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*P*residents Message – from the desk of Yvonne Gazzard

It's hard to believe our next annual general meeting is just a few months away and the planning for our Spring PDC and Symposium is well underway. It's also time to start thinking about nominations for both our Annual Award of Recognition and next year's executive member roles. Refer to other articles in this newsletter for information on both of these items and please get involved.

Your current executive has been hard at work during the past year. Here's what we've been busy with in 2013:

- Regarding our finances, we're happy to report the purchase of a GIC in October of this year in the amount of \$25,000. An external review of our books is planned for early 2014.
- A new AIHA banner was purchased and we now have two to display at booths and other events. Those at the recent PDC in November may have taken note of them. To promote our organization, AIHA giveaways helped to attract people to our booth at the October Alberta H&S conference.
- The Fall social event, held in Calgary to coincide with the Alberta H&S conference, was quite well-attended, giving our members an opportunity to catch-up, network, and socialize.
- Executive Member Roles were reviewed and updated, along with our calendar of tasks, to help keep us on track throughout the year.
- A committee has been struck to review our bylaws – stay tuned to hear more at our annual general meeting.
- Privacy was raised as a topic of concern at the last general meeting, and while not added to our goals for the year, we have committed to a privacy review for the organization and will update on the progress of this at our annual meeting.
- Our December PDC [Engineering controls to Minimize Fugitive Dusts] was well-attended and received positive reviews. There is another great lineup of speakers planned for our 2014 Spring PDC/ Symposium – watch for the brochure to be released soon!

Many thanks to all of our executive members - they have consistently assisted each other with the many tasks required throughout the year to provide our membership educational opportunities, provide governance of our local organization, and to generally keep people informed and interested in IH.

Also, welcome to the new members of our local. It's great to see enthusiastic newcomers to the organization and to the profession. For those of you who have been around for a while, I encourage you to seek out those new faces and say hello!

Wishing you all a Healthy and Happy 2014, and hoping to see you at our next event.

~Yvonne

In This Issue



President's Message	Page 1
Risky Business; Part 2 ~ Ryan Campbell	Page 2
Calendar of Events	Page 3
Award of Recognition Announcement	Page 3
From the Editor	Page 3
2014 Elections Announcement	Page 4
Meet the Board of Directors	Page 4
2014 E-Learning Subscription	Page 5
Membership Update	Page 5
Save the Date – PDC & Symposium Announcement ~ Michelle and Dave	Page 6
ROHT - A Recognized Hallmark of Professional Credibility ~ Nasrin Dahnani	Page 7

Risky Business: Bias in Decision Making and the Implications for Occupational Health and Safety

Continued from last issue

~Ryan Campbell, B.Sc., CRSP

The core tenet of loss aversion is that losses are felt more profoundly than gains; losing \$20 feels worse than winning \$20 feels good. If losses overshadow gains and we make a decision to avoid a sure loss through a gamble on a potential loss with higher consequences, it becomes important for workers to consciously and unequivocally re-frame decisions in terms that present the safe decision as providing a sure gain rather than a loss.

To that end, in modern behaviour-based health and safety systems workers are encouraged to “stop, think, act” in the belief that better, safer, decisions will result. This is undoubtedly true; however, this behaviour is to some extent predicated on the “think” being logical and unbiased. Decision making involves assigning expected values to different outcomes and evaluating their probabilities of occurrence; weights are assigned based on our evaluation of the probability (subjective or explicit) of that outcome and can be thought of as adding or subtracting momentum to how likely we are to choose a particular course of action. How we determine these decision weights has been researched and we systematically overweight low probabilities and underweight moderate and high probabilities². In incidents where workers have shown a high degree of risk tolerance, systematic underweighting of moderate and high probabilities may be a better explainer of the workers decision than overconfidence or task familiarity. Further, these labels assume a wilful disregard for probabilities that may not be appropriate given the bias noted above.

Even in a mature safety system where workers actively stop, think, and act, underweighting at moderate and high levels of probability (the probabilities associated with cuts, slips, trips and falls) is expected to lead to a base incident level that never reaches zero. This bias leads to two potential points of interception. First, educate the worker on the biases inherent in our decision making in order that they question the weights they assign to the probabilities involved in the choice. Second, plunge deeper into the psychology of choice and structure the mental work environment to encourage risk averse choices.

