



Special points of interest:

- Medgar Evers Audit Kickoff October 10, 2005
- EHSO Council Meeting October 17, 2005 @ New York City College of Technology (NYCCT)
- NE Chapter Auditing Roundtable Meeting Oct. 21, 2005 @ EDR Headquarters, Milford CT
- NY CER Meeting October 24, 2005 @ Rockefeller University
- SEHSA Fall Conference, November 14-17, 2005 in Corning NY

Inside this issue:

EPA Audits	1
Halloween Safety Tips	2
Water Cooler Jugs	2
CUNY Partners with DOE	3
Meeting Updates	3
Accident Prevention	4

CUNY EHS News

Welcome to the first CUNY EHS Newsletter !!!

Dear Colleagues,
We are glad to introduce to you
The first edition of CUNY EHS News!
We hope that you will find our newsletter informative
as well as exciting.

EPA Audits

By Michael Spath

We have passed the half-way point of our audit agreement with the EPA this spring, ten campuses have been audited, and nine are left. So far, the EPA has waived over \$3,000,000 of fines against the audited campuses. The last two audits went very well with Lehman College having 7 reportable findings, and Brooklyn College had 11. We have broken into the single digits. The next audit will be a Hostos Community College starting on October 31st, then Medgar Evers on November 14th.

One of the main reasons the campuses were able to have so few findings was the pre-audit preparation



both colleges undertook. Both colleges had major cleanouts of their chemical stocks, unused electronics, and spent fluorescent bulbs, as well as a major cleaning of all their facilities. The amount of time and energy the EH&S, buildings & grounds, arts, and science departments put in incredible.

A lesson learned from this round of audits is that is it never too early

to start preparations for your audit. This not only avoids massive last minute running around, it also gives your campus community more of a sense that these practices are not just for the audit, but are now a part of the way things are done at CUNY. It is great to see campuses that are due to be audited until next year starting their preparations now.

Please remember, and remind all those who need it, that the final audit report is not like a diploma, you have it now you are done; it is more like a map that shows you where you need to go for the future.



Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children.

Halloween Safety Tips

By Liudmila Liubcina

Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Halloween. Some tips to make Halloween safe include:

Children:

1. Choose a costume made of flame retardant material.
2. Masks should fit securely and allow you to see well and not hinder visibility.
3. Shoes should fit (even if

they don't go with your costume)

4. Carry a flashlight.
5. Throw out anything that appears tampered with, home-made foods, or home-packaged foods unless you are certain of the source.
6. Stay with an adult, and stay in a group.
7. Only visit houses with a porch light.
8. Never go anywhere with a stranger.
9. Do not enter someone's home when trick or treating. The door is far enough.

10. Walk, don't run.

11. Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
12. Obey traffic signals.
13. Wear a watch you can read in the dark.

Parents:

1. Make your child eat dinner before setting out.
2. Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
3. You should know where they're going.

Water Cooler Jugs: a lifting problem!

By Kurt Klein

Water coolers in the workplace have become commonplace. A gallon of water weighs about 8 pounds so a 5-Gallon water bottle (typical bottle size) will weigh approximately 40 pounds. Lifting 40 pounds above waist height is bad enough but add the 40 pounds to the fact the bottle is awkward to lift and you have a potentially hazardous situation!

Improper lifting technique can lead to back, leg and arm pain. Learning the right way to lift will help you avoid these problems.

For proper lifting follow these steps:

Plan ahead before lifting.

Knowing what you're doing and where you're going will prevent you from making awkward movements while holding something heavy. Clear a path, and if lifting

something with another person, make sure both of you agree on the plan.

Lift close to your body.

You will be a stronger, and more stable lifter if the object is held close to your body rather than at the end of your reach. Make sure you have a firm hold on the object you are lifting, and keep it balanced close to your body.

Feet shoulder width apart.

A solid base of support is important while lifting. Holding your feet too close together will be unstable, too far apart will hinder movement. Keep the feet about shoulder width apart and take short steps.

Bend your knees and keep your back straight.

Practice the lifting motion before you lift the object, and think about your motion before you lift. Focus on keeping your spine straight—raise and lower to the ground

by bending your knees.

Tighten your stomach muscles.

Tightening your abdominal muscles will hold your back in a good lifting position and will help prevent excessive force on the spine.



INCORRECT!



CORRECT!

CUNY Partners with DOE to Install Solar Energy in New York

By Wilson Rickerson

This spring, the City University of New York was designated as the New York City partner for the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs Program (MSR). The goal of the program is to facilitate the installation of solar energy systems on one million buildings across the nation by 2010. The technologies targeted by the program include solar panels, which convert light directly into electricity, and solar thermal systems, which capture solar radiation for heating.

Solar energy has many advantages over coal and natural gas power plants. First of all, solar energy can be quickly and easily installed in urban areas to reduce the risk of blackouts during

times of high demand. Secondly, solar energy can decrease the environmental and health impacts of energy use by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. According to a recent study, New York power plant emissions contribute to 1,200 deaths and 23,000 cases of asthma in the state each year. They also release 65 million tons of carbon dioxide, the primary gas contributing to climate change. As an emissions-free source of onsite power, solar energy reduces these environmental impacts and improves energy security.

