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President's Message ... from the desk of Tracey MacDonald

I hope all members have been able to enjoy their summer and fall this year. It's now time to kick off the flip flops and slip back into our work gear! The Executive is working hard on organizing various educational and social events, as well as, tackling the strategic rocks set for this year.

First, the Alberta AIHA is sponsoring an educational session at the 11th Annual Alberta HSE Conference in Edmonton, titled Shifting patterns of employment in Alberta: are we exposing mothers and their babies to risk? This session will discuss the outcome of a recent study conducted at the University of Alberta. It sounds really interesting and very relevant to our profession. I hope many of you will be able to check it out! Thanks to Diane Radnoff for putting this session together.

Your Local Section will be having an evening social to coincide with the Alberta HSE Conference in November in Edmonton. We will keep you posted on the where and when once it is scheduled. I hope many members can attend; it is a great networking opportunity!

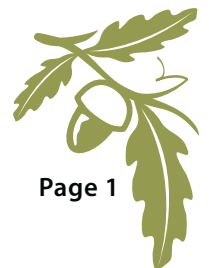
Alberta AIHA will have a booth at the trade fair during the Alberta HSE Conference. We will be unveiling a new display this year so stop by and let us know what you think. The old display board was dated and difficult to erect so the executive decided to replace it. I would like to thank Corinne Paul for her hard work on getting the new display organized in time for the conference. Look for her request for volunteers to man it – another networking opportunity!

The second educational opportunity is the PDC on Industrial Ventilation at the end of November in Calgary; check out the details in this newsletter and on our website (<http://www.aiha-ab.com/>). Thanks to Michelle Kutz for organizing the PDC.

One of the strategic rocks for the Executive this year was to investigate the possibility of having industrial hygiene regulated as a profession here in Alberta. Please read my article in this newsletter for further details.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Local Section Executive.

Tracey MacDonald



In This Issue

President's Message	Page 1
Calendar of Events	Page 2
From the Editor's Quill	Page 2
Alberta OEL Review	Page 3
Training Opportunities	Page 3
Membership Message	Page 6
Professional Registration	Page 7



Calendar of Events

October 27 - 31

AIHA Fall Conference, San Antonio, TX

November 19 - 21

Alberta H&S Conference and Trade Fair, Edmonton

November 20

AB AIHA Fall Social, Edmonton

November 28

Professional Development Course, Calgary

May 18 - 23

AIHce 2013, Montreal



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From the Editor's Quill:

You have heard it before, one of the biggest challenges facing industrial hygiene today is finding ways to sustain the future of the profession.

Our membership has a wealth of experience and connections.

Have you considered mentoring or know of a new IH that would appreciate the wisdom of a seasoned professional?

The time commitment can be as little as 1 hr/month.

Current technology allows you connect remotely.

Yet another way to earn CM points.

Contact me for further information on the AIHA Mentoring Program.

~ Angela Bianco
newsletter@aiha-ab.com

Occupational Exposure Limit Review

For the past 3 months I have participated in a committee reviewing the Alberta occupational exposure limits (AB OELs). Representing the AIHA Local Section, I have had the opportunity to comment on a wide variety of chemicals – mostly associated with ability to measure the chemical at a level which would demonstrate compliance with the OEL.

There have been a number of stimulating technical conversations, but by far the most controversial item is ... size-selective occupational limits.

ACGIH has made it clear that they feel size-selective threshold limit values (TLVs) are the way of the future. If we base our legislated OELs on the TLVs, then we must address this issue.

How do you feel about size-selective sampling? Do you understand the differences between a 'total' sample and an 'inhalable' sample?



Plan to attend the AB-AIHA Spring Symposium if you are unsure about this issue or want to explore it in more detail.

As for how the committee will frame their recommendation to the Alberta government regarding the OELs; that remains to be determined. Stay tuned.

Moira



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**2012
AB AIHA
FALL PDC**

INDUSTRIAL VENTILATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING

**November 28, 2012
Executive Royal Inn, Calgary**

Watch your emails for the brochure and register online.

<http://www.aiha-ab.com>

If you have photos of worksite systems to contribute, contact Michelle Kutx @ education@aiha-ab.com

What's Your Poison?

