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JUNE 1, 2001 LUNCH MEETING

**12 Noon in the Buffet Room of
Crystal Park Casino Hotel**

123 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220

Hotel Phone: (800) 717-1000

Confirmation w/John O'Toole

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CSSSP

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals

Volume 11

Los Angeles County Chapter

June 2001

President's Message

What Ergonomic Standard? That is a question being asked by many. Our June speaker is Joannette Alpert and she will certainly give us map as to where our Ergonomic Programs need to be in light of all that is and is not happening in Washington.

Some questions to think about. Can you justify the job position within the organization you are presently working? Do you make a difference in the attitudes towards Safety and Security of those who work around you?

Some of best, but not necessarily favorite, teachers in my life have been men and women who have offered challenges which, at the onset, seemed not only difficult but impossible. Looking back, it's kind of fun doing the impossible.

Our profession offer us challenges everyday. Two men died last week while working in a confined space in the San Fernando Valley. The accident investigation will not bring these men back to life. It can serve as ammunition to further the causes of inspection and training and teamwork. Making our coworkers aware of what worse case results can happen when established procedures are not followed may become obnoxious and annoying but necessary and the right thing to do. When it comes to spreading the word of Safety and Security...PLEASE..be obnoxious PLEASE...be annoying...My challenge to you is to make it your business to be certain an accident like the one mentioned or any accident as drastic, does not happen to anyone you know.

Our August speaker will be Eric Fernald, Safety Director of the Walt Disney Company.

Your presence is requested. Hope to see you on June 1st..

Vincent Takas

New Members

Russel Katieb

Bob Barker

Michael E. Lombardo

Margaret Gordon

Rey Ramos

Larry Dowling

Andrew Asaro

Letty Rodriguez

Ergonomic Rule – Principles for Eventual Rulemaking

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao gave some specifics on why the Ergonomic Rule was dumped, and laid down some principles that will guide an eventual new rulemaking package.

“I am committed to bringing the workforce of the 21st century in step with the needs and realities of our modern economy.” The workforce and economy “require a new approach to safety” based on “cooperation and prevention, rather than the antiquated, adversarial approach of years past.”

She has met with a number of groups regarding ergonomics since she assumed her post, ranging from unions and business representatives, to the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the American Society of Safety Engineers.

“The stakeholders who have come to the Department of Labor to discuss ergonomics are coming from completely different positions, ranging from those who want no action to those who thought that the previous rule did not go far enough.”

The congressional action on ergonomics in reality forces a rethinking of the contentious issue; under the Congressional Review Act, which congress used to kill the regulation. DOL is precluded from producing any standard that would be “substantially the same,” as Chao pointed out.

Guiding the process will be five principles, including: **Prevention** – The Labor Secretary noted that ergonomics injuries have declined 25% since 1993, when there were 763,000 musculoskeletal injuries. In 1999, there were 582,300 such injuries, down slightly from 1998.

Sound science – any action should be based on “the best available science and research,” she said.

Incentive-driven – with the drop in ergonomic-related injuries in the meatpacking industry under a program initiated by Fed-OSHA in 1990, this demonstrates the potential effectiveness of voluntary, industry-specific suggestions.

Flexibility – Chao said the comments DOL has received “demonstrate that one of the biggest weaknesses of the failed standard was its universal nature.”

Clarity – the original standard was well over 600 pages in the *Federal Registrar*, this “understandably frightened” members of the small business community. Any approach to ergonomics must include short, simple, and common-sense instructions for employers and their employees.

June Speaker

Joanette Alpert, MS, PT, CIE, CPE, vice President and CFO, Woodward-Alpert & Associates, Inc., a leading ergonomics work site analysis, training and consulting firm in Southern California.

Ms. Alpert will address the issues on the importance for the establishment of an effective ergonomics program within the worksite. Ms. Alpert will discuss the status of the State's Ergonomic Standard and explain that it is alive and well after the Federal Ergonomics Standard has been taken off the books. Join us in a most informative and timely presentation by one of the State's leading authority on Ergonomics in the workplace.

April Speaker

Mr. Ron Rita, Detection Specialist with Draeger, Inc. spoke on: Draeger's CMS (Chemical Measurement System) and Chip Technology, "The Electronic Draeger Tube."

Ron started his career in safety sales and training with Bullard Safety in 1974. He moved to Industrial Scientific Corporation in 1988 as a Regional Specialist. He joined Draeger in 1998 at this current position.

Ron has conducted numerous gas detection and confined space awareness seminars for both small and large audiences.

