

# SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



May – 2003

## **AED EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM RELEASED FOR PA CHAMBER MEMBERS ONLY!**

High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd. is happy to announce that it has entered into an affinity program with the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Commerce to offer Chamber members a superior value on the Powerheart™ AED by Cardiac Science. We have made special arrangements with Cardiac Science and the PA Chamber to bring this opportunity to the membership. This program will be released mid-late June. If you are a Chamber member and want to get in on this opportunity, give us a call. If you are not a Chamber member, consider the value that the Chamber could provide to your organization! Visit them at [www.pachamber.org](http://www.pachamber.org).

OSHA will invest \$1 million dollars in this fiscal year to study the value of AED's in the workplace. I do suspect at some point these devices may become mandatory equipment within organizations (long after most pro-active companies have already placed them). More on AED's at [www.highaed.com](http://www.highaed.com).

## **NEW WEBSITE OFFERS RESOURCES**

High Safety is pleased to announce the release of our 'new and improved' website at [www.highsafety.com](http://www.highsafety.com). Our new site offers our customers a more in-depth review of our available services along with safety information that can be helpful. In addition, we have expanded our e-com function to allow you to purchase products on-line with a typical shopping cart approach. We will continue to expand our site with more helpful and unique products and information. You will also see that Goggles (our old wise owl mascot) has been retired – he's not left High Safety, but plans to enjoy a less active role!

## **MOLD ASSESSMENT TIPS – IS IT?**

Here's a quick tip for determining if a substance could be mold. If a suspected growth area bleaches clear when a 5% sodium hypochlorite (that's bleach) solution is added, it is possible that the contamination is biological. Most biological contaminations will bleach clear. This is a very non-specific, non-scientific test, but is a quick check method. (Source: Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene / ASTM 1993b)

Mold certification and remediation regulations continue to be introduced -- 33 in this year alone according to AIHA's president! Certification for mold remediators and investigators will likely take the same track as asbestos, lead, and radon. States will regulate those performing this work by collecting fees and requiring some very basic level training. Fortunately, many of these regulations will recognize the proficiency of an experienced CIH (certified industrial hygienist) in this area. We continue to contend that an experienced CIH, is the best resource for IAQ qualified investigations. This was confirmed in a study by FMI which identified a CIH as the preferred provider of IAQ services. If you have mold or IAQ questions: contact Curt Wittman, MS, CIH at 717-293-4450.

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**HIGH SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICES, LTD.**

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## SAFETY MANAGEMENT

As a member of our firm's Board Audit Committee, I have recently had the opportunity to be involved in a review of our company's compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. If you are not familiar with this act, it is the outcome of the Enron scandal. While this act applies to publicly traded companies in an effort to protect employees from disclosing potential fraud against shareholders, our private company felt it provided a framework for good business practices. OSHA has just issued a final rule for the handling of complaints of discrimination under this act (OSHA handles many of the federal whistle blowing discrimination provisions for various acts).

How does this rule apply to the Safety role? The ASSE provided a technical report that discusses some of the possible implications for safety and health professionals. Available at:  
[http://www.asse.org/prac\\_spec\\_cops\\_issues13.htm](http://www.asse.org/prac_spec_cops_issues13.htm)

Applying these concepts and expanding them to the safety field, a few questions to ask internally may include:

1. Do employees know how to report a safety concern?
2. Do employees feel comfortable reporting safety concerns?
3. Are employee's concerns taken seriously?
4. Do employees have a mechanism to step outside of the normal hierarchy of reporting and discuss concerns confidentially?
5. Does the company have safety as a component in the code of ethics statement?
6. Are there qualified personnel available for consultation in matters of employee health and safety?
7. Are outside advisors performing audit work of their own work?
8. Are conflicts of interest addressed and disclosed in safety and health activities?
9. Is there an appropriate disclosure of significant safety, health or environmental risks that could affect company performance or earnings?

When an employee makes a complaint to OSHA, it is often because they did not feel comfortable bringing the issue up internally and may show opportunity for improvements in the reporting and communication systems within an organization.

## SLIP RESISTANCE IN THE WORKPLACE

I recently had the opportunity to test a slip-resistant flooring product produced in right here in Lancaster County. Ross Technology of Leola, PA produces slip-resistant steel (carbon stainless, aluminum) floor plate. When tested this product performed extremely well! In fact, the surface abraded my instrument's test foot! If you are looking for ways to control slips and falls within your facility, I can recommend Algrip 2000™ as providing superior slip-resistance performance. Learn more about this product at [www.rosstechnology.com](http://www.rosstechnology.com). To date, they haven't published the ASTM 1679 test results that I obtained, but I can assure you, they were very favorable.

OSHA announced a re-opening of the rulemaking records for Walking and Working Surfaces Protective Equipment standard. Proposed revisions of the two standards were first published in 1990 where a COF is specified for workplaces. With the wide acceptance of ASTM 1679 as a test method, there is a change this could go through. Comments are due to OSHA no later than July 31, 2003.

## UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMS:

**Advanced Safety Management Program**. This program will be held on December 2, 3, 4 and 5. A complete agenda is available on our website.

**OSHA 10 Hour Construction Course** at ABC in Manheim, PA. July 24 and 25. 7:00 AM – 12:45 PM each day. Call directly at 717-653-8106 to register and more information.

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**Ergonomic Principles at Lancaster Chamber** on 7-16-03 from 8:30 – 12:00 noon. Call directly for more information or registration: 717-397-3531 or on-line at:  
<http://www.thechamber.net/cgi-bin/foxweb.dll/commcale/99caleday?cc=lcci&category=Training>

**First Aid / CPR and AED training** on August 7, 2003. All day through the Lancaster Chamber. See contact information above.

**Forklift Operator Classroom Training** – September 19<sup>th</sup> through the Lancaster Chamber. See contact information above.

**OSHA Compliance Review and Update** – November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lancaster Chamber from 8:30 AM to Noon. See Contact information above.

**OSHA 30 Hour General Industry Course** – September 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Call for a brochure or register on-line on our website. [www.highsafety.com](http://www.highsafety.com)

**OSHA Construction Instructor Course (OSHA 500)** – Offered at High Industries, Inc. through the Keystone Occupational Safety and Health(KOSH) training center. (Authorized OSHA Training Center). September 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. (Must meet pre-requisites). More information at:  
<http://www.koshcenter.org/currentcourses.htm> or call 800-318-4846.

**OSHA 311 OSHA Course on Fall Protection** – Offered at High Industries, Inc. through KOSH. October 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. See contact information above.

**OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Course** – October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28th. Register on-line at [www.highsafety.com](http://www.highsafety.com) offered at our facility in Lancaster, PA.

Discounted Hotel Rates are available for programs held in Lancaster at our sister company's award winning hotel (Hampton Inn). (Call for details).



*An Affiliate of High Industries, Inc.*

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