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## **April 2, 2004 LUNCH MEETING**

**12 Noon**

**Crystal Park Casino & Hotel  
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Confirmation w/John O'Toole  
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# CSSSP

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals

Volume 28

Los Angeles County Chapter

April 2004

## ***April Speaker***

Mr. Michael Nicholas of California Loss Control. He will be discussing about Workers Compensation Reform.

## ***February Speaker***

Captain Ernesto Ojeda of the Los Angeles City Fire Department spoke and presented a review of the work he was involved with of the 9/11 attack in New York City.

## ***Membership Update***

Membership dues notices have been sent out. Please take a moment to renew you membership.

## ***New Members***

Rhonda Kay Rithmire, Registered Safety & Security Professional

Lori Jimenez

## ***Prize Winners***

Charles Garcia — Music CD donated by All State K9 Patrol.

Peter Gin — DVD donated by Universal.

Ernesto Ojeda — Stuff animal donated by CSSSP Chapter.

Daniel To — Russell Stover chocolates donated by CSSSP Chapter.

Carl Cronin — DVD donated by Universal.

Linda Hunter — Beer stein donated by Walt Disney Company.

Daniel To — Cap donated by Walt Disney Company.

Joanne Blayney — Chocolates donated by CSSSP Chapter.

Harlan Lambert — DVD donated by Universal.

Carl Cronin — Polo shirt donated by Vons.

Ernesto Ojeda — Vince Takas painted postcards.

Bud Henderson — Stuff dog donated by CSSSP Chapter.

## ***President's Message***

Hello fellow members,

Our guest speaker for our April 2nd lunch meeting is Mr. Michael Nicholas of California Loss Control. His topic of discussion will be Workers Compensation Reform. Since workers compensation is currently a hot topic, this meeting should provide us with valuable information. Further information can be obtained at the Chapter website ([www.csssp.com](http://www.csssp.com)).

Let's all congratulate two of our members Linda Hunter and Byron Jamerson for receiving the 2004 Engineering Award presented by the Fellow Institute for the Advancement of Engineering (FIAE). The awards were presented to them at the FIAE banquet on February 26, 2004. Our CSSSP Chapter is a member of the Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientist (LACES), which allows us to nominate two qualified candidates yearly. Congratulations Linda and Byron.

Our Chapter yearly dues notices have been mailed out. The Treasurer would greatly appreciate your prompt payment. Remember that non-paying members will be dropped from the Chapter membership roster. Payment of dues can be mailed to the Chapter or paid at the lunch meeting. The Treasurer thanks you in advance for your prompt payment.

The Chapter has an IRS 7-C-6 Tax Exempt Organization status. This means that the Chapter can apply for and receive grants and donations, etc. This status also allows the Chapter to offer seminars to our members at no charge via the Chapter Training Institute.

The scholarship fund is always in need corporate sponsors and donations for its raffle. All proceeds fund the scholarships. The donations have a full IRS deduction for the donors.

Remember to review our Chapter website ([www.csssp.com](http://www.csssp.com)).

Be safe and I'll see you at our next meeting.  
Fred Garcia

## **OSHA Alliance Will Promote Job Safety for Hispanic Workers**

Improving workplace safety and health for Hispanic workers is the goal of a new alliance between the OSHA and the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (Metro ASSE).

Through their alliance, OSHA and the Metro ASSE will develop training in Spanish targeted to Hispanic workers. Hispanics suffered a national total of 840 fatal work injuries in 2002. Offerings will include OSHA's 10- and 30-hour construction and general industry courses in Spanish, through the use of ASSE and OSHA Spanish-speaking trainers.

The participants will also develop workplace safety and health curricula on the proper selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). ASSE will organize and work with their members to deliver general PPE, such as head protection and eye protection to Hispanic participants upon their completion of an OSHA 10- or 30-hour course.

The five OSHA area offices participating in the alliance are in Avenel, Long Island, Bayside, Manhattan, and Tarrytown.

"This alliance will equip Hispanic workers with the tools and know-how to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions or to protect themselves against hazardous conditions encountered in their workplaces," says Diana Cortez, OSHA's Tarrytown area director and regional Hispanic coordinator.

### **Forklift Operations by Young Workers**

OSHA, Wage and Hour Division, NIOSH join forces to Foster Youth Safety on the Job Protecting young workers from the hazards of operating forklifts is the heart of a safety initiative recently announced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

OSHA has joined forces with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department's Employment Standards Administration to increase awareness of the hazards associated with the operation of forklifts and the youth employment provisions that prohibit most workers under age 18 from operating forklifts.

"We have to remind all employers or regulations that prohibit most workers under 18 from operating forklifts outside of agricultural operations," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "Working with NIOSH and the Department's Wage and Hour Division, we compiled a packet of information that we believe will help protect working teens from being seriously injured or killed."

The packet of information includes a Safety and Health Information Bulletin issued jointly by OSHA and the Wage and Hour Division titled, "Protecting Young Workers: Prohibition Against Young Workers Operating Forklifts." The bulletin discusses laws and standards that prohibit workers under the age of 18 from operating forklifts for non-agricultural operations, and discusses OSHA's powered industrial truck standard.

