



September 2009

E-Newsletter

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RECORDS RETENTION

AMSHA member municipalities have been inquiring about how long they are required to keep their health and safety documents (inspection records, meeting minutes, etc.) on file. There are several places to check to see if they specify how long you must keep your documentation: municipal directives, and the municipal file retention policy. If these documents don't contain rules about how long to keep your safety-related documents, AMHSA recommends a minimum of three years, which is how long we keep municipal audits on file.

MUNICIPAL NEWS

Just a week after announcing \$8 million in infrastructure funding for the Bonnyville area, the federal government came through with another \$1.3 million, this time for the trades training lab at the Centennial Centre. The retrofit will include purchasing equipment such as electrical and threading machines, and installing trade stations and occupational health and safety stations. The Town and Municipal District of Bonnyville will pick up the tab for what is not covered by the federal contribution.

Source: *AAMDC Contact, Volume 2009 Issue 31*

SAFETY BULLETINS

Best Practices – Mould at the Work Site was published in July 2009 – see http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh019.pdf. It includes sections entitled:

- What is mould?
- Health Effects Associated with Mould Exposure to Mould
- Alberta OHS Code
- Assessment of Mould at the Work Site
- Management of Mould at the Work Site
- Best Practices
- Other Health and Safety Considerations
- Personal Protective Equipment

ALBERTA SKI RESORT PENALIZED FOR DEATH

Sunshine Village Corp. has been ordered to pay more than \$250,000 in fines and penalties in connection with the 2004 death of a ski hill worker.

Judge Manfred Delong handed down the sentence in Banff provincial court after he found the company guilty of failing to ensure the health and safety of its workers. Sunshine was found not guilty of three additional charges it faced under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The charges stemmed from an August 31, 2004 incident on the Mount Standish chair lift when 25-year-old life maintenance helper Karl Stunt sustained a head injury that led to his death six days later.

Source: *Calgary Herald, July 30, 2009*

ALBERTANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE

This fall, the Alberta government will offer a seasonal influenza vaccine free of charge to all Albertans six months and older. Immunization can be obtained through public health clinics and some physician offices and pharmacies beginning in October.

Clinic dates and locations are currently in the planning stages and Alberta Health Services will be announcing details in September.

Separate from the seasonal influenza vaccine, the province is also working on its plan to immunize Albertans against the H1N1 influenza virus sometime this fall. Details on that immunization program will be announced when available.

Source: *Your Alberta, August 2009*

2009 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

AMHSA is grateful to the nearly 95 members who completed and submitted their 2009 Membership Survey. We received great feedback about the services members appreciate the most, courses that would be useful, and suggestions for improvements to our products and services. The feedback received is used by the Association and its board in formulating objectives for the following year. This is done at the annual planning meeting in September. At that time, there will also be a draw of all municipalities who completed their surveys – winners will receive an AMHSA blanket and water bottle.



ASBESTOS

Recently when working with various municipal clients, JADA Solutions was informed of a procedure used by town shop workers to fix leaking waterlines; when a leak occurs, the workers cut through the pipes to fix them. These pipes are made from a substance called asbestos which, if undisturbed doesn't pose a threat, but as soon as it is disturbed and becomes airborne poses chronic health affects.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring silicate mineral with long, thin, fibrous crystals that causes illnesses such as asbestosis and mesothelioma. It is also a potent carcinogen that is a serious health hazard; cancers of the lung, esophagus, and colon are known to be caused from exposure to asbestos.



Diseases caused by asbestos have a long latency period, usually taking ten to forty years before showing any symptoms of the disease. Being exposed to small amounts for very short periods of time does not pose serious threats but is still a danger. Asbestos became increasingly popular among manufacturers and builders in the late 19th century because of its resistance to heat, electrical and chemical damage, sound absorption and tensile strength. When asbestos is used for its resistance to fire or heat, the fibers are often mixed with cement or woven into fabric or mats and used in materials such as drywall compound, and floor tile compound. To this day asbestos is still used in certain industrial settings but has been prohibited in Canada for residential and commercial usage.

Below you will find a list of materials that may contain asbestos.

- joint compound
- mud and texture coats
- vinyl floor tiles, sheeting, adhesives
- roofing tars, felts, siding, and shingles
- "transite" panels, siding, counter tops, and pipes
- fireproofing
- caulk
- gaskets
- brake pads and shoes
- clutch plates
- stage curtains
- fire blankets
- interior fire doors
- fireproof clothing for firefighters
- thermal pipe insulation
- head gaskets and gaskets for many engines



Under provincial regulations, systems and procedures have to be put in place when dealing with asbestos as well as removing it. The provincial OHS Act, Regulation and Code states that a Code of Practice is to be established which includes an inventory of areas consisting of asbestos, a monitoring program, and the roles and responsibilities of the company (municipality) have to be created and established.

Typically a code of practice is a lengthy document that is specific to the management of materials. The inventory would include any location that your municipality owns which contains asbestos. Within that inventory a monitoring system is to be set up to establish the concentration of asbestos contained within those areas. Rules and responsibilities are to be established and clearly defined for all parties. When it comes to removal of the contaminant, stricter regulations are to be followed at all times. Only trained workers within companies that are known as asbestos abatement crews are allowed to do asbestos removal. Due to the severity of the removal process industry courses are to be taken and certain procedures followed.