Loss aversion and non-rational weighting are inherent cognitive biases brought from our past to collide with the modern work context. A more consilient approach to occupational health and safety through an understanding of the psychological determinates of decision making is necessary in the pursuit of zero incidents.

² Tversky, A and D. Kahneman: “The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice”, Science; 211 (1981), 453.



Calendar of Events

February 1

Application deadline for 2014 ROH & ROHT exams

February 24

AIHA – AB Section Nominations Due

March 13 – 14

AIHA Alberta Section PDC & Symposium – Leduc, AB

March 29

CRBOH exams

May 4 – 10

NAOSH Week 2014
Make Safety a Habit



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- Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologist (ROHT™)

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Award of Recognition

In recognition of members who have contributed to advancing the occupational hygiene profession and/or the AB Local Section, we are accepting nominations for the 2014 Award of Recognition (AOR).

Please submit your AOR nomination in writing to Lana Appelt at secretary@aiha-ab.com by February 24, 2014.

Go to www.aiha-ab.com to obtain a nomination form or use attached.

From the Editor

Thank you to the members who have submitted entries to boost your newsletter.

I encourage all to submit articles, photos, announcements and any other interesting bits, please send to:

newsletter@aiha-ab.com

~Ina

Meet the Board of Directors



Michelle Kutz

AIHA-AB Executive Positions Open

Consider taking a role on the board at the upcoming AGM.

These positions are coming vacant in 2014:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Education Director
- Membership Director
- Certification Points Manager

Elections will be conducted at the AGM in Edmonton on March 14.

Send nominations to Lana Appelt at secretary@aiha-ab.com by February 24, 2014

Yet another way to earn CM points!



AIHA Role & Term	Education Director – 2 years (2012 – 2014)
Company & background	Occupational Disease Prevention, Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development Branch.

I am both an American Board Certified Industrial Hygienist and a Canadian Board Registered Occupational Hygienist with over 17 years of experience in the Occupational Hygiene field. My educational background includes a Bachelor of General Studies degree in General Arts and Science from the University of Athabasca and a diploma in Occupational Hygiene from Mount Royal University. I've provided occupational hygiene and safety services to industrial, commercial, educational, health, and government throughout Alberta, including the Oil Sands Industry. In my current position with the Alberta Government I am responsible for championing the creation and implementation of province-wide strategies to continuously improve occupational health to prevent illness in Alberta's workers.

Personal touch	Love to travel with my family to places where we can snorkel and scuba dive. I also enjoy spending time with my dogs & parrot and all sorts of fitness
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AIHA Objective for this year	To bring worthwhile professional development to our membership.
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2014 e-Learning Subscription

Similar to 2013, the 2014 package will include ten webinars. However, in 2014 we will be including the Virtual Fall Conference in the subscription package. The Virtual Fall Conference offers a multi-track session broadcast and the ability to interact with the presenters and other virtual participants via a chat feature. As always, if you are not able to participate live, the webinars and the Virtual Fall Conference will be recorded and made available online. As an Alberta Local member, you will have access to webinar archives (handout materials, and evaluations). If you are seeking CM credit for a webinar, you must complete the evaluation and submit. The processing fee has been waived for members. Within 2 – 3 weeks of completing the evaluation, you will receive email notification of your updated Education Transcript. The deadline for submitting evaluations is February 2015. If you have any questions, please contact DLAssistant@aiha.org.



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Membership Director's Update

By Molly Chen

The membership of the AIHA Alberta Section is currently 243. We have had 18 new members in 2013; welcome!

2014 membership fees are now due. You can pay your dues by cheque, mailed to me, or online at <http://www.aiha-ab.com/membership.php>. If you pay online the cost for the 2014 AIHA Alberta Local Section Membership Renewal is \$40.00 plus a 7% processing fee for a total of \$42.80. If you already paid the membership fee for AIHA AB section in the last quarter of 2013, your payment was considered as the 2014 membership fee.

As always, I'm looking for ideas on how to bolster our numbers so 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 winter season.

