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October 1, 2010 Lunch Meeting
12 Noon
Lakewood Country Club
3101 Carson Street
Lakewood, California 90712

Mandatory Confirmation w/John O'Toole
By 9/28/10 @ (323) 258 – 2771

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CSSSP

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals Los Angeles County Chapter

Volume 67

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October Speaker

Our guest speaker this month is none other than Mark Pisani our President Elect. Mark's topic will be on Procedures Used in Appealing a Cal/OSHA Citation.

August Speaker

Mr. Jess Rodriguez spoke on: "Overview of Intelligence Communications."

New Members

Richard Brennan Professional Member

President's Message

As this next chapter meeting approaches I would like to invite those members who have not attended our new meeting facility to come down for a nice buffet lunch and fellowship with your colleagues. The price of lunch for professional members is \$25.00 and students, \$10.00.

This month's guest speaker is our own President-Elect Mark Pisani. I encourage members who might be involved with an OSHA citation/violation to attend to learn where your company stands on this subject. Our December's guest speaker will be Hal Lindsey.

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit our new website, I encourage you to do so. We have many new features that I am sure will interest you. You can now pay for your lunch and raffle tickets directly through the PayPal account. Another new feature is the Fallen Members section which can be accessed through "Awards Presidents" link. This section honors our former members as their legacy will live on.

Thanks to Dante Jackson, our chapter will be supporting The Great Shakeout, www.shakeout.org/drill. The date for this drill is Oct. 21st 2010. The purpose is ready ourselves for a disaster such as an earthquake. By preparing now we will be ready.

Lastly, the executive board is working hard on "cleaning up" our membership roster. We are aware that many members have move out of the area but are still interested in what is going on within the chapter, this is a great thing. Other members are uninvolved, this too is ok, however, our purpose as a chapter is to bring the membership together and remain informed on current events that are happening within the chapter. I am asking our members who have not visited a meeting or paid you annual dues to come to a nice buffet lunch, fellowship with colleagues and rekindle your association with CSSSP. We are only as strong as our membership.

Thanks to the executive board for all of your hard work, and I hope to see you all on October 1st.

Jared Williamson

Escaping Tragedy: Will They All Get Out Safely?

Don't get caught off guard. After 9/11 or any major incidents, most companies took a long, hard look at their evacuation plans and procedures. But time has passed, and other pressing safety issues have taken priority. So it is fair to ask if an emergency occurred today in your workplace, would everybody get out safely? The answer to that critical question depends on the current state of your evacuation preparations. For example:

- Is your emergency action plan comprehensive and up to date?
- Have all employees (including new hires) received evacuation training?
- Do you have evacuation maps prominently posted all around your facility with arrows designating exit route assignments and indicating locations of exits, assembly points, and emergency equipment (such as fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, and spill kits)?

- Are evacuation routes and exits clearly marked, well lit, and unobstructed at all times?
- Are aisles and stairwells along evacuation routes wide enough to accommodate all of evacuating personnel?
- Are designated evacuation routes unlikely to expose evacuating personnel to additional hazards?

Anticipate and train for special evacuation duties.

Every workplace should have some employees who are trained to serve as evacuation wardens. Wardens help move employees from danger to safe areas during an emergency. Generally, one warden for every 20 employees is adequate, and the appropriate number of wardens should be available at all times during working hours. Wardens may be responsible for checking offices, restrooms, and other spaces before being the last person to exit an area. They might also be tasked with ensuring that fire doors are closed when exiting. Wardens should be familiar with the layout of the entire facility so that they are able to identify alternate escape routes if the primary evacuation routes become blocked.

In addition to evacuation wardens, you might also need to designate and train people to stay behind to shut down certain equipment and processes that have to be shut down in stages or over time. Or perhaps your emergency plan calls for having a few well-trained employees remain behind briefly to operate fire extinguishers or shut down gas and/or electrical systems and other special equipment that could be damaged if left operating or create additional hazards to emergency responders (such as releasing hazardous materials).

Don't forget about visitors and disabled employees.

Visitors might not know your evacuation procedures or routes and could need the assistance of wardens and other employees to get out safely. Disabled employees might also require special assistance to evacuate the building. Ask disabled employees to help identify any special help they might require during an evacuation. Perform a hazard analysis to identify workplace hazards that could interfere with evacuation of disabled workers. Make sure evacuation wardens are aware of the name and location of employees with special needs who require extra assistance during an evacuation. And be sure to test your evacuation plans for visitors and disabled employees by holding a drill to make sure all of these people can get out safely.