As the Million Solar Roofs Partner, CUNY is well positioned to promote solar energy development within the city. In addition to being one of the city's larger en-

ergy users, CUNY is a government agency, an academic research institution, and an active participant in New York's communities. CUNY will be able to draw on both its relationships and its in-house expertise to create opportunities for solar energy. The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) at Bronx Community College will coordinate the MSR efforts on CUNY's behalf. CSE has begun work on a range of research, outreach, and education efforts designed to identify barriers to solar energy in New York and develop strategies to overcome them. CSE will be hosting a series of MSR-related meetings and workshops this summer.



EHS Meeting Updates

By Karen Belin

The September meeting of the Environmental Health and Safety Council was held at the College of Staten Island (CSI) on September 8, 2005 from 12 pm to 2 pm. Hosted by, Thomas Briggs of CSI, the meeting featured an informative presentation on Nanotechnology from guest speaker, William, Perry, Director of the *Office of Chemical Hazards at the Occupational Health and Safety Association (OSHA)*.

The next EHSO Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2005, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the New York City Col-

lege of Technology.

The August meeting of NYCER was held at the headquarters of The City University of New York (CUNY) on August 9, 2005. Howard Apsan, University Director of Environmental Health and Safety for CUNY hosted the meeting, which featured a special presentation on the EPA colleges and university audit initiative from guest speaker, Kathy Callahan, Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Kathy, joined by her associates, John Gorman, Chief of the EPA Compliance Assistance section, Judy-Ann Mitchell,

of the Environmental Planning and Protection Division, and Dore LaPosta, Director of Enforcement Compliance and Assistance, were extremely helpful in addressing questions from NYCER members.

The upcoming NYCER luncheon meeting will be held on October 24, 2005 at Rockefeller University, from 12:00 am to 2:00 pm.



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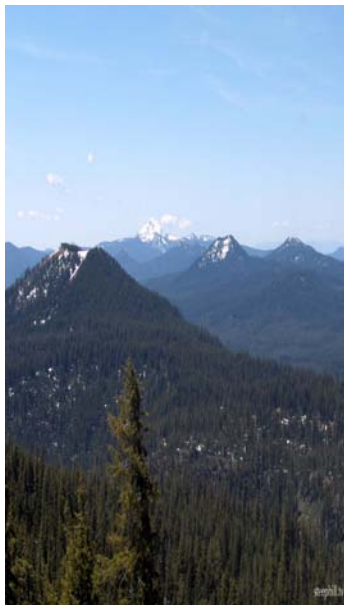
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Making a safe and healthy environment for academic success

Accident Prevention

By Thomas E. Briggs Jr.

Accident prevention is a critical task and an invaluable tool for a CUNY Environmental Health and Safety Officer.

As budgets decline, the fight to receive funding for CUNY health and safety programs most of which, exist solely to avoid regulatory fines, while others result from humanitarian efforts, will become more difficult.

Occupational Safety programs should be approached as a means to an end. The goal is not merely to comply with OSHA/PESH regulations or to reduce the number of employee incidents, but rather, it is to reduce the cost of workplace incidents. A prevention program can provide considerable monetary savings, thus increasing the funds and priority given to other health and safety programs.

Two ways to reduce incident costs are suppression and prevention. Suppression is accomplished at two levels, the place of employment and the claims management level. In many cases, there is a strong disincentive for employees to report workplace incidents. Anecdotaly, this is due to the assumption that employees perceive what may in fact be substantial supervisory neglect or retaliation. At the claims management level, suppression is equivalent to denial of the claim. Many employees may not pursue a denied claim because they are either unaware of their right to, or are apprehensive

in pursuing a claim against their employer.

Accident prevention is accomplished by identifying the commonality between the type of incident and the occupational field, thus applying resources to resolve the accident's root causes. For instance, if it is found that slips and falls among administrative employees in a particular location occur at a statistically significant rate, it may be possible to initiate operation controls through training, or physical controls through capitol expenditure, reducing or eliminating the likelihood of these incidents.

Accident prevention programs at private industries compliment the work of claims managers. Using as a guide, accident reports from previous years, the safety professional analyzes the nature of each incident and predicts in detail where the majority of future incidents will occur.

In addition to insurance data, two forms, the New York State Department of Labor Illness and Injury Log (OSHA 300 for private industries,) and the New York State Employers Report of Work-Related Accident/ Occupational Disease (C-2 Form,) can be used for accident analysis. The Illness and Injury Log, an annual report of campus accidents exceeding first aid treatment, contains information on the employee's occupation, nature of the incident, and lost workdays for the year. The C-2 Form provides detailed information regarding the locations and nature of injury for individ-

ual incidents.

Although each has its limitations, both the Illness and Injury log and the C-2 Form can be used to conduct accident analysis. The Illness and Injury Log should not be used to calculate the total number of incidents on campus because it contains suppressed data that will not include "near miss" incidents which are relevant. The C-2 Form however, accurately identifies the total number of incidents categorizing them by root cause of injury.

An administratively supported response plan must be developed and implemented to address these issues. Training and oversight, a requirement among laborers, requires both minimal monetary support and significant supervisory consensus. Without college administration support and funding, supervisors will not comply with guidelines.

Therefore, administration must be made aware of campus accident costs and the benefits of prevention. Costs of accidents are two-fold, the direct cost, covered by the City of New York and CUNY, also known as insured cost, is medical expenses paid under the worker's compensation law and are recorded in the Human Resources Department of CUNY and/or the City of New York.

Besides trending and training, accident prevention involves investigations, identifying why and where accidents happen, supervisory meetings, and other outside activity.