Which of these common meadow flowers is poisonous?

- Violet
- Clover
- Daisy
- Buttercup

Where was the first poisonous bird, the pitohui, encountered?

- Australia
- New Guinea
- Galapagos
- Colombia

1997 Darwin Award was given to Wayne Roth for which act of stupidity?

- Going to the bar after being bitten by his friend's cobra.
- Preparing and eating a meal of puffer fish himself.
- Drinking 1G of foxglove before running a marathon.
- Making brownies with death cap mushrooms rather than magic ones.

The term for fear of poisoning is?

- Sitophobia
- Kenophobia
- Iophobia
- Poinophobia

2012

ALBERTA AIHA

FALL SOCIAL

November 20
5:00 pm

Riverside Bistro
Marriott
Courtyard
Downtown

1 Thornton Court,
99 Street
&
Jasper Ave
Edmonton

Appetizers
on the
Alberta
Local Section



11th Annual Alberta Health & Safety Conference and Trade Fair

SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE
Edmonton, Alberta
November 19 to 21, 2012

Register Here:

www.hsconference.com/Conference-Registration.html



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AB H&S Conference Session 304 - Submitted by AB-AIHA
Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields (EMF-RF) and Protective Measures
Speaker: Dr . Abderrachid Zitouni, PhD., Environmental Health Services/BCCDC

Radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are part of non-ionizing radiation, i.e. they do not carry sufficient energy to extract electrons from atoms. The radiofrequency waves are generated and detected/measured by special antennas.

The frequency range of RF waves extends from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. Radiofrequency devices are extensively used for domestic, medical, research, and industrial purposes. The exposure levels due to different devices vary in terms of frequency, power output, type of modulation, distance from the antenna, etc...

This presentation includes the following parts:

- Fundamentals of electromagnetic waves: generation and detection, physical characteristics, propagation, RF quantities and units...
- Review of the different RF devices and their characteristics.
- Comparison of the exposure levels from different devices.
- Canadian and international safety guidelines: Health Canada Safety Code 6, ICNIRP* guidelines.
- Comparison of exposure limits from different countries.
- Protective measures to limit exposure to radiofrequency waves

AB H&S Conference Session 208 - Hosted by AB-AIHA
Shifting patterns of employment in Alberta:
are we exposing mothers and their babies to risk?
Speaker: Jeremy Beach, University of Alberta

In Alberta, a shortage of skilled trades-people has resulted in increasing numbers of women undertaking apprenticeships in non-traditional trades. At the request of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) technical committee on Safely in Welding we are undertaking a study to compare the outcome of pregnancy in female welders and a referent group of female electricians and to see whether pregnancy outcomes, or the incidence of occupationally related symptoms, are related to job exposures or ergonomic demands.

Following pilot work to develop and validate exposure questionnaires, the WHAT-ME study (Women's Health in Apprenticeship Trades – Metal workers and Electricians) began recruiting tradeswomen in Alberta in January 2011. All women known to have been in apprenticeship training in the selected trades in the last 5 years were approached through Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training and asked to return a consent form. Those wishing to take part completed a baseline form on line or by telephone interview and a follow-up form every 6 months. Those who became pregnant returned a urine sample by mail to assess metal exposures: they also completed three pregnancy questionnaires (at 3 months, six months and post delivery).

In the first wave of recruiting, 250 women from Alberta completed the baseline questionnaire, 144 metal workers (welders, boiler makers or pipefitters) and 106 electricians. Welders and electricians had the same mean age (32 years) and BMI (26): welders were somewhat less likely to complete high school (80%) than electricians (88%). Half the women had had at least one pregnancy by the time of the baseline questionnaire, with 8.3% of welders but only 2.3% of electricians reporting that they had at some point sought medical help for infertility. Since completing the baseline survey 33 women had reported at least one pregnancy. Urine samples from these women, collected in early pregnancy, indicated a slightly higher proportion of samples in welders (44%) than electricians (38%) with one or more metals with concentrations above the laboratory norms. Among occupationally related symptoms only low back pain differed between the trades, being reported more frequently by electricians (36.2%) than welders (24.3%).

