



July 2010

E-Newsletter

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AUDIT SEASON IS APPROACHING

Several municipalities have already conducted their 2010 audits and the external peer groups have been confirmed. As you're planning your audit, remember:

- Both the **main shop AND administration office** must be included in every audit.
- If you're involved in an external audit, contact the other municipality as soon as possible. Make sure you clarify expectations for auditor expense reimbursement, etc. If you're being audited by another municipality, collect the appropriate documentation, and provide the auditor with complete information. **Communication is key!**
- Avoid a sampling fatal flaw - **submit your interview and site sample** to Shannon Thomas for pre-approval.
- In the executive report, **include suggestions for improvement for all questions that do not have 80% positive indicators** (and on a high-scoring audit, for questions scoring below the average)
- Review the **Auditor Update** that was sent to active auditors in April. If you've just certified, download it at <http://www.amhsa.net/pages/PIR-COR/Audits.aspx>
- If you're unsure about something, ask questions! We're here to help.

UPCOMING AUDITOR TRAINING

Auditor Recertification/Update	High Level Calgary	Sept. 1 Oct. 7
Health & Safety Management Systems	Sherwood Park Calgary	Sept. 21-22 Sept. 27-28
Health & Safety Management Systems – Audit	Sherwood Park Calgary	Sept. 23-24 Sept. 29-30

Note: the Calgary courses above will be held at the new AMHSA office, located in Silver Springs mall. Additional Auditor Recertification courses are being scheduled, check the website for details.

LACOMBE COUNTY INCIDENT

A 53-year old Lacombe County road crew member (12 year County employee) died June 19th while operating heavy machinery equipment around Haynes. AMHSA is saddened by the news and our thoughts are with the employee's family, friends, and co-workers. The incident is being investigated by Alberta Occupational Health and Safety. A news release is available online at www.lacombecounty.com/index.php.

MEMBER SURVEY

The annual AMHSA Membership Survey was sent to municipal CAOs in May. Your feedback is important to us! The results of these surveys are tabulated and used by the Board of Directors in setting objectives for the following year. If yours has not yet been completed, please fax it to (780) 417-3940.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

Worked to Death

The Calgary Herald is running a special report on occupational deaths in Alberta:

In the past decade, 1,285 workers were killed in Alberta because of a job. A year-long herald investigation has uncovered frequent safety violations, few prosecutions and unpaid fines. Now, families of the dead are wondering: Does anybody care?

To read, visit www.calgaryherald.com.

SMALL MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

AMHSA attended the Small Municipalities Conference on May 29th, hosted by the Village of Mannville, and participated in the trade fair. The conference was focused on populations under 2,500. We are grateful to David Williamson, AMHSA instructor, for presenting the Small Employer Certificate of Recognition breakout session. We are pleased by the interest generated by the session and were able to distribute many of the SECOR Toolkits at the conference.



A Health and Safety Management Systems – Small Employer course will be scheduled for the fall. Watch the online course calendar for details!

ALBERTA TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND (ATSF) GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE!

ATSF grants are now available to Alberta communities for traffic safety initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to stimulate and support local collaborative action that enhances traffic safety awareness and reduces the frequency and severity of motor vehicle related injuries within Alberta communities.

Please contact the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program Coordinator, Mandy Fisher, at (780) 492.0887 or email mandy.fisher@ualberta.ca for a consultation.

NEW GUIDE PREPARES FOR UPCOMING CHANGES TO WHMIS

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is working towards adopting the new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has created a new guide to introduce Canadians to GHS and to help prepare workplaces for potential changes.



The goal of GHS is to have the same set of rules for classifying hazards and the same format and content for labels and safety data sheets (SDS) adopted and used around the world. *WHMIS After GHS: Preparing for Change* will help guide organizations through the anticipated changes, assist in the understanding of the new requirements and facilitate a successful transition to “WHMIS After GIS”.

While exact details of the revised legislation will not be known when it is published in the Canada Gazette II, sufficient information is known to encourage workplaces to begin preparing for changes. This overview covers the basics of classification, safety data sheets, symbols and pictograms, labels, hazard statements and precautionary statements.

CCOHS publications are unique in that they are developed by experts in the field and reviewed by representatives from labour, employers and government to ensure the content and approach are unbiased and credible.

For more information about *WHMIS After GHS: Preparing for Change*, please visit www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/WHMISGHS.html.

ATV TRAINING

Have your staff been trained on how to safely operate an ATV? Our Operator Safety – ATV Rider course will provide participants with safety awareness, overview of controls, safe operation, turning, quick stops, swerving, riding strategies, riding over obstacles and on hills, and safe riding practices. The course is one day and costs \$175 for members. Minimum number of participants is 4 and maximum is 8.

Contact Susanne L'Heureux to schedule a course with our Alberta Safety Council-certified instructor.

MUNICIPAL SAFETY/RURAL UTILITIES (RUSA) CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held from November 30 – December 3, 2010 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. It will include pre-conference sessions from AWWOA (Municipal Well Operations and Maintenance) and AMHSA (Hazard Identification, Assessment, and Control).

