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President's Message ... from the desk of Moira Botham

Ahhh, 2012 - the beginning of a new year is always a good time for reflection... and perhaps some more thought on our struggle to gain support and respect for the field of occupational hygiene.

Why is it that while we show support for our safety colleagues and often assist with their more complex challenges, they often call us 'nerds', 'techies', or 'out of touch with the field'. You know what I mean - you've heard it all before. But why?

Perhaps it's time for us to be a little more fractious. When a safety colleague boasts that injury frequencies are decreasing on the worksite, we could remark:

"Well, I suppose that the victory of preventing a few twisted ankles or maybe even a fatality is a bit hollow when you consider that 1 in 100* of your workers will die or be disabled in the next 10 - 20 years from cancer or disease caused by working at your site."

Or perhaps we could support environmental campaigns to reduce metals in drinking water with a poster campaign. Maybe with a cartoon of a worker welding a pipe in the middle of a cloud of fumes. The caption?

"I support lowering metal levels in water - I prefer to get my metals straight from the pipe!"

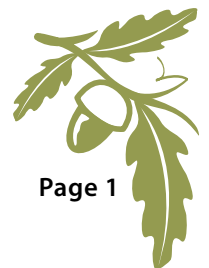
Okay, we all know that trash talking isn't the way to go, but it sure does warm the imagination on a cold February morning!

Seriously, as hygienists must cope with swimming upstream here. In a society that judges everything by immediacy, we look towards the future, trying to change things now that will pay off in better worker health years down the road. It's a tough sell. It may not get us a lot of respect, but it's important, and it's our job.

Have a healthy and happy 2012...and keep looking after the future. It's a tough sell, but a vital one.

** totally made up statistic - what we do know is that there are more fatalities from 'recognized' occupational diseases than occupational injuries or motor vehicle incidents...and as more diseases are connected with their occupational origins (e.g., firefighters' cancers) occupational disease fatality statistics will only increase.*

Cheers, Moira



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Calendar of Events 2011 - 2012

March 8	Professional Development Conference, LeDuc
March 9	Alberta AIHA Annual General Meeting, LeDuc
March 30	BC Yukon AIHA IH Conference & AGM, Burnaby
June 16 - 21	AIHce 2012, Indianapolis, IN
October 24 - 26	Alberta H&S Conference and Trade Fair, Calgary



Award of Recognition

In recognition of members who have contributed to advancing occupational hygiene profession and/or the AB Local Section, we are accepting nominations for the 2012 Award of Recognition (AOR).

Please submit your AOR nomination in writing to Michelle Kutz by March 1, 2012.



From the Editor's Quill:

The Executive has great news; to further enhance the educational offering to our members we have purchased an eLearning subscription from AIHA National.

This eLearning Subscription provides significant savings on 2012 webinars and waives ALL testing fees for Local Section members. Specifically, there will be at least 7 TeleWeb Virtual Seminars and Archives and 6 Virtual Book Clubs and Archives.

We expect Calgary to be competing with Edmonton to hold these webinars, so check out the listings and tell us what you want and where!

~ Angela Bianco

The Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) and Golder Associates

The OHTA offers an internationally recognised industrial hygiene (IH) training program. The program is recognised by the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) and by its various member organizations. There are eight different five-day training modules – upon completing any of the modules and passing the exam, participants will receive an internationally recognized certificate that can be used to build competence in industrial hygiene. All 5-day courses will receive "Industrial Hygiene Education Credits" of up to 40 IH education credit hours. These credits can be used when applying for the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) examination. Candidates who are already CIH's will receive "CIH Certification maintenance points" up to 5.85 for each 5-day course from ABIH.

As an OHTA approved training provider, Golder offers some of the most comprehensive IH training available globally. Our workshops are characterised by discussion of practical IH issues encountered by environmental health and safety professionals in everyday life; and real life scenarios reflect presenters' experience on literally hundreds of field projects. We were recently awarded the 2011 Environmental Business Journal Award for Industry Leadership for training over 300 industrial hygiene (IH) professionals worldwide in just two years to accommodate the global demand for industrial health expertise.

Golder will be offering OHTA Module W-501: Measurement of Hazardous Substances (including Risk Assessment) in Calgary, Alberta September 24 to September 28, 2012. To register please contact Thea West: Thea_West@golder.com /403-532-5772.

