

Compliance Headliner

HAZWOPER Training

When is it necessary and how much is appropriate?

The term HAZWOPER is an acronym for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. While the EPA regulates hazardous waste generation, transportation and treatment/storage/disposal, OSHA is the agency responsible for compliance and enforcement of HAZWOPER training for employees who respond to releases.

Employers who generate hazardous waste must manage it in a manner that is consistent with the EPA's "cradle to grave" concept, where waste is tracked from its point of inception to its final destination. To minimize health and physical risks to workers (and the community), generators must also prepare a Contingency Plan to ensure prompt spill response. Training is a key element to the contingency plan and must be consistent with OSHA's HAZWOPER training requirements.

Depending on the quantity(s) of hazardous substances in the facility and the established role(s) of response, employees may require one of five levels of HAZWOPER training. It's important for companies to keep in mind that even if they do not generate hazardous waste, but store hazardous substances and/or have employees who handle certain chemicals, they must provide HAZWOPER training. *Continued on page 3...*

BIODIESEL Provides Cost-Efficient and Ecologically Sound Alternative for Transportation Fuel

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, biodiesel is produced by first filtering and preprocessing a fat or oil, such as soybean oil, to remove water and contaminants. The pretreated oil is then mixed with an alcohol and a catalyst, the oil molecules are broken apart and reformed into esters and glycerol, which is then separated and purified. (One Grower publishing, LLC).

On August 9, 2005; President Bush signed a new energy bill that The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) has been working toward for a cleaner burning biodiesel fuel. This bill is not only important in reducing the US dependence on foreign oil supplies, and good for the environment; but it also gives tax incentives to industries that use or recycle/blend oil for the use in Agri-biodiesel.

The new fuel source has the highest energy balance