

# Compliance Headliner

## January and February, 2003 Prove to be Tragic Months

Only one day into February, 2003 and our country had already suffered the loss of hundreds of tragic fatalities and injuries. Although the loss of every human life is terrible, the causes of many of the deaths this year seem to cast an early and gloomy prediction of things to come...

Reports of the lost *Columbia* shuttle began spreading across the television and radio early Saturday morning of February 1, 2003. The fiery streak seen across the Texas skyline depicted an almost surreal image of an amazing human accomplishment that is also very much vulnerable to human consequences. Although most would agree that there are known and accepted risks associated with space travel, the shock and disappointment felt after such a catastrophe occurs can not be dulled by scientific explanations.

January accounted for some of the worst work-related disasters recorded in the southeast. We witnessed a North Carolina pharmaceutical plant explosion on January 29, 2003 that claimed the lives of four people and injured more than 35. It was reported that the cause of the massive explosion may have been ignitable dust in an area of the plant where rubber was mixed and formed into sheets ([www.wxii12.com/news](http://www.wxii12.com/news)).

In West Virginia, an explosion within a ventilation shaft of a mine on January 22, 2003 killed three workers and injured three others. The cause of the explosion was most likely an acetylene torch that workers were using in a 940-foot hole. The accident occurred 60 feet above the active coal seam, an area that is known to contain high levels of methane gas. These were the latest of a dozen accidents within the last two years involving the same contractor ([www.post-gazette.com/localnews](http://www.post-gazette.com/localnews)). Including these, fourteen deaths have been reported to the US Mine Safety and Health Administration as of February 4, 2003.

A Charlotte paramedic worker was injured on January 23, 2003 while responding to an accident on I-77 near Cornelius. The paramedic was struck by a tractor-trailer truck (<http://www.lsj.com/news/local>). The accidents occurred during the snow storm that surprised the region...it was later reported that the paramedic's lower extremities were severed.

Two construction workers in Ormond Beach, Florida suffered broken bones after falling approximately 7 feet while attempting to lower a concrete balcony on January 10, 2003 (The Daytona Beach News-Journal, [www.news-journalonline.com](http://www.news-journalonline.com)).

Two brothers were killed in Blythewood, SC on January 28, 2003 when a 2-foot X 8-foot trench collapsed during the construction of Blythewood High School. The workers were installing electrical conduit when the trench collapsed, causing dirt to engulf and trap them. It was later discovered that the brothers were only 15 and 16 years old, having used false (*Continue reading on page 3*)

### Inside this issue:

<b>What Do I Need to Know About Mold in My Workplace?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tragedies Stain the First Months of 2003...</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Protecting automotive body shop technicians from exposure to blood and other bodily fluids</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming Seminars Being Offered by Crandall</b> <i>DOT and OSHA Certification Courses</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>Isolated Wetlands No Longer Protected by Federal Regulations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Information Concerning UST Flexible Piping Requested by SCDHEC</b>	<b>4</b>

## What Do I Need to Know About Mold in My Workplace?

**Molds produce effects similar to hay fever or the common cold, but symptoms may also include tightness in the chest, wheezing, coughing, difficulty breathing, headache, muscle aches and fever.**

**What are molds?** Molds are microorganisms (fungi) that live on organic materials. They function as decomposers and are an essential component of our ecosystem. One of the main characteristics of molds is that they produce spores which can be transported in air.

**Where do I look for mold?** Molds are everywhere and we are exposed to them daily in the air we breathe. They are found in homes, automobiles, schools, offices, and in the outdoor environment. Mold growth is encouraged anywhere there is adequate moisture and organic materials.

**How do I know if I am being exposed to mold?** Everyone is exposed to mold every day of their lives. There are no environments that are completely free of molds. Most people will have no reaction to mold exposure. The people most likely to experience symptoms from exposure to mold are those who have health conditions that make them sensitive to molds or those with allergies to mold.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms may vary widely from individual to individual depending on the type of reaction experienced. Typically molds produce effects similar to hay fever or the common cold, but symptoms may also include tightness in the chest, wheezing, coughing, difficulty breathing, headache, muscle aches, and fever. Certain individuals who are allergic may also experience red itchy skin and/or rash.

**What do I do about mold in my workplace?** If you see mold, smell a musty smell, or if you are experiencing symptoms which may be due to mold, report it to your supervisor.



If there are obvious moisture problems they must be corrected before any type of mold remediation can begin.

### What can I do to reduce the potential for mold growth?

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/mold/moldfacts.htm>

1. Keep the humidity level in the building/area below 50%.
2. Use an air conditioner or a dehumidifier during humid months.
3. Be sure the building has adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans in kitchens and bathrooms.
4. Add mold inhibitors to paints before application.
5. Clean bathrooms with mold killing products.
6. Do not carpet bathrooms and basements.
7. Remove or replace previously soaked carpets, upholstery and ceiling tile.



It is often necessary to hire an experienced mold consultant to help determine the source and/or severity of your mold problem. There are many types of mold that may or may not be visible. Each mold type may present a different hazard and likewise, may require a different remediation technique.

The experienced staff at Crandall Corporation can provide you with these services. Crandall can thoroughly investigate mold and moisture problems, design appropriate remediation plans, and provide sampling reports and clearance documentation in a timely fashion.

If you have questions or concerns about your facility, please feel free to contact us at **800-248-4801**.