LUNCH MENU FOR THIS MONTH

Garden Salad with House Dressing
Gravy Hamburger w/sliced Tomatoes,
Onions, & Shredded Lettuce
French Fries
Corn on the Cobb
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Dessert: Chocolate Brownies
Coffee/Decaf/Iced Tea

Attention All Members

If you currently receive this in the mail, please send your e-mail address to: petergin@earthlink.net. Thank you for your consideration to help our organization save postage expenses.

Hay Fever Self-Defense

If you're bothered by sneezing and itchy, watery eyes this time of year, try this 1-2-3 strategy:

Avoid allergy triggers. It's tough to escape pollen and molds – a single ragweed plant may release one million pollen grains in just one day. But there's much you can do to lessen exposure.

Suggestions: Keep windows closed and use air conditioning . . . clean air conditioning systems regularly to avoid mold growth . . . don't hang laundry outdoors to dry, as pollen may cling to sheets and towels . . . avoid early morning activities, since the pollen count is highest between 5 – 10 a.m. . . wear a dust mask when mowing the lawn or tending the garden.

Consider medication. New prescription antihistamines provide relief without causing drowsiness, a major drawback with over-the-counter antihistamines. Another class of medicine corticosteroid nasal sprays is especially effective at relieving symptoms such as congestion, sneezing, itching and postnasal drip.

Warning: Avoid nonprescription antihistamines whenever safety requires you to stay alert.

Talk to an expert. Consult your doctor or an allergy specialist about allergy medications, possible side effects, and other options. These include allergy shots that can help increase your body's resistance to allergy triggers. One way or another, relief may be just around the corner.

CSUDH Courses

Summer 2001

HEX 979 – Recognition & Control of Workplace Hazards (2.0 CEU) – John A. O’Toole, Ph. D., RSSP, Principal Safety Consultant, General Safety Services

7 meetings: Tuesdays, June 5 – July 17
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. \$250.00 CSUDH EE 1210

HEX 917 – Introduction to Industrial Hygiene (2.0 CEU) – James Unmack, P.E., CSP, CIH, Principal, Unmack Corporation

7 meetings: Wednesdays, July 18 – August 29
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. \$250.00 CSUDH EE 1206

HEX 920 – Introduction to Ergonomics (1.5 CUE) – Joannette Alpert, MS, PT, CIE, CPE, Principal, Woodward Alpert & Associates

5 meetings: Thursdays, June 28 – August 2 (no class July 5th) 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. \$180.00
CSUDH EE 1210

HEX 955 – Industrial Hygiene Instrumentation & Sampling (1.5 CEU) – Janice Minasian, BS, Industrial Hygienist, Universal Studios

5 meetings: Thursdays, August 9 – September 6
6 – 9 p.m. \$180.00 CSUDH EE 1210

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter National Safety Council Training Institute will be offering the following courses over the next two months. You can sign-up by calling (213) 385-6461.

Behavior Based Safety – 6/7/2001 – Burbank
Accident Investigation – 6/12/2001 – Burbank
Boat Safety – 6/13/2001 – Burbank
Advanced Industrial Safety – 6/14/2001 – Burbank
DDC-4 Instructor Course – 6/19-20/2001 – Burbank
Forklift Instructor Training – 6/21/2001 – Anaheim
IIPP Hazcom – 6/26/2001 – Burbank
Workplace Safety – 6/27/2001 – Burbank
Respiratory Protection – 6/28/2001 - Burbank

Workplace Violence Perpetrators by Louis Rovner, Ph. D.

Here are some common traits identified for workplace violence perpetrators:

- White male, 35 to 45 years of age

- Migratory job history
- Loner with little or no family or social support
- Chronically disgruntled
- Externalizes blame; rarely accepts responsibility for things gone wrong
- Takes criticism poorly
- Identifies with violence
- More than a casual user of drugs and/or alcohol
- Keen interest in firearms and other dangerous weapons

Pre-incident indicator symptoms:

- Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism
- Noticeable decrease in attention to appearance and hygiene
- Depression and withdrawal
- Explosive outbursts of anger or rage without provocation
- Threatens or verbally abuses co-workers and supervisors
- Repeated comments that indicate suicidal tendencies
- Noticeably unstable emotional responses
- Frequent, vague physical complaints
- Behavior which is suspect or paranoia
- Increased mood swings
- Has a plan to “solve all problems”
- Resistance and over-reaction to changes in procedures
- Empathy with individuals committing violence
- Repeated violation of company policies
- Fascination with violent behavior and/or sexually explicit movies or publications
- Escalation of domestic problems
- Preoccupation with previous incidents of violence
- Large withdrawals from or closing his/her account in the company’s credit union