~Molly

SAVE THE DATE

March 13, 2014
Spring PDC – Leduc, AB

Classification of Chemicals according to the United Nations (UN) Global Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

One-day overview of Health Canada's planned revision of Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) legislation to adopt the UN Global Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Find out how GHS classification differs from our existing WHMIS criteria and how updates to WHMIS will change how chemical products are classified for workplace chemical hazard communication purposes. For those who author material safety data sheets, those who advise on chemical health and safety in workplaces, those in product safety, stewardship or regulatory affairs.

Spend a day with Diane Radnoff, P.Eng., M.Eng., CIH with Alberta OHS Policy and Program Development Branch and Margaret Hogarth, MHSoc., CIH, ROH with Trican Well Service and come away with a better understanding of how WHMIS in Canada will change and how those changes will impact chemical hazard communication in our workplaces.

~ Michelle Kutz

March 14, 2014
Spring Symposium and AGM
Leduc, AB

We have an exciting program lined up for our Spring Symposium/AGM. At this time the final agenda is still being confirmed. The symposium and AGM are great opportunities to network, catch up with colleagues and get the latest technical information on topics of interest to us as practicing occupational hygiene professionals. We look forward to seeing you there.

~ Dave Jarrell

Stay-tuned...PDC & Symposium details will be provided in a Brochure with Registration information under a separate email



**CANADIAN REGISTRATION BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS
CONSEIL CANADIEN D'AGRÉMENT DES HYGIÉNISTES DU TRAVAIL**

REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE TECHNOLOGIST (ROHT)

A Recognized Hallmark of Professional Credibility – from Nasrin Dahnani

Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologists (ROHTs) are individuals who have achieved a voluntary professional certification from the Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygiene (CRBOH). CRBOH is a national, not-for-profit organization which sets standards of professional competency for both occupational hygienists and occupational hygiene technologists. Anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of workplace hazards are the prime goals in the occupational/industrial hygiene field.

In order to attain the ROHT designation, candidates must have a combination of a minimum level of education, coupled with hygiene-specific work experience, in order to be eligible to write the examination. The examination focuses on the practical and technical aspects of recognition, evaluation and control of hazards in the workplace, including exposure assessment. Furthermore, ROHTs must maintain their registration through continuous professional development in the hygiene field. On a 5-year cycle, ROHTs must undertake and document their professional development, which includes attendance at scientific meetings and conferences, participation on technical/professional committees and completing courses and other educational activities.

As a matter of due diligence, it is even more important today, that employers hire competent and appropriately qualified individuals to undertake hygiene work. Employers can be assured that an ROHT has achieved the minimum competency standards required by the national accreditation body. The ROHT is recognized as the hallmark of professional credibility in the hygiene field, throughout Canada.

If you would like to learn more on how to become a ROHT, please visit the CRBOH website at www.crboh.ca.

**Benefits of Hiring a
Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologist (ROHT)**

Trained in the proficient use of sampling equipment:

- Performs pre and post calibrations
- Able to perform standard repairs of equipment
- Has sound knowledge of current equipment and trends
- Has access to a network of hygiene, health and safety professionals
- Able to easily converse with analytical laboratories and equipment rental companies about current analytical methods and equipment

Qualified Field Technologist:

- Efficiently and properly sets up sampling trains/media and equipment
- Observes/assesses worker tasks and activities for exposures
- Has good communication skills with a broad range of workplace parties
- Uses workers' knowledge of process to identify issues or solutions

Works Closely with Other Health and Safety Professionals:

- Provides technical assistance to Registered Occupational Hygienists (ROHs) or Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs)
- Conducts field work, allowing ROHs or CIHs who may oversee them to work on a broader range of projects
- Able to work independently

Provides cost effective delivery of occupational hygiene services:

- Assists in the cost-effective delivery of occupational hygiene services
- Offers a broad range of capabilities including field work preparation, field work activities, laboratory sample preparation, and draft report preparation

Advantages to Consulting Firms:

- Provides technical assistance in all phases of contracted work
- Researches hygiene projects and assists with preparing quotes
- Coordinates the required equipment for field work
- Conducts infield testing and documents field observations and process
- Prepares and submits samples to laboratory
- Reviews results and prepares or drafts report
- Ensures that work is being conducted by knowledgeable and qualified personnel
- Cost efficiencies through a lower charge out rate than ROHs
- Provides ROHs more time to properly and effectively manage more projects or larger projects which would result in increased profitability