For further information contact Dave Ayriss: Dave_Ayriss@golder.com /403-260-2281 or Michelle Kutz: Michelle_Kutz@golder.com /403-304-7870.



2012 AB AIHA PDC AND SYMPOSIUM

RISK AND CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS: METHODS AND MESSAGES

March 8 and 9, 2012

See brochure attached and register online.


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



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REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM HEALTH MONTH

November falls nine months past Valentine's Day and has been reported as having one of the highest birth rates of all 12 months. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it is important that we understand how to protect our reproductive systems. The reproductive system consists of the major organs both externally and internally that work together with the purpose of reproduction. These organs are highly susceptible to both damage and disease, and it is important to educate yourself on how chemicals in your work can affect your reproductive organs and your family.

Harmful substances can enter a workers body through inhalation, contact with skin and ingestion. Employers must educate their employees on the reproductive hazards in the workplace and how to prevent exposure. By reviewing MSDSs, workers can gain a better understanding of the hazard and how to prevent exposure.

How Women's Health and Pregnancy are Compromised: Infertility, miscarriage, birth defects, low birth weight, menstrual cycle changes, childhood cancers, developmental disorder, and premature delivery

How Men's Reproductive Health is Compromised: Stopping or slowing of sperm production, reshaping of sperm cells, infection of egg and unborn child, loss of sex drive, inability to achieve erections, and damaged sperm DNA

How Families can be Compromised: Workplace substance that affect workers can also harm their families; workers can bring harmful substances into the home that can affect both children and adults. Substances can be transmitted through skin, hair, clothes, shoes, work equipment, etc. and can effect family members, especially young children.

For more detailed information, read the following NIOSH literature:
The Effects of Workplace Hazards on Female Reproductive Health
The Effects of Workplace Hazards on Male Reproductive Health

by Amy Woermke and Mike Phibbs CIH ROH of MSDS Binders

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AIHA-AB Executive Positions Open

**Many positions
within the execu-
tive are opening
up this spring.**

**Please consider
taking a role
on the board
at the
upcoming AGM.**

**These positions
are coming
vacant in 2012:**

- President Elect
- Public Relations Director
- Education Director
- Maintenance Points
- Membership Director
- Secretary

**Elections will be
conducted at the
AGM in LeDuc
on March 9.**

**Yet another
way to earn
CM points!**



Crystalline Silica Worker Exposure in Alberta

Drilled through three miles of solid rock, the Hawks Nest Tunnel was constructed between 1930 and 1932, but in less than two years after groundbreaking, workers succumbed to acute silicosis. As industrial hygienists, we're familiar with this silica exposure disaster and know that hundreds of workers died from crystalline silica exposure. The sad part is that records show that the bosses and planners were aware that the tunnel would be drilled through high grade silica-bearing sandstone and measures could have been established to prevent this man-made disaster.

Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, sand and rock and can be found in many minerals. Quartz is the most common form of crystalline silica. Long-term or heavy short-term exposures to crystalline silica can result in silicosis. Silicosis is marked by shortness of breath and impaired lung function which may give rise to complications that can result in death. The development and the severity of silicosis depends on the airborne concentration of silica dust to which a worker is exposed and the duration of exposure. Occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica may also cause lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has concluded that crystalline silica is carcinogenic to humans and has classified quartz and cristobalite as Group 1 carcinogens.

In 2010 and 2011 an evaluation of worker exposure to crystalline silica at 26 work sites in Alberta was completed. During the survey, two hundred and twenty two (222) air samples were analyzed for quartz and cristobalite silica.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- evaluate worker exposure to crystalline silica at construction operations in Alberta;
- assess effectiveness of controls in place to protect workers;
- determine if the sensitivity of the air monitoring methodology used was adequate to measure crystalline silica exposure for work shifts longer than 8 hours;
- determine if crystalline silica in the ambient environment contributes to worker exposure in the workplace; and
- evaluate if silica substitutes used in abrasive blasting contain crystalline silica.

The information from the exposure monitoring project indicated that there were issues with compliance, material safety data sheet hazard communication, exposure control methods, hazard awareness, and medical monitoring. More work is required to evaluate potential barriers to compliance, and develop tools to assist employers and workers in establishing a crystalline silica exposure control plan for their worksite.

