

November 2005

## RUSA/ACSC/AMHSA Conference - Reminder

In case you haven't yet seen the registration package, the RUSA/ACSC/AMHSA conference is fast approaching. The dates for this year's conference are November 28 through December 1, in Red Deer, Alberta.

Conference topics address: clandestine drug labs; fall protection; health & safety and the criminal code; alcohol/drug testing; and much more. In addition to the conference itself, the Alberta Water and Wastewater Association is hosting a course dealing with "Small Facility Water Treatment". Every year, delegates comment that this conference provides excellent information to help them with their health & safety and utilities questions.

For more information, go to RUSA's website: [www.rusa.ca](http://www.rusa.ca); or for a hard copy of the registration package, contact Lorraine or Rose Ann at AMHSA at 1-800-267-9764.

## Partners in Injury Reduction program changes

PIR is a program designed to encourage employers to implement effective health and safety management systems, to reduce the potential for worker injury and illness. The Workers' Compensation Board recognizes employers who implement effective systems by providing them with WCB premium rate discounts.

The WCB undertook a review of this program and asked for input from its stakeholders. AMHSA lobbied the WCB to increase the minimum rebate to 10% for all CoR holders. Unfortunately the WCB did not agree to this strategy, but did make the following changes:

- **The basic rebate for first time CoR holders will increase from 5% to 10%.** Although the WCB recognizes that a health and safety management system is an investment in the organization's future, they believe that the initial investment (time and money) discourages many employers from getting started. They hope that this one-time higher rebate will increase employer interest in the PIR program.
- **The rebate will be paid out in the year that the CoR is achieved.** Currently rebates are paid out in May of the year following achievement of the CoR. With this change, first time CoR holders will receive the rebate sooner, to offset their initial investment costs.

In addition to the basic rebate of 5% or 10%, employers can earn a larger rebate if they significantly improve their performance (lost time injury claims costs) or if they have a significantly better claim cost history than other employers in their industry. Employers who meet either of these two criteria are eligible for rebates of up to 20%.

If you are interested in learning more about the PIR program, give us a call:

Susan Klingspor or Rose Ann McGinty: 1-800-267-9764  
Jim Moroney: 1-403-990-4920

## Publications from: *Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety*

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety is a non profit agency that provides unbiased health and safety information, advice and training to any employer or worker in the country. They have an informative website ([www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca)) and produce a number of helpful publications. At AMHSA we like to purchase their publications in bulk to provide them to you at a savings. Each of their publications is a coil bound, 4" by 8" booklet, and contains some introductory comments, a discussion of the hazards, and precautions to be taken to protect workers.

We carry 12 of their publications; the newest one is "**School Workers Health and Safety Guide**". This guide addresses health and safety concerns in classrooms, including hazards associated with science, arts and crafts, photography, industrial arts as well as with classrooms generally. In addition it looks at the hazards associated with custodial work, blood and body fluids, sports activities, etc.

The other CCOHS publications we carry are:

- violence in the workplace
- mould in the workplace
- health and safety guide for libraries
- emergency response planning guide
- wellness in the workplace
- office ergonomics
- noise control in industry - a basic guide
- grounds keepers safety guide
- welders health and safety guide
- cold weather workers safety guide
- indoor air quality

We sell each booklet for \$5.00. If you would like to order any of these booklets, contact Lorraine Kasha at [lorraine@amhsa.net](mailto:lorraine@amhsa.net) or 1-800-267-9764.

## The new **AMHSA AUDIT TOOL (2005)** is finally here!

Maybe you haven't been quite as anxious as we have about the birth of our new audit tool, but we are proud to announce that the **AMHSA AUDIT TOOL - 2005** is now available for use. You can find it on our website at: [Microsoft Excel Audit Tool](#) (go to [www.amhsa.net](http://www.amhsa.net) and search for the PIR audit tool).

This audit tool is the result of a couple of years of review by an audit tool review committee. The committee's goal was to clean up and clarify the audit questions, and make the audit document easier to use for auditors. The updated draft was approved by Alberta Human Resources Employment during the summer, and the formatting was completed during the fall. We created the audit tool in Excel, so that if auditors choose to complete it on their computer the program will perform the math operations for them.

There is still a bit of tweaking to do - some of the supporting documents can not currently be completed on the computer (they have to be printed and completed by hand). We are working out those bugs, and once that is done, we will mail all auditors a CD containing a copy of the new audit tool, as well as the 2005 CoR Policies and Procedures Manual. In addition to having a look at this new audit tool, we ask that you also review the updated Policies and Procedures Manual. Some of the Partnerships and auditing rules have changed since 2004, and as auditors it is your responsibility to know about these rule changes.

The **AMHSA AUDIT TOOL - 2005** must be used for all audits starting in January 2006. This year if you have not yet started your audit, you have the option of using this new audit tool, or sticking with the older version (dated 2004). We welcome your feedback - let us know how the new audit tool works for you: clarity of the questions and ability to answer them; and using the Excel document. Give your comments in writing to Rose Ann at [roseann@amhsa.net](mailto:roseann@amhsa.net). We will consolidate your comments and make updates as appropriate.