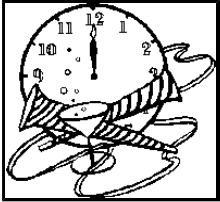


Happy New Year!



The staff and board of directors of AMHSA would like to wish all our members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2003. We look forward to working with all of you in your continuing efforts in workplace health and safety management.

Health and Safety Super-Conference Planning is Underway

After the success of last year's conference, the Health and Safety Conference Society of Alberta is busy planning the 2003 multi-partner health and safety conference in November of this year. The not-for-profit Society consists of health and safety associations (including AMHSA, ACSA, and CSSE), employer associations and other strategic partners who operate the conference on a break-even basis. The conference is expected to attract a wide range of exhibitors, facilitate high profile keynote speakers and provide delegates a diverse and valued choice of session topics. The conference will focus on best practices in occupational health and safety and will provide current information that is relevant to any industry.

We will keep you posted as more information becomes available, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please call Rose Ann. You can also look for information on the conference web site: www.hsconference.com. (NOTE: At the time of printing this newsletter, information on the 2003 program had not yet been posted to the web site, however it should be updated within the next few weeks.)

News from the Minister of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

As part of the Government's commitment to making Alberta workplaces safer, \$3.3 million is being dedicated to enhanced workplace education and enforcement.

AHRE will provide direct education to employers through workshops, link their website to many other sites across the province to make access easier, and work on improvements to the Partnerships program. They also want to increase their support of safety associations like ours, and develop ways to reach industries that don't have these kinds of associations. They will start communicating their plans to the public early in 2003. We will also keep you posted on any developments.

New Publications from Workplace Health and Safety

Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Workplace Health and Safety regularly publishes information on a variety of health and safety topics. They have recently produced two publications that may be of interest to municipal workplaces:

- *Crystalline Silica in the Workplace*
- *Lead in the Workplace*

Each of these publications reviews the uses of the product, health effects, medical monitoring and protection from overexposure. Copies can be obtained from the government web site:

www.whs.gov.ab.ca Look in the sidebar for the section titled “publications, videos and statistics”.

Also on the government website is information on the new draft regulation and code. In addition to explaining the process and anticipated timelines for implementation, there are two (very large) files that are available: the **Consolidated Draft OHS Regulation and Code**; and an **Explanation Guide** to the regulations. Go back to their website and look for “Consolidated Draft OHS Regulation and Code” in the side bar.

2nd Annual Mini-Conference

Due to popular demand, AMHSA will once again host some regional workshops to discuss health and safety issues common to the municipal sector. These were very well received last year and we have been asked to continue them this year.

The general idea is:

- We host one-day workshops in locations such as Grande Prairie, Nisku, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge.
- Municipal managers and health and safety coordinators from the surrounding area are invited to participate.
- We'll look at running these in late spring - early summer.
- We'll definitely cut back on the agenda! Anyone who attended the sessions last year knows that we tried to cram too much into the day. This year we'll update you on any relevant issues, invite a manager from a municipality with an outstanding program to share their secrets with us, and compare and contrast risk management programs with worker health and safety programs.

If anyone would be interested in hosting one of these mini conferences, give Rose Ann a call.

SEMINAR Bio-terrorism and Biological Emergencies

Threats to public and business security from bio-terrorism and biological emergencies are all too real in our world today. Knowing the risks, and having a plan to deal with potential emergencies, is vital to

community protection and mitigation of consequences. Bio-terrorism and Biological Emergencies is a new one-day seminar from *Fire etc* that will provide participants with an understanding of biological hazards that exist in Canada, the impact of related emergency situations, and skills and methods to prepare for and respond to such emergencies.

This conference will be of value to:

- emergency services decision makers - EMS, police and fire disciplines
- public health organizations
- hospital emergency department personnel
- senior municipal administrators and elected officials

This seminar will get participants involved in identifying and discussing:

- specific biological agents most likely to present a hazard to the community
- characteristics, method of dispersal, signs and symptoms and protection required for each of these agents
- roles and responsibilities of various response agencies during a biological emergency
- equipment and resources both available and required for an effective response to a biological emergency
- emergency communications
- action required for their specific community's biological response plan.

The seminar presenter is Heather MacKenzie Carey, of Geomac Ventures Limited, one of Canada's foremost authorities in planning for biological emergencies. She holds an MSc in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management. Heather is the author of Bio-terrorism and Biological Emergencies for Emergency Medical Responders, and is currently under contract to write a second book focusing on emergency response to criminal and terrorist events. Heather has over 20 years experience in the health care industry as an emergency practitioner, educator, and consultant.

Details:

Date	Tuesday, February 18, 2003
Time	9:00 - 4:00
Location	Edmonton area (to be confirmed)
Cost	\$275, plus GST (includes refreshments and lunch)

Enrolment is limited; reserve your seat early to avoid disappointment. To register, or for more information, please contact *Fire etc* (Office of the Registrar) at: registrar@fire-etc.ca or 1-888-863-2387

SAVE \$500 on CSTS Disks

The Construction Safety Training System is an interactive computer based training system. There are 12 modules, and workers are expected to successfully complete all 12 to receive certification. For a number of years, AMHSA has provided the system (hardware and software) to municipalities interested in training their staff. The municipality is charged only for those workers who have successfully completed the training. We had 4 sets of the system available for municipalities.

The software has recently been upgraded, and our old Presario computers are unable to run the programs. AMHSA has decided to purchase a single more portable laptop computer to replace the 4 Presario computers. This portable laptop computer will continue to be made available to municipalities that have short term needs to run employees through the CSTS program.

Since we have three spare licensed copies of the CSTS disks we have decided to sell them for \$1,500 each (a savings of \$500 per copy). One municipality has already snapped up a copy and there are only two remaining. These disks are the latest version of CSTS (3.2) and provide a single site license for unlimited use.

Old Computers for Sale: As for the computers... well they are older Presario's with limited capacity. They have Windows 95 installed and would be useful for basic word processing.

If any one is interested or would like more information about either the new disks or the old computers, contact Jim at: jim@amhsa.net or 1-800-267-9764.