The Hazardous Materials Manager

EASTERN WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGERS NEWSLETTER





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Welcome to Spring and the New Year! The goal of the EWC is to provide the Environmental. Health and Safety (EHS) professional an opportunity to understand EHS issues and to interact with other professionals with common interests. Currently, the EWC Executive Committee (EC) has been working to determine the future direction of the Chapter and to develop ways to provide today's hazardous materials professional the excellence they strive for. A few members continue their efforts to keep the Chapter moving forward and to work for you. This year the Chapter has been evaluating ideas for outings and tours, as well as selecting timely topics from expert presenters that will provide you with the most interest and value. Ideas include providing Skype meetings to attend presentations. If you have any ideas for the Chapter or a topic you think may be of interest, let someone on the EC know. Newsletter input is always welcome.

Two qualities that are important to the CHMM are integrity and trust. Professionally, these characteristics are earned over a period of time through being both reliable and knowledgeable in your field of expertise. In addition, consistent involvement in your professional community is a great way to strengthen your individual competence. By doing so, you have a better opportunity to become the expert, to be the preferred person your colleagues go to, as well as become a friend of someone who can refer you. A great way to develop your ability to become that goto person is to become involved with the EWC.

- Become part of a group of EHS industry professionals, including engineers, scientists, health & safety professionals, and regulatory specialists.
- Tap into technical & professional resources.
- Professional development opportunities.
- Subscription to the Chapter's quarterly newsletter.
- Notification of job openings/career advancement opportunities.
- Participation with other sister professional organizations.



Regulatory News

Tier Two Reports Due March 1, 2016

Washington Department of Ecology

If your facility stores hazardous substances, it's time to review inventory records to see if you meet the reporting requirements for Tier Two—Emergency & Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting.

You must report if you had 10,000 pounds or more of chemicals or hazardous substances on site in 2015, such as gasoline or diesel. The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) defines hazardous substances as chemicals present in the workplace that are capable of causing harm. Any product that requires a Material Safety Data Sheet is potentially reportable. Chemicals classified as Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS), such as ammonia and chlorine, are reportable at much lower thresholds—ammonia at 500 pounds and chlorine at 100 pounds. These requirements apply to the maximum amount of a chemical or product on site at any one time during the previous calendar year.

The federal government created EPCRA, also known as SARA Title III. The Washington State Emergency Response Commission adopted the same reporting requirements. EPCRA Section 312 requires a facility storing hazardous substances to file a Tier Two – Emergency & Hazardous Chemical Inventory report each year to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the local fire department. Visit the Ecology <u>EPCRA website</u>:

- To determine if your company needs to report by March 1, 2016.
- To register for Tier Two Online.
- For a current list of LEPCs.

EPA Sends Waste E-Manifest User Fee Schedule To OMB

InsideEPA.com (02/03/16)

The Environmental Protection Agency has sent a proposal that would create a user fee schedule to impose service fees on manifest users under the hazardous waste electronic manifest system to the White House Office of Management and Budget. The proposal was sent on Jan. 29, and the agency plans to propose the regulation in May. The rule is the second piece of regulation that is necessary for the EPA to create the e-manifest system. That system should boost transparency in shipments, give first responders access to more information, lower reporting errors, and save money. The EPA will collect user fees to finance the development, operation, and maintenance of the system. The agency says the system should be in place by early 2018.

Advocates, Water Utilities Urge FDA To End Medication Flushing Advice

Superfund Report (02/01/16)

A number of water utilities, environmentalists, and drinking water program officials want the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to scrap a recommendation that allows certain leftover household medications to be flushed. Critics of that recommendation say it results in irregularities between the FDA and other agencies on how leftover medication is disposed of. In a letter to the FDA, the groups said federal officials should develop "clear and consistent guidance to consumers on safe disposal of leftover household medications." As an alternative, the groups believe the FDA should support more drug take-back programs as the ideal disposal method for the drugs in question. The effort to have the recommendation changed comes as the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a sewer ban on all hazardous waste pharmaceuticals managed by healthcare facilities and pharmaceutical reverse distributors.

Railroads Beat Back New Safety Rules After Derailments

Roanoke Times (VA) (12/05/15)

U.S. transportation officials are trying to set universal standards for replacing train track, after 27 tanker cars carrying crude oil derailed and exploded earlier this year in West Virginia due to worn-out rails. There are no rules in the United

States and Canada to govern when rail is too worn down. Officials attempted to set standards after deadly train accidents in 2012, but major freight railroads put up resistance that killed the efforts. Regulators are reviving their efforts to create new rules, and say they will not allow the industry to hinder their efforts. The Federal Railroad Administration is expected to announce its intentions to revisit rail wear by the end of the year. Critics argue that federal regulators have not made the efforts they need to, and industry supporters say that the major freight railroads in North America know the conditions of their lines best. All sides agree that it is difficult to determine how many accidents are caused by worn rail. U.S. officials have blamed rail wear for 111 derailments since 2000, but this is less than 1 percent of all accidents.