**Michelle Kutz, CIH, ROH
Golder Associates**

Membership Director's Update

By Jodi Howick

The membership of the AIHA Alberta Section is currently 234 plus 5 retired for a total of 239 members.

The deadline for 2012 membership dues is March 31, 2012 . You can pay by cheque, mailed to me, or online at <http://www.aiha-ab.com/membership.php>. The 2012 AIHA Alberta Local Section Membership Renewal is \$42.80.

Last year, only 70% of our members had paid their dues by the end of Deember. Due to the large number of members that had not, I was unable to send out a directory in the summer. If you would like a directory, let me know and I'll send one in the mail. You may recall we did a membership list purge a number of years ago - removing members that had not paid for two years; we will have to do this again in order to ensure that our records remain current. Please ensure that you pay your membership as soon as possible - we do not want to lose active members! As always, I am looking for ideas on how to bolster our numbers. If you have any 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 new contact information to me at membership@aiha-ab.com. The information is used only for our newsletters, e-mail distributions as well as the annual Membership Directory.

I hope you are enjoying your start to 2012.

Jodi

What's Your Poison?

This famous musician/composer was rumoured to have died of poisoning by a musical rival.

- Strauss
- Mozart
- Chopin
- Vivaldi

This famous psychologist died of cancer -- likely the result of smoking more than 20 cigars a day.

- Jung
- Maslow
- Pavlov
- Freud

Surma, a product widely used by Indian women, contains 26-83% lead. For what is Surma commonly used?

- Flavouring
- Plumbing Repairs
- Tired Eyes
- PMS

The Salem Witch Trials have been attributed to this chemical produced by a certain fungus.

- *Stachybotrys chartarum*
- *Claviceps purpurea*
- *Hypericum perforatum*
- *Piper methysticum*

AIHA Live TeleWebs

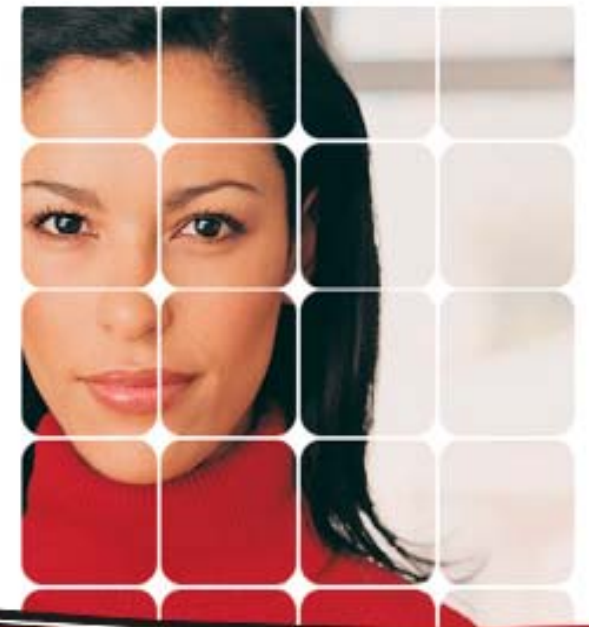
Risk Assessment
Approach to
Nanomaterials
April 3, 2012

Global
Chemical
Regulatory
Shifts - Are We
Leading,
Following or
Remaining
the Same?
April 12, 2012

For more details
on upcoming
TeleWebs and
archives visit
www.aiha.org/
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Université de Montréal Nouvelles du Québec Québec News

Montreal, QC – On November 2, 2010, the Environmental and Occupational Health Department of the Faculty of Medicine of Université de Montréal launched its new Graduate Studies Programme, « M.Sc. in Environmental and Occupational Health - Occupational Hygiene » (free translation). During this event, representatives from the CSST (Quebec Workers' Compensation Board), the IRSST (Quebec's Occupational Health and Safety Research Institute), the INSPQ (Quebec's Institute for Public Health) and the Montreal Public Health Agency, as well as professors, teaching assistants and other stakeholders have participated at the Launch Ceremony of this programme. A visit of occupational hygiene laboratories followed the meeting.

The Department Head, André Dufresne, indicated at the beginning of his presentation that the new occupational hygiene programme is based on the requirements of both CRBOH and ABIH. Luc Hamelin, ROH, from CRBOH was present. For further programme information (in French): <http://www.dsest.umontreal.ca/index.html>

What's new on your Certification Points (CM)?