Tentative conference session topics include:

- Improvements Through Investigations and Analysis – R.A. Bernard, Electrolab Training Systems
- Sewer Service Connection interface Assessment and Rehabilitation Strategies – Roger Ferol, Incredible Video Inspection Services
- Facilitating Leadership – “Igniting Bundles of Potential” – Shari Hanson and Terry Vaughan, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
- Challenges in Municipal Waste Management – Allan Yee, City of Edmonton
- Chlorine and Alternative Disinfection – Aaron Janzen, Alberta Environment
- The Bridge of Partnerships (What to Look for in an OH&S Consultant) – David Williamson, Jada Solutions (HSE) Inc.
- Provincial Municipal Safety Council – Jim Moroney, AMHSA
- Back Talk Update – Kathy Hilborn, Backs Unlimited Inc.
- Underground Utilities
- “Differences are NOT Difficulties” - The Intergenerational Challenge in Our Communities – Brenda Robinson, The Robcan Group

The final conference schedule will be posted on the RUSA website, see www.rusa.ca. You can also contact the Conference Coordinator, Bryan Bepalko, at 780 227-2464 or Keith Bobey, Tradeshow Coordinator, at 780 963-5087.

DAM BLASTING COURSE

Parkland County will be hosting a blasting course for beaver dam blasting this fall; the date has yet to be determined. The price is \$500/person. If interested, please contact Jewel Day-Hampton, Safety Coordinator at jday-hampton@parklandcounty.com.

WCB NEWS

Visit the Workers' Compensation Board's "What's New in Policy?" page for updated information - www.wcb.ab.ca/public/policy/policy_new.asp 11.

The 2009 Annual Report is now available online – see www.wcb.ab.ca/public/reports_plans.asp. Highlights include:

- The time-lost claim rate decreased to 1.6 per 100 workers
- The disabling-injury rate decreased to 2.8 per 100 workers
- The system remained financially stable and funded at 128.4 percent

FIREFIIGHTERS TO RECEIVE ENHANCED WCB COVERAGE FOR CANCER

Firefighters will now automatically be eligible for Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) coverage if they contract esophageal or testicular cancer. These two cancers are being added to the list of cancers with automatic WCB coverage for qualifying firefighters, bringing the list to ten.

“This is something we owe to the people who risk their lives to keep us safe,” said Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Employment and Immigration. “WCB already gives tremendous cancer coverage to firefighters but this will streamline things. By adding these two cancers to the list, we can provide compensation to firefighters and their families immediately instead of waiting for the results of complex investigations.”

WCB Alberta provides compensation to all workers it covers if they are injured or contract an illness as a result of work. Although there are many factors that can contribute to the risk of contracting cancer, firefighters are at greater risk than the general public of being exposed to a variety of toxic or cancer-causing agents when they approach burning buildings. Ten cancers are now considered to be “presumptive” or presumed to be work related without requiring proof.

The Alberta Fire Fighters Association (AFFA) supported the change, noting that cancer rates among firefighters are between three and five times the rates among the general population and they contract these diseases much earlier in life. “This coverage gives firefighters peace of mind that their families will be looked after should they succumb to this occupational disease,” said AFFA Secretary Brad Hoekstra.

Source: Government of Alberta News Release

EVENTS

1st ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE SOCIETY OF ALBERTA FUN RUN AND WALK

November 8, 2010

Celebrate health and safety and enjoy some fresh air and company and support a good cause. This event will include a 5 km fun run and a 2 km walk through the beautiful Edmonton river valley. Proceeds will be donated to Threads of Life, an organization whose mission is to help families heal through a community of support and promote the elimination of life-altering workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths. For more information, contact Diane Radnoff at Diane.Radnoff@gov.ab.ca or see the HSCS website at www.hsconference.com.

ALBERTA HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

November 8-10, 2010

Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton

www.hsconference.com

The conference will include a trade fair with over 120 exhibitors; over 25 keynote, blockbuster and technical sessions during the 3-day conference; pre and post-conference professional development courses; and a fabulous grand prize draw.

Early Bird registration rates are available before September 10th.

Upcoming AMHSA Courses — Please see www.amhsa.net for full course listings.

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	FEE
Auditor Recertification / Auditor Update	Sept. 1 Oct. 7	High Level Calgary	\$50 / \$70
Defensive Driving	July 5 Sept. 15	Leduc County St. Albert	\$65 / \$90
Disability Management <i>Register online at www.wcb.ab.ca/webforms/disability.asp More dates available</i>	July 8 Aug. 12 Sept. 9 Sept. 23 Oct. 20	Edmonton and Calgary Edmonton and Calgary Edmonton and Calgary Edmonton and Calgary Lethbridge	\$0
Formal Workplace Inspections	Sept. 28	p.m. Wetaskiwin	\$40 / \$50
Hazard Identification, Assessment and Control	Sept. 23	a.m. Wetaskiwin	\$40 / \$50
Health & Safety Management Systems	Sept. 21 - 22 Sept. 27 - 28	Sherwood Park Calgary	\$90 / \$145
Health & Safety Management Systems — Audit	Sept. 23 - 24 Sept. 29 - 30	Sherwood Park Calgary	\$90 / \$145
Incident Investigation	Sept. 22 Sept. 23	p.m. Wetaskiwin a.m. Calgary	\$40 / \$50
Joint Health & Safety Committees	Sept. 30	a.m. Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
Leadership for Safety Excellence	Aug. 30 - 31	High Level	\$90 / \$145
Prime Contractor	Sept. 22 Sept. 27	Innisfail Wood Buffalo	\$50 / \$70
Supervisor's Role	Sept. 29 Sept. 29	a.m. Wetaskiwin p.m. Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50

To register, contact Lorraine.

To schedule an onsite course, contact Susanne.

1-800-267-9764

or

(780) 417-3900