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NOTICE & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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“The Public Interest”
Health/Safety and Environmental Issues
the PASMA way to shared knowledge
Public Agency Safety Management Association
October 31, 2013

Walk the Talk
Meeting Reminder &
Membership Drive
Bring a Friend!

Join us! The next meeting is: Thursday, November 14, 2013

**REGULAR LOCATION NOTE BELOW**
The Public Agency Safety Management Association invites you to attend our next meeting. Topics will focus on issues that affect the environment, health and safety professionals in the public sector.

Walk the Talk
Meeting Reminder &
Membership Drive
Bring a Friend!
NEWS RELEASE
P.O. Box 420603 · San Francisco, CA · 94142-0603 · www.dir.ca.gov
News Release No.: 13-53 Date: October 11, 2013

Cal/OSHA Issues Notice of Proposed Emergency Regulatory Action for Process Safety Management (PSM) Program Assessment

Oakland—The Department of Industrial Relations’ Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) is proposing to adopt emergency regulations to implement a methodology for determining and collecting an annual assessment to fund Cal/OSHA’s Process Safety Management Program.

The emergency regulations propose to adopt Article 12.5 of Subchapter 2, of Title 8, California Code of regulations, sections 344.76, 344.77, and 344.79. Government Code section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), the adopting agency provide a notice of the proposed emergency action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulations action with the agency. After submission of the proposed emergency regulations to the Office of Administrative Law, OAL shall allow interested persons five calendar days to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations as set forth in Government Code section 11349.6. Upon filing, OAL will have 10 calendar days within which to review and make a decision on the proposed emergency rule. If approved, OAL will file the regulations with the Secretary of State, and the emergency regulations will become effective for one hundred and eighty (180) days. Within the 180-day effective period, Cal/OSHA will proceed with a regular rulemaking action, including a public comment period. The emergency regulations will remain in effect during this rulemaking action. The proposed regulatory language, finding of emergency regulations and text of proposed regulations are posted on Cal/OSHA’s website.

News Release No.: 13-56 Date: October 31, 2013

Cal/OSHA Reminds Employers of Risks of Valley Fever, Urges Employers to Take Preventative Measures

Oakland—Cal/OSHA reminds employers of the risks of Coccidioidomycosis (also known as Valley Fever), a potentially serious illness caused by the inhalation of fungal spores. These spores are present in the soils in the Central Valley and many other areas in California. A Valley Fever informational page has been posted with resources for workers and employers.

In California, Valley Fever is caused by a microscopic fungus known as Coccidioides which lives in the top two to 12 inches of soil. When soil is disturbed by activities such as digging, grading, driving, or when high winds circulate dusts, fungal spores can become airborne and potentially be inhaled by workers. A recent publication reports an average annual increase of 13% in the incidence of reported Valley Fever cases in California. While the fungus is consistently present in the soil of many undeveloped areas, highly endemic counties are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare. The number of new Valley Fever cases reported in California has increased dramatically in the last few years, according to the California Department of Public Health. Employers have a legal responsibility to report to Cal/OSHA any serious injury or illness, or death, of an employee occurring in a place of employment or in connection with any employment. Tips for reducing the risk of Valley Fever exposure include:

• Determine if a worksite is in an area where fungal spores are likely to be present.
• Adopt site plans and work practices that minimize the disturbance of soil and maximize ground cover.
• Use water, appropriate soil stabilizers, and/or re-vegetation to reduce airborne dust.
• Limit workers’ exposure to outdoor dust in disease-endemic areas.
• When exposure to dust is unavoidable, provide approved respiratory protection to filter particles.
• Train supervisors and workers in how to recognize symptoms of Valley Fever and minimize exposure.
New from the Fed/OSHA Website.

Need to find an equivalent and less toxic material?? Please visit the links below.

Remember the ladder of controls to known hazards in THIS ORDER OF PRIORITY!

1. Removal of the Hazard
2. Control through Engineering
3. Administrative Controls
4. Personal Protective Equipment

THIS WEBSITE SHOULD HELP WITH YOUR DECISION MATRIX.
…AND FROM WORKSAFE BC THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF THEIR EXCELLENT SAFETY AND HEALTH INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS…. PLEASE ALSO INVESTIGATE THEIR “PAD” FRIENDLY INTERACTIVE E-BOOKS…VISIT and ENJOY!!!

Safety Home Page
http://www2.worksafebc.com/Safety/Home.asp

Worksafe BC “Forklift Safety Clip” –
http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=35419

http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=36001

Worksafe BC “Hazard vs Risk” Concept Training

RISK = HAZARD × EXPOSURE