Be sure to count heads. Designate assembly areas outside the building where employees should gather after evacuating.

Choose areas well away from the facility to minimize the risk that evacuating employees could interfere with rescue operations. Take a head count at these sites after the evacuation has been completed. Identify the names and last known locations of anyone not accounted for and pass them to the emergency response official in charge. Also establish a method for accounting for non-employees, such as contractors, suppliers, customers, etc. For example, if you have all visitors sign in when entering the workplace, you can use this list when accounting for all persons in the assembly area.

Drill, Drill, Drill. Finally, conduct regular drills to ensure that employees understand evacuation procedures and can execute them efficiently. Whenever drills indicate that employees are not well prepared, hold refresher training sessions to review procedures. If employees can't perform adequately in a drill, some of them probably wouldn't survive the real thing.

Are you ready with your emergency action plan?

- In a real emergency, when seconds count, your employees must be able to respond instantly and follow evacuation procedures automatically.
- Training and drills prepare employees to act calmly and effectively in the worst conditions in order to evacuate safely.
- OSHA requires employers to have emergency action plans, explain those plans to employees, train employees in evacuation procedures, and conduct regular evacuation practice drills.

When a potential hazard is discovered...

- Make sure that everyone else in your workplace is aware of the problem.
- Notify your supervisor. Unless you are the supervisor; then get going on that safety committee plan.
- File any reports or documents about the problem.
- Follow up. Telling someone there's a problem is not a guarantee that the problem will be resolved satisfactorily. Report it and later follow up to make sure the problem was addressed.

How to Spot Substance Abuse Among Your Employees

Do you have substance abusers among your employees? According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), you probably do. DOL reports that the chances your organization employs one or more of the millions of American workers who abuse drugs or alcohol is greater today than ever. DOL also says that their studies reveal that substance abuse has a tremendously negative impact in the workplace. Substance abusers are more likely to:

- Be absent and/or show up late.
- Make mistakes.
- Take risks.
- Be involved in workplace accidents.
- File workers' compensation claims.

Getting a handle on this dangerous and costly problem begins with recognizing the symptoms and identifying possible abusers.

How can you tell if an employee is abusing drugs or alcohol? DOL says that the following performance and behavior problems are common to many employed individuals who abuse alcohol and/or other drugs:

Performance problems include:

- Inconsistent work quality
- Poor concentration
- Reduced productivity
- Increased absenteeism and lateness
- Unexplained disappearances from the jobsite
- Carelessness, mistakes
- Errors in judgment
- Risk-taking
- Disregard for safety
- Extended lunch periods and early departures

Behavior problems include:

- Frequent financial problems
- Avoidance of friends and colleagues
- Overreacting to criticism
- Blaming others for own problems and shortcomings
- Complaints about problems at home
- Deterioration in personal appearance
- Complaints and excuses of vaguely defined illnesses

Please note, however, that an employee who displays any of these symptoms doesn't necessarily have a substance abuse problem. There could be other reasons (health or emotional problems, family problems, etc).

What else should you look for? In addition to looking at an employee's performance and behavior, you should also look at what's going on around that employee. When there's a substance abuse problem, there might also be an increase in:

- Complaints from other workers (about mistakes, the employee not doing his/her share of the work, coming in late and leaving early, risk-taking behavior, etc.)
- Near misses and accidents either involving the worker or taking place around the worker
- Disputes with or aggressive behavior toward other workers and supervisors
- Theft from the company and co-workers

Over time you may also notice deterioration in morale among employees who work with or around substance abusers.

Statistics

- One in five American workers report that they have been put in danger or injured as a result of a fellow employee's substance abuse.
- Over 70 percent of substance abusers are employed.
- Up to 40 percent of industrial fatalities and 47 percent of industrial injuries can be linked to substance abuse, and substance abusers are more than three times as likely to have an accident on the job.
- Alcohol and drug abuse has been estimated to cost American businesses billions of dollars every year in lost productivity, healthcare costs, and workers' compensation claims.

Teamwork can also be viewed as:

- **T**ogether
- **E**veryone
- **A**chieves
- **M**ore
- **W**ith
- **O**rganization
- **R**ecognition and
- **K**nowledge