Membership Director's Update

By Molly Chen

By Molly Chen

The membership of the AIHA Alberta Section currently has 242 full members and 5 retirees for a total of 247 members. We have had 11 new members in 2012; welcome!

2012 membership dues are now overdue. You can pay your dues by cheque, mailed to me, or online at <http://www.aiha-ab.com/membership.php>. The cost for the 2012 AIHA Alberta Local Section membership renewal is \$42.80. We are currently at 60% paid for 2012.

As always, I'm looking for ideas on how to bolster our numbers. If you have any creative thoughts on this please forward them to me at the e-mail address below.

I'm happy to announce that everyone is currently present and accounted for. If you move or change jobs, please ensure that you forward your up-to-date contact information to me as soon as possible at membership@aiha-ab.com. The information is for AIHA use only for our newsletters, e-mail distributions as well as the annual Membership Directory.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall.

Molly



FREE WEBINAR **The New ANSI/AIHA Z10-2012:** **Building An Effective Health and Safety Management System**

This 2-part series will cover all the key changes made to from 2005, and provide real life practical guidance on implementing a safety management system.

(Part 1) Wednesday, October 23
(Part 2) Thursday, October 24

2:00 - 4:30 p.m. EDT

Credits (per webinar):
2.5 CM Credit Hours; 2.5 Contact Hours; 0.5 COC/CEUs

Attend it live or find it in our Subscription Archives next month.

Looking For Answers?

Buttercup/New Guinea/Snake Bite/Iophobia

CAREX Canada is a national surveillance project that estimates the number of Canadians exposed to substances associated with cancer in workplace and community environments.

These estimates provide significant support for targeting exposure reduction strategies and cancer prevention programs.

For more information, go to

<http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/about/>

Or attend any of 3 upcoming webinars on the CAREX Canada project; an overview presentation on October 25th, and guided tours of our environmental estimates on November 8th and occupational estimates on November 22nd.

<http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/training/>

TO REGISTER OR NOT – THAT IS THE QUESTION

Earlier this year, the Executive received a request to consider having our profession registered under the Alberta Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act. The concern involved the quality of exposure assessments currently being done in the Province by persons not qualified in the field of Industrial Hygiene.

I met with Wayne Williams and Adrian Pritchard from Professions and Occupations (P&O) within Employment and Immigration to determine the process and requirements to register Industrial Hygiene as a profession and warned that the process is particularly long and onerous. They provided a draft document that outlines the process to register a profession. Below is a summary of this document.

Stages of an Investigation of an Application for Registration

Stage 1:

- This stage determines if the association serves to protect the public against incompetence and fraud that could affect the health, welfare, safety or property of the public and whether it is in the public's interest that the association be registered.
- The association must undertake stakeholder consultation of profession organizations, employers, government departments and agencies, and educational institutions that have an interest in the profession under investigation.
- The association must consult with the public by advertising its application in 6 local newspapers.
- P&O prepares a report summarizing stakeholder positions and comments.
- The Registrar reviews the report and determines whether a recommendation should be made to the Minister to register the profession or not.
- If registration is supported, the report is forwarded to Cabinet Policy Committee (CPC). If CPC supports registration, the support is documented as support in principle and the second stage of the investigation commences.

Stage 2:

- The association prepares, with assistance from P&O, a proposed regulation identifying the standards for registration education, scope of practice, code of ethics, etc.
- The proposed regulation is provided to Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice for review and drafting.
- The association then undertakes a second stakeholder consultation to obtain feedback on the draft regulation.
- Membership approval of the draft regulation must also be obtained.
- P&O then prepares a final report.

Stage 3:

- P&O prepares a final report summarizing stakeholder positions, with the draft regulations, and sends it to the Minister.
- If registration is supported, the report is forwarded to the CPC. If CPC supports registration, the proposed regulation is forwarded to the Cabinet for its consideration.

This process was recently discussed among the current executive and it was agreed not to undertake the process of registering the profession at this time. It was felt that the process would be too much of a burden for a volunteer committee with limited resources. Registration as a profession in Alberta will be revisited at our Annual General Meeting in the spring and the membership will be encouraged to provide input.