From what we understand, many municipalities in Alberta have transite pipe as their water lines and should take this information into consideration when attempting renovation or demolition of any structure. Part of JADA Solutions (HSE) Inc. deals with environmental and hygiene issues such as asbestos and we appreciate the opportunity to share this information with you. If you require any further information please contact Jason Dent at

jdent@jadasolutions.ca



JADA
Solutions (HSE) Inc.

Health, Safety & Environmental Services

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RURAL UTILITIES / MUNICIPAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

November 30 – December 3, 2009. Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer.

Pre-Conference Sessions:

- Disability Management – WCB (please note this course is required for AMHSA's Safety Advisor certification)
- Excel Spreadsheet Training for Operators – AWWOA



Session Topics:

1. Workplace Violence Prevention – WCB
2. Lab Testing – Water, wastewater, soil testing procedures – AGAT Laboratories
3. Employee Orientations – AMHSA
4. Ground Disturbance, Trenching, and Excavation Safety – AMHSA
5. Hazardous Materials Management Programs (asbestos, PCBs, mercury, etc.) – Jason Dent, JADA Solutions
6. Work Life Balance - "Who's the Boss: A Tool Box to Help you Control your Life" – Kendrith Bently
7. Loss Securement / Fleet Safety Audits – Alberta Transportation
8. Dealing with Substance Abuse in the Workplace: "Thinking Outside the Cup" – Alberta Health Services
9. What's New in the World of Fall Protection – Ray Cislo, AEI; and Rick Guenette, Gravisys Inc.
10. Safe Driving – Mel Mottram
11. Operator Retention and Sharing Program – Alberta Environment

For more information, contact Al Coker toll-free at 1-877-347-0324 or visit www.rusa.ca

ALBERTA HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE & TRADE FAIR

October 26 – 28, 2009. Calgary Stampede Round Up Centre, Calgary.

Sessions will include:

- Partnerships – "New Directions"
- Worker Competency
- Confined Redefined
- Communication Climate Change
- Innovative Training – Challenging Environments
- Evaluating Emergency Response Plans
- Human Error Management
- ... and more

For more information, visit www.hsconference.com



CSSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE: PREVENTION THROUGH GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

September 20 – 23, 2009. TELUS Convention Centre, Calgary.

Keynote speakers include Don Bell, one of the four founders of WestJet; Paul Sabatini and John Barnfield from Imperial Oil; Steve Clouthier, Mike Hall and Rodney MacGibbon of Hydro Ottawa; and Larry Pearson, performance enhancement consultant.

In addition to numerous health and safety sessions, CSSE is also offering seven of its professional development courses, including the new Leadership Development for the OHSE Professional Course.

For more information, visit www.csse.org/content/conference/index.asp



Upcoming AMHSA Courses – Please see www.amhsa.net for full course listings.

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	FEE
Auditor Recertification / Auditor Update	Oct 7	Cochrane	\$50/ \$70
	Oct 12	Strathcona County	
Defensive Driving	Sept 15	Sturgeon County	\$65 / \$90
	Sept 22	St. Albert	
	Sept 24	St. Albert	
Disability Management	Sept 24	Edmonton	\$0
	Sept 29	Ft. McMurray	
	Oct 1	Edmonton	
	Oct 8	Calgary	
	Oct 22	Edmonton	
	Oct 23	Lethbridge	
	Nov 4	Calgary	
Formal Workplace Inspections	Nov 4	Edmonton	\$40/ \$50
	Nov 24 p.m.	Wood Buffalo	
Health & Safety Management Systems	Oct 13-14	Coaldale	\$90 / \$145
	Nov 3-4	Sherwood Park	
Health & Safety Management Systems – Audit	Oct 15-16	Coaldale	\$90 / \$145
	Nov 5-6	Sherwood Park	
Health & Safety Management Systems – Small Employer	Oct 22	Hardisty	\$50 / \$70
Incident Investigation	Sept 23 p.m.	Fox Creek	\$40 / \$50
	Nov 25 a.m.	Wood Buffalo	
Joint Health & Safety Committees	Nov 25 p.m.	Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
Leadership for Safety Excellence	Oct 14	St. Albert	\$90 / \$145
	Oct 15	Strathcona County	
MSI Prevention (Office Environment)	Sept 23 a.m.	Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
MSI Prevention (Physically Demanding)	Sept 23 p.m.	Wood Buffalo	\$40 / \$50
OH&S Act, Regulation & Code Overview	Oct 5	APWA	\$40 / \$50
	Nov 26	Wood Buffalo	
	Nov 27	Wood Buffalo	
Prime Contractor	Oct 5	APWA	\$50 / \$70
	Nov 23	Wood Buffalo	
Supervisor's Role	Sept 23 a.m.	Fox Creek	\$40 / \$50
	Oct 5 p.m.	APWA	
	Nov 23 a.m.	Wood Buffalo	
Workplace Violence Prevention	Oct 14	Red Deer	\$85 / \$115

To register, contact Lorraine.

To schedule an onsite course, contact Susanne.

1-800-267-9764

or

(780) 417-3900