Effective November 28, 2011, the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) has discontinued all CM point request reviews for Category 4 Education events beginning in 2012. In the past, the AIHA Alberta Local Section requested an evaluation of the CM points and a corresponding ABIH reference number for each of their educational sessions. ABIH now requires that you to calculate your own CM points based on the ABIH guidance and your participation hours.

AIHA Alberta CM points are published on the local web page including the CM points from CRBOH and Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP). In 2012 we will no longer provide ABIH CM points. As in previous years, you need to keep a close tab of the technical courses and hours you attend plus proof of attendance for those with CIH designations. Visit the web site to calculate your CM points, <http://www.abih.org/members/cat4.html#PtCalc>.

At this time, the current method to calculate CM points is as follows. This may or may not change as ABIH transitions to the new system.

Courses: 0.167 CM point for each hour of technical content, minimum of 1 hour

Conferences: 0.5 point for each 3 hours of technical content

Point types of IH, IH Ethics, Safety, and Management are assigned based on the subject matter (see <http://www.abih.org/general/cmpointrequest.html#definitions>)

In 2012, ABIH will provide additional details to manage the transition, e.g., CM worksheet updates, point calculation tools, and new guidance documents.

As for the CRBOH and CRSP CM point process, there are no changes yet, but we will let you know if there are.

Please contact your AIHA Local Executive members if you have any questions and keep promoting our profession.

Cheers.....
Restita Espiritu
Maintenance Point Contact

Looking For Answers?

Mozart/Freud/Tired Eyes/ Claviceps purpurea

Did I mention, we are always looking for newsletter content?

This space is for your state-of-the-profession commentary, short article describing OH challenges, pdc review, advertisement or photographs.



2012 AIHA Alberta Local Section Presents:

MARCH 8, 2012 1-DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Risk and Crisis Communications: Methods and Messages

The functional responsibilities of SH&E professionals have expanded over the years and they are more frequently being called upon to assist with the development of messages that help communicate risks to the audiences of their organizations as well as assist with communications during a crisis event. In order to add value to their organizations, SH&E professionals will benefit from acquiring an understanding of risk and crisis communications. This 1-day seminar provides a solid foundation for understanding the process of risk and crisis communications, its applications and practice. Instructed by Pamela (Ferrante) Walaski, CSP, CHMM, President of JC Safety & Environmental, Inc., located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

MARCH 9, 2012 1-DAY SYMPOSIUM AND AIHA – ALBERTA LOCAL SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHAT STINKS? Odour perception, Impact Assessment and Odour Sampling

Instructed by Mr. Thierry Page, CEO Odotech

HOW DO WE TAKE OUR WORKERS OUT OF HARM'S WAY?

Instructed by Marilee Jardin and Joe Richard, Quadra Industrial

COMMUNITY EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT AND AIR QUALITY TRENDS IN WOOD BUFFALO REGION

Instructed by Dr. Warren Kincziarski, Associate Professor, University of Alberta

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT UPDATE - SILICA

Instructed by Diane Radloff, Senior Occupational Hygienist Alberta Human Services

Edmonton, Alberta
March 8th and 9th, 2012

Symposium/AGM Attendees will have the opportunity to win a number of great prizes*.

*Winner must be in attendance during draw in order to receive prize.



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MARCH 8, 2012 1-DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

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DAY 1 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Thursday March 8, 2012 (8:00 – 5:00) – Registration/Breakfast (7:30 – 8:00 am)

Risk and Crisis Communications: Methods and Messages

ABOUT THE COURSE

Risk and crisis communications is the process of communicating information by a public or private organization to an audience; whether they are internal such as its workforce and vendors or external, such as community members and the public at large. The process and the messages require that some level of knowledge be imparted to audiences on how the risk of certain activities will impact them, both positively and negatively. The risk communication process is designed to be a consensus sharing process that involves audiences as partners with a stake in the outcomes. Crisis communications are designed to occur when hazardous situations are already occurring, are about to occur, or being planned for as part of an overall emergency response preparedness process.

