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CONNECTION

“Solid Solutions Seeking Sustainability”

Accidents hurt,



Safety doesn't.

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Response to Events Impacting the Local Community By: Frank Parker

Courts are consistently holding companies responsible for the damages caused to residents and others in the local communities injured by emissions from a plant due to fires, explosions, process upsets, etc. Our review of these cases over many years indicates that consistently one major area of the court's criticism is the lack of adequate plant responses that assures the protection of the local community. First, every plant needs a plan to deal with such a crisis. The plan needs to be based on worst case scenarios and any plan that exists only on paper and is not exercised regularly will be the first casualty in any emergency. Many plans are based on someone responding to an event by driving into the community and using a direct reading instrument to tell the command center whether or not to call a shelter in place for example. If that is your plan it is bound to fail. You will never get in front of the problem; you will always be playing catchup. It is much better to immediately call a shelter in place, for

example, and immediately notify all predetermined government agencies, etc. that an emergency is in process. Then an air sampling program, or other relevant efforts, in the communities will provide a sound basis for reducing the protective requirements and provide a way to reasonably exit the emergency situation.

The U.S. Department of Labor Announces New Respirable Silica Dust Regulations

<http://www.industrialhygienenews.com/cgi-bin/Article/IHN/Number.idc?Number=1548>

“In 1938 Frances Perkins, Labor Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor at the time, made an announcement identifying silica dust as a deadly and preventable hazard that employers had an obligation to protect their workers from...”

Even though Silica has been a known deadly hazard for 78 years, hundreds of workers continue to die while an added 7,300 more people are harmed by it every year.

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to learn more about partnering with Caliche, Ltd., to successfully complete any size project.

Thousands of lives are projected to be saved from silicosis disease as a result of the new changes the US Department of Labor has announced.

The ruling is two standards, one being for construction and the other being general industry and maritime. Standards for construction must comply by 23 June 2017. General industry and maritime have until 23 June 2018, so mark the dates on your calendars!

“The final rule will improve worker protection by:

Reducing the permissible exposure limit for crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an eight-hour shift (NIOSH had recommended this limit in 1971).

Requiring employers to use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) and work practices to limit worker exposure; provide respiratory protection when controls are not able to limit exposures to the permissible level; limit access to high exposure areas; train workers; and provide medical exams to highly exposed workers.

Providing greater certainty and ease of compliance to construction employers – including many small employers – by including a table of specified controls they can follow to be in compliance, without having to monitor exposures.

Staggering compliance dates to ensure employers have sufficient time to meet the requirements, e.g., extra time for the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) industry to install new engineering controls and for all general industry employers to offer medical surveillance to employees exposed between the PEL and 50 micrograms per cubic meter

and the action level of 25 micrograms per cubic meter.”

For more information, visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/silica/>



‘Let’s make Texas a less hazardous place to work’

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Khalil-and-Monforton-On-workers-Memorial-Day-7379472.php>

Workplace hazards are everywhere but with the help of job safety laws being passed, such as the OSHA Act, progress is evident. The safety of worker and people in general should always be the forefront of focus, especially for employers though regrettably it is not always. Tragedies such as those Alton “Brad” Bargsley and Shun Jones (see article referenced) endured “*could have and should have been prevented. But, in too many workplaces, hazards are not corrected, employers cut corners and workers lose their*

lives.” Daily, the average of workers in the United States who suffer a fatal injury is 13. “According to data released earlier [this] month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 4,821 workers died from traumatic injuries in 2014. Moreover, an estimated 50,000 individuals die annually from occupational illnesses, such as cancers and lung diseases caused by exposure to toxic chemicals and other health hazards.”

From statistics given by BLS we know that the overall fatality rate in Texas is 4.5 deaths per 100,000 while the nation as a whole is 3.4 deaths per 100,000. Construction, mining, and oil and gas industries stand out in the fatality rate.

“It is time for lawmakers and big business to put workers first and do more to ensure that working people do not have to worry about their lives and their limbs when they go to work every single day.”

OSHA's Reminder of Safety Against Heat Illnesses

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=32628

With the temperatures in Texas rising during these summer months, “OSHA offers a free

Heat Safety Tool – a downloadable app that calculates a worksite's heat index and displays a risk level to outdoor workers.

With a simple click, users can get reminders about protective measures that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness. The tool is available in English and Spanish.” Your health and the health of those around you is always important. Everyone needs to continually be aware of the hazards of working in the baking Texas heat and what to do in order to prevent possible illness. *“Protecting workers from rising temperatures is about more than their comfort...There are three simple words to remember that can mean the difference between life and death when temperatures soar...Water, Rest and Shade.”*

To prevent heat related illness and fatalities:
-Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty. -Rest in the shade to cool down. -Wear a hat and light-colored clothing. -Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency. -Keep an eye on fellow workers. -"Easy does it" on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.

For more information about OSHA's Campaign to Prevent Heat Illness in Outdoor Workers, visit www.osha.gov/heat

UPDATE

As you all know from Caliche Connection Volume 8, Issue 2, which came out in March of this year, we had a great opportunity to open another branch of our business in Corpus Christi, TX. I can happily report that we have had a great response to the opening of our second branch. Opportunities have been plentiful and we have been able to help a great many people stay safe at work and in their homes. We look forward to many years helping not only the people of this community, but the people of every community all across the United States and world.

See a hazard: REPORT IT