

SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



NOVEMBER, 2005

***Hey, check out some of the upcoming training opportunities below
(Industrial Presses, OSHA 10 or 30 in Construction!)***

A TIME FOR THANKFULNESS

I am happy to say that we have had a record month in October! As such we have been quite busy. As we move towards Thanksgiving, I want to pass along my thankfulness to each of our customers. You have allowed us to prosper and we are looking forward to ending 2005 on the up-swing. It is hard to believe that we will be entering our ninth year of operation in 2006! I am also so thankful for the wonderful staff with whom I have the privilege to work. John Womer has been a steady force supporting a long-time and valued client. Lisa Krug has been instrumental in providing our clients with expert industrial hygiene support, advice and service. Barb Rutt keeps our office humming with unbelievable support and administrative insights as well as assisting in training services. Mark DiStefano has been active in seeking new projects and providing valuable client education. The best part is each one of them understands our goal of providing excellent customer service and each is willing to take the extra step to meet our client's needs. I am SO PLEASED with this crew! We are also currently looking for an experienced safety and health professional (CIH) to join our team. See more information on our website.

I am so thankful for my children and the joy they bring to my life. I am thankful that I am safe and healthy in a world where those two conditions are often taken for granted by many and not available to others. We only have to look in our own backyards to find individuals less fortunate. When I consider the stress points in my life, they all seem insignificant when I consider the adversities that others must face. It would be easy to make a list of all the problems in my life, but I quickly realize that I have little right to be anything but thankful. If you are reading this, you can be thankful that you have access to technology, that you can read and that you probably had a meal within the last 24 hours!

THE CRUCIBLE

My daughter had an opportunity to participate in her high school's production of The Crucible by Arthur Miller. If you are not familiar with the play, it is set in Salem, MA in the time of the witch trials. My daughter played an antagonist, Abigail Williams, who claimed that she saw individuals walking with the "devil". Her young friends also joined in and before long, all of them were claiming to feel and see spirits of various townspeople that had made pacts with the devil. In the end, the whole town is in an all out frenzy and nearly everyone is being accused of witchery. It was interesting to learn that Mr. Miller wrote this play in the 1950's in response to McCarthyism which carried a similar frenzied movement, seeking those with a connection to the communists (red devil).

It made me think about human nature and how quickly a society can be swayed one direction or another by a few. Once the momentum of "frenzy" sets in, rationality is replaced by emotion and fear-based responses. Perhaps the best example of this type of 'society' is in a sick building syndrome event wherein the occupants are truly experiencing real signs and symptoms but which are derived from a mass psychogenic event. A lack of

HIGH SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICES, LTD.

1853 WILLIAM PENN WAY ☐ P.O. BOX 10008 ☐ LANCASTER, PA 17605-0008 ☐ 1-877-285-1129

understanding of a hazard increases fear. Consider how witchcraft and an unknown environmental agent loose in a building both incite a high level of fear of the unknown. An involuntary exposure to risk also increases fear. Consider coming to work where rumor has said that individuals have been made sick in the environment, but the source hasn't been located. By having an involuntary exposure because one is expected to come to work, we have increased the level of fear. Similarly those in the Salem community might be "hexed" at any moment from an unknown source. They didn't have an opportunity to opt in to the risk. When a presumed hazard is imposed on us, we perceive a greater risk and hence more fear. This fear is often amplified by the perception of deception. This occurs when management doesn't want to create an issue and as a result conducts undisclosed investigations at night. If occupants discover that this type of investigation is occurring, immediate mistrust and the perception that a cover-up is underfoot will be hard to dissuade. Openness, sensitivity and dealing with an individual's emotional side continue to be critical skills for anyone dealing with an issue of this nature to avoid invoking a frenzied witch trail. Similar types of community responses can occur with countless issues.

Consider the recent legislative pay raise in Pennsylvania, recently renounced. This issue created a frenzied response by many. On contraire, I would point out that our legislators are highly experienced lawyers who are 'on-duty' from dawn and into the night. I question what income a lawyer with their level of experience would make in private practice....I'd be willing to bet a pretty penny more! Do we really want to pay these positions wages that are significantly below the market? Will this attract the best and the brightest? I'm neither in a position to assess wage rates for these positions nor determine if laws were violated, but I believe we saw a bit of a witch hunt!

FIRST TIME READERS

I just wanted to mention that if this is the first update you are receiving, I realized I traveled beyond the realms of a compliance update. In my updates, I try to relate some aspect of my life experience to safety, discuss safety management principles as well as provide commentary on new rules or trends in safety. You can always unsubscribe to our Update.

A FEW GOOD SITES

For a Laugh: <http://www.dhmo.org>

For Chemical Toxicity Information and Resources: <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>

For Safety PowerPoint Training Presentations: <http://siri.uvm.edu/ppt/>

PRESS ON!

There is still a little time to get signed-up for the **Rockford Industrial Power Press Seminar** we are sponsoring on November 29, 2005. I have received the course materials from Rockford and after reviewing them, I can tell you that I am looking forward to participating in this program. If you have industrial power presses, this is a program you should not miss. Industrial presses present huge exposure risks to your employees. Understanding and controlling these risks is critical. Did you know that a power press accident is the only accident event (other than death or catastrophes) that **MUST** be reported to OSHA? The only other way to get this type of education is to fly to Chicago and take the more in-depth program at the Rockford Training Center. This is an ideal training for maintenance staff, safety professionals, loss control consultants and anyone else interested in assuring safety with these complex pieces of equipment. [Click here to register now.](#)

In addition, we still have openings in our **OSHA 10-Hour Construction** class on Dec 1st and 2nd. This program is only \$175 for two days of instruction. This is an ideal opportunity for supervisors, managers, safety coordinators, safety committees and others to get an update on all of OSHA's rules and regulations governing the construction site. OR maybe you want a bigger slice of pie? Join us for the **OSHA 30 Hour Construction** course running the week of January 13. This program will provide a much more in-depth understanding of the OSHA construction regulations in a comprehensive course. Would you rather be in a warm classroom with a coffee or out in sub-freezing temperatures on a construction site? Did I convince you? If so, [click here to register.](#)

We also have an **OSHA Update** scheduled for December 9th. This session will review what OSHA has done in the past year and where they might go in 2006. This four-hour session will examine trends and new concepts developing in safety. [Click here to register.](#)

Our complete course listing can be found on our website <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/resources/courses/>.

[NOTE: All of our prior newsletters are archived on our website under the "Contact Us" Tab](#)



An Affiliate of High Industries, Inc.

1853 William Penn Way
P.O. Box 10008
Lancaster, PA 17605-0008
(717) 209-4045
1-877-285-1129 (toll-free)
FAX (717) 293-4470
www.highsafety.com