### **\$72,500 Fine for Forklift Hazards**

A grocery chain's repeated failure to protect its warehouse workers against forklift hazards has resulted in \$72,500 in fines from OSHA. OSHA began its inspection after learning of a collision between a forklift and a powered jack that injured a worker.

OSHA's inspection found that the company failed to provide required refresher training to forklift operators involved in accidents, did not ensure that operators slowed their vehicles and sounded their warning horns whenever their vision was obstructed or they came to a cross-aisle, failed to maintain a forklift's brakes in safe operating condition and did not inspect said forklift for defects prior to operation.

Because OSHA had cited for similar hazards in Oct. 2001, three repeat citations, carrying \$67,500 in fines, were issued for these latest violations. A repeat citation is issued when an employer has previously been cited for a substantially similar hazard and the citation has become final.

The company was also issued two serious citations for failing to evaluate each forklift operator's performance at least once every three years and for failing to supply personal protective equipment to workers. An additional \$5,000 in fines is proposed for these items. OSHA defines a serious violation, as one in which there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result, and the employer knew, or should have known, of the hazard.

### **Employment Tip: Dealing with Fragrance-Sensitivity Problems in the Workplace**

With employees working in increasingly close quarters these days, workplace complaints of fragrance sensitivity are on the rise. Adverse reactions to fragrances can include severe headaches, sneezing, wheezing, watery eyes, and throat irritation. And the culprits are varied: perfume, cologne, scented candles, potpourri, hair products, hand lotion, and even office cleaning products.

Fragrance sensitivity is not generally considered a disability under the ADA, but it could be if the symptoms were severe, in which case you would be required to explore a reasonable accommodation for the affected employee. But even if the sensitivity doesn't rise to the level of a disability, you may want to take steps to tackle the problem in order to keep the peace and maintain office productivity.

A general improvement in office air quality can often help. Install an air purifier or open windows to increase cross-ventilation. You can provide fragrance-sensitive employees with accommodations, such as allowing them to ~o outside and get some fresh air, moving them away from the problem, or allowing them to wear a respirator on the job. If the fragrant offender is clearly identifiable and easily fixed, such as scented soap in the restroom, switch to an unscented alternative.

If the source of the problem is a person (a heavily perfumed employee, for example) rather than a thing (restroom soap), tact and sensitivity are required. Don't be critical or judgmental; explain the problem in a non-accusatory way without identifying the employee who complained, and ask for suggestions on how to remedy the situation.

### **Biohazard Control for Mailrooms**

by Douglas B. Walters and Ray F. Ryan

The attack on the World Trade Center and the anthrax scare has forced the government and private industry to increase safety and security precautions. The anthrax scare in particular, has prompted greater safety controls in the mailrooms. Many workplace operations that once were taken for granted have been re-evaluated and new procedures have been implemented. The safety of mailroom operations and the protection of mailroom employees is one such area that has become increasingly critical.

A plethora of free information is readily available on various government Web sites. The FBI, CDC, OSHA, U.S. Postal Service, and General Services Administration have issued recommendations, guidelines, and advisories for the many aspects and conditions of handling mail. This article addresses private mailroom operations (sorting, distributing, and handling) and focuses on the employees actually handling mail and the procedures used.

Hazardous agents generally can be divided into three categories: physical (radiological), chemical, and biological. Because mail is routinely X-rayed and also screened for radioactivity, physical hazards will not be addressed. Similarly, chemicals usually are a chronic hazard and do not pose the acute health concerns of biological agents. Therefore, this paper will discuss precautions used for the control of bio-agents as defined by NIH/CDC as belonging to bio-level 1, 2, and 3 levels (e.g., anthrax, smallpox, hepatitis, HIV).

The CDC recommends implementing a hierarchical system in mail distribution and handling centers to prevent potential exposure to hazardous biological agents such as anthrax, as shown below:

- Engineering controls to prevent or capture aerosolized spores.
- Administrative controls to limit the number of people potentially exposed.
- Operational (housekeeping) controls to further reduce the spread of spores.
- Personal protective equipment for workers to prevent cutaneous (skin) and inhalation exposure.

These methods should be selected after an initial risk assessment of the work area by a team of experts. The evaluation determines which processes, operations, and tasks are the most likely to produce an exposure if a contaminated envelope or package enters the work area. However, the use of engineering controls can be complicated and requires more time and effort.

It has been shown that small powders and particulates are readily aerosolized during routine handling and transfer procedures such as opening envelopes and packages in mailrooms. Basic industrial hygiene principles state that engineering controls are always the first line of defense when hazardous situations and conditions are encountered. Engineering controls contain the hazard as close to the source as possible when used in conjunction with proper work practices and PPE. This reduces the exposure to potential aerosolized particles and reduces the risk for inhalation, the most severe form of disease exposure. The most difficult part of the problem, however, is identifying suitable engineering controls.