This 1-day seminar will provide attendees with an intensive understanding of the fundamental theories and practice of risk and crisis communications and will demonstrate how the acquisition of this skill will help them add value to their organizations. This workshop will feature lectures, group discussions, case studies and hands-on activities that will help attendees understand the foundations of risk and crisis communications; develop a plan for their organization; learn how to craft messages for various situations through the use of various tools like Message Maps; and avoid common pitfalls with both message content and delivery. Case studies of recent events including the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the H1N1 Pandemic of 2009-2010 will be used to demonstrate the application of concepts.

Major Seminar Topics

- History and Definitions of Risk and Crisis Communication
- Risk and Crisis Communication Fundamentals and Theoretical Foundations
- Developing a Crisis Communications Plan
- Crafting and Delivering Risk and Crisis Messages
- Common Mistakes in Message Development and Delivery
- Working with the Media
- Special Risk and Crisis Communication Situations
- Case Studies

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Ms. Pamela Walaski

Pamela (Ferrante) Walaski, CSP, CHMM is the President of JC Safety & Environmental, Inc., located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Ms. Walaski is a frequent speaker and seminar presenter on the topic of risk and crisis communications. Ms. Walaski's book entitled *Risk and Crisis Communications: Methods and Messages* was published by John Wiley & Sons August 2011. Her article *Risk and Crisis Communications: Essential Skills for Today's SH&E Professional* was awarded second place by the Editorial Board for the ASSE Professional Paper Award for 2010. She is also a Section Coordinator for Emergency Response for the upcoming 2nd edition of *The Safety Professionals Handbook*, originally published by ASSE in June 2008 and writes frequently for such publications as *Professional Safety* (ASSE), *The Synergist* (AIHA) and *EH&S Today*. Ms. Walaski is a member of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Safety Sciences Advisory Board and is a safety consultant to Bangor Media.

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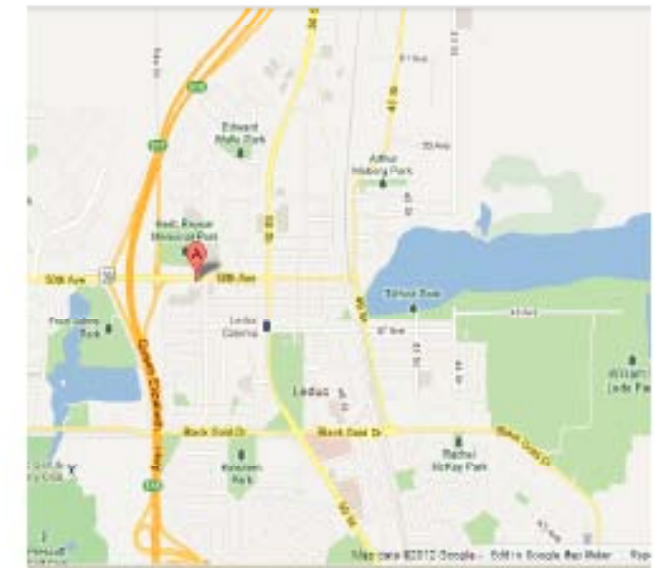
FACILITY AND HOTEL INFORMATION

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<http://bestwesternalberta.com/hotels/best-western-plus-denham-inn-and-suites>

The hotel is offering a discounted room rate of \$129.99-\$134.99 for conference attendees. Please refer to Alberta AIHA conference when booking. Please call the hotel directly.
Free Airport Shuttle Service Available



Food (breakfast, lunch and snacks) and beverages (coffee, tea, juice, pop) are included in the registration fee.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Name:		Title:	
Organization:			
Address:			
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

Check applicable boxes.

PDC (Thursday March 8, 2012)	Symposium and AGM (Friday March 9, 2012)	Attend Both Days (Discounted Rate)
Local Section Member (\$ 175.00)	Local Section Member (\$ 125.00)	Local Section Member (\$ 250.00)
Non-member (\$ 200.00)	Non-member (\$ 150.00)	Non-member (\$ 300.00)
Student (\$150.00)	Student (\$100.00)	Student (\$200.00)

If paying by Cheque: Send Completed
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to:

AIHA – Alberta Section
C/O Tracey MacDonald, Shell Canada
PO Box 100 Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2H5
Tel. (403) 691-2137
E-mail: tracey.macdonald@shell.com

To Register and Pay On-line visit <http://www.aiha-ab.com/>
You will be charged an additional processing fee of 5% for online payments.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 27, 2012

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS – SEE YOU THERE!