Taming Carbon Emissions From the 'Invisible' Shipping Industry

New York Times (12/08/15) Fountain, Henry

As carbon dioxide emissions are continually placed under scrutiny the shipping industry has begun to take steps to lower their own emission levels. Tote, a shipping company, has recently built two container ships that use liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a source of fuel. The ships feature two 90 foot long steel tanks that can hold a total of 500,000 gallons of LNG. While the ships won't make a meaningful impact in the amount of global emissions, they do represent change in an industry where scrutiny on emissions has been light. Insiders say the industry is largely invisible to the general public therefore not much attention is paid to its environmental impacts. However, a United Nations agency recently found that shipping is the most environmentally friendly way to move cargo. Shipping companies also have an incentive to lower fuel costs because it represents nearly half of operating costs. Companies have also turned to technology, maintenance, upgrades, and even slower speeds to become more efficient. Regardless, environmentalists argue that emission reduction targets or even cleaner sources of energy are needed for the industry.



10 Ways To Increase Workplace Safety

By Tom Reddon

Here are 10 ways employers can encourage and increase workplace safety, ultimately leading to a healthier, safer, and more productive environment.

1. **Staff training** - Perhaps the most influential way employers can achieve less injuries, increased workplace safety is through clearer, more accessible, and more thorough training programs for their employees. No matter how skilled or experienced an employee is in a particular area, such as forklift operation or chemicals handling, they should undergo extensive training for all aspects of the job. It's not enough to think your employers — no matter how smart they are — will always use common sense, points out Entrepreneur Magazine, so make sure you outline any techniques they can impart in order to make their job easier and safer.

2. **Hire competent workers** - When taking on additional employees within your workplace, make sure you're only hiring the best of the best. If this means you have to pay them a little bit more, do it. Hiring someone quickly just because production is busy and you need someone out there NOW, doesn't mean you should compromise on quality. Hire competent workers and they will reward you with fewer on-the-job accidents.

3. **Insist on safety in the workplace** - It all starts with you. If you as the boss enforce the safety rules and regulations and stand behind them 100 percent, your workers will take the cue from you that they need to put safety first — even in the face of increased production. Your workers will support you if you practice what you preach.

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4. Watch what you reward - When you reward employees for doing all they can to complete the job on time or even before a deadline, you're unwittingly promoting a culture of "whatever it takes" mentality. Consequently, "whatever it takes" usually means compromising safety to increase production, so be clear when you say it's best to be safe than produce the highest numbers of the team.

5. **Post signs** - Even the most safety-oriented worker can forget sometimes. Post signs around the warehouse or manufacturing facility that remind everyone of the everyday risks inherent in their jobs and what they should be doing to comply with safety regulations. This can be anything from a "helmet area" sign to "wash your hands" sign in the employee bathroom.

6. **Give your workers the tools and resources they need to be safe** - If you don't provide the tools needed to stay safe in the work environment, such as helmets, steel toes boots, personal lines on safety devices and even safety glasses, you can't expect them to take the necessary precautions. Making these tools accessible immediately will further encourage safety compliance.

7. **Continuously find ways to improve** - Safety on the job is not a static thing. There's always room for improvement, so get in there and brainstorm with your employees to find out ways you can all promote a higher level of safety awareness for all, whether that's the guys on the machines or the people in the front office who have to walk through the plant daily.

8. **Keep a clean house** - Messy areas breed the potential for falls and other injuries. Make sure your workplace is relatively clean, neat and dry to boost safety for anyone. Make sure your employees know the value of a clean work space and encourage them to keep it clean — it's for their own safety.

9. **Provide maintenance on all machines and equipment -** Properly running machines, tools and equipment is a recipe for success. If you don't keep up with regular maintenance, these items fail to work as intended. This not only decreases efficiency and production because of all the time spent on repairs, it puts workers at risk when they use malfunctioning machines.

10. **Reward safety** - Rather than reward high production targets that encourage quick work with a dismissive shrug towards safety, reward those workers who have followed all your safety rules and have provided efficient work consistently. By putting an emphasis on safety instead of productivity, you're rewarding the method of achievement rather than the end result.



Mark your Calendars - March 31st Meeting

Come join EWC on March 31th at 6:00 PM (5:30 PM Social) for "Tips and Tricks for Satellite Waste Accumulation", presented by Harold Tilden, CHMM. Ecology inspections of waste generators often focus their attention on the accumulation of small amounts of waste in containers, referred to as "satellite accumulation". Many of the violations cited by Ecology during these inspections deal with satellite accumulation requirements. Harold will offer some tips and tricks for getting those satellites into compliance with the rules.