually 10 points in 5 years. All this for $100.00/yr.
ASHMs

The ASHM designation was designed as a stepping stone to the CSHM. It allows folks to gain needed experience and also to prepare for the CSHM exam.

Kaylene has come up with an incentive to help. If, as an ASHM, you apply for the CSHM (no cost) and take the exam by July 1st you will get a 50% discount on the exam fee. Yep - take the exam for only $100.00. You can read the entire article here

Articles

We look forward to receiving articles from you that we could use in the Newsletter. All submissions must go through an approval process but well written articles about EHS management issues are welcome.

**Send us your thoughts and ideas. We always like to hear from you.**

Larry

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**ASK THE LAWYER - March 2016**

Question: If our company does NOT participate in OSHA's voluntary safety stand-down, could it lead to higher penalties in the case of an incident?

Response: OSHA announced a National Safety Stand-Down to prevent falls in the construction
industry. The stand-down is scheduled to take place May 2 - 6, 2016. The purpose of the stand-down is to raise awareness of fall hazards in construction work and preventive measures that employees should take. OSHA's webpage announcing the stand-down may be viewed here.

In response to your question, OSHA cannot and should not increase the amount of a penalty based on whether an employer participates in the stand-down. In OSHA's announcement, OSHA describes the stand-down as: "A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. This Stand-Down focuses on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". Thus, OSHA acknowledges that the stand-down is a voluntary, not a mandatory event, so OSHA cannot increase penalties if an employer chooses not to participate in the stand-down. Interestingly, however, OSHA may decrease penalties if an employer participates in the stand-down.

When issuing a citation, OSHA will consider a number of factors. First, OSHA will look at the gravity of the violation based on the severity of the hazard and the likelihood that an incident will result. OSHA will assess "severity" on a scale of high, medium or low, and "probability" on a scale of greater or lesser. OSHA will also take into account the employer's size, compliance history and good faith. In assessing an employer's good faith, OSHA will look at a number of factors, including how quickly the employer abates the hazard and whether the employer has implemented an effective health and safety management system. An effective health and safety management program generally includes, among many other things, safety stand-downs and similar initiatives to raise employee awareness of workplace hazards.

Darren Hunter is a partner and an experienced OSHA practitioner in the Chicago law firm of Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP. This column does not constitute legal advice or the formation or proposal of an attorney-client relationship to or with any person or entity. In addition, this column should not be understood to represent the views of ISHM, the law firm, the individual attorneys at the firm, or of any of the firm's clients or former clients.
What is EHS Management?
Pinkie Woods knows. Read her thoughts [here](#).

Underwriters Lab has published "STATE REPORTS ON HEALTH DETERMINANTS AND WORKPLACE SAFETY CONDITIONS"

This is a good read and very informative. Read the [entire report](#).

**Published in the February 12, 2016** edition of "Safety + Health" is a great article about Senate Concerns over OSHA enforcement philosophy. This very interesting read can be found [here](#).