### Tragedies Stain the First Months of 2003...

information on their green card to meet US labor age requirements. (The State, Page A1, January 31, 2003). OSHA cited the construction company for not having a “competent person” in charge of trench design and protection devices. Apparently, some of the citations were considered *willful* violations because the company had been cited on related issues prior to the incident.

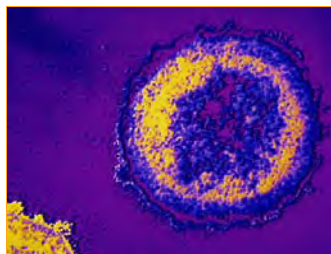
In Athens, Georgia on January 28, 2003 a 20-year-old man died on the way to the hospital after a piece of machinery crushed his chest in a lumber products’ manufacturing facility ([www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com)).

Many of these injuries and fatalities could have been prevented with proper management. Through the implementation of risk minimization policies, safe operating procedures, employee training, machine guarding and personal protective equipment, workplace hazards can be removed and injuries avoided.

### Protecting automotive body shop technicians from exposure to blood and other bodily fluids

Crandall has discussed this issue in previous Compliance Headliner articles, but would like to remind our automotive clients to review their company’s practices and policies related to inspection, damage estimation and repair of vehicles following a collision.

**Dried blood infected with Hepatitis B can enter another person’s bloodstream through an opening in the skin, caused by a puncture with a contaminated sharp object or through existing cuts and scrapes.**



All of these job duties may involve exposure to blood or other bodily fluids by the worker. OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens standard 1910.1030 requires the employer to evaluate the workplace and make a “determination of exposure”.

### Upcoming Training Seminars Being Offered by Crandall...

Per the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and recent national security efforts, the DOT and FAA are closely monitoring certifications for any entity who ships and/or receives hazardous materials, such as paints, air bags, seat belt pretensioners, solvents, commercial cleaners/disinfectants, batteries, hazardous waste, etc.... Make sure your Hazardous Materials Shipping and Receiving Certification is up to date (required every 3 years)! Crandall will be offering a Hazardous Materials Transportation certification course, along with a 10-hour OSHA Training Course for General Industry that is ideal for Safety Managers, Human Resources Managers and other personnel responsible for OSHA compliance. If you are interested in registering for one or both courses, please contact our Regulatory Compliance division at 800-248-4801, Ext. 213.

**A 15 and 16 -year old were killed when a trench collapsed during construction of Blythwood High School...the construction company allegedly did not have a “competent person” in charge of trench design and protection devices.**

### Isolated Wetlands No Longer Protected by Federal Regulations

A new definition of federally “protected waterways” issued by the Bush administration will exclude isolated wetlands. Isolated wetlands may include ponds, depressions, oxbos and other saturated soils that are not adjacent to a naturally fed water body. The Clean Water Act provides strict regulations preventing discharges into navigable waters without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. In the past, isolated wetlands were included in navigable waters because of their relationship with seasonal duck hunters. Many regulators, developers and land owners viewed this inclusion as a stretch of the intended meaning. Others feel the exclusion of isolated wetlands will promote the destruction of millions of acres of marshes and swamps. The State newspaper reported on January 7, 2003 that about 400,000 acres in SC are considered isolated wetlands. These wetlands provide a home for innumerable exotic plants, birds, fish, mammals and insects. They also serve many other purposes, beneficial to sustainable development. Wetlands have been shown to improve water quality by absorbing and filtering out pollutants and sediments in the water; Wetlands store floodwaters, acting like natural sponges and slowing down the force of flood and storm waters as they travel downstream (The Wetlands Initiative, <http://www.wetlands-initiative.org>, accessed February 4, 2003). And most would agree that the pure asthetics of an undeveloped cypress swamp is hard to surpass...



Adjacent wetlands are still jurisdictional through the definition of navigable waters... and SC regulators are attempting to minimize impact to isolated wetlands through enforcement of stormwater regulations.

**Crاندall**  
Integrated Compliance Management

800-248-4801  
803-791-4800

[www.crandallusa.com](http://www.crandallusa.com)

### Protecting automotive body shop technicians from exposure to blood and other bodily fluids (continued from page 3)

material during damage estimations and repair of the vehicle. So, are they covered under OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens standard? This must be determined and documented by each employer....

If an employee is considered to be at risk of exposure to blood or other bodily fluids, the employer must prepare a written Bloodborne Pathogens plan, provide training for each worker, provide exposure control equipment (such as gloves, goggles, sanitizer, absorbent material, etc.), provide the hepatitis B vaccination and provide a medical evaluation following an exposure incident. If you would like to learn more about this topic and its application to your company, contact your account manager or Crاندall’s Compliance Services department at 800-248-4801.

### Information Concerning UST Flexible Piping Requested by SCDHEC

The Bureau of Land and Waste Management, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program recently sent a letter to all registered tank owners requesting information about “situations that you know of where flexible piping required repair or replacement”. The agency is reportedly conducting research with several other states to evaluate the effectiveness of flexible underground piping and requests that comments be addressed to Dale Stoudemire, Robin Mack or John Kneece at 800-265-5435.

\* The Compliance Headliner is written, edited and designed by Crاندall Corporation. References used for developing the articles include a variety of private and public resources, including Crاندall personnel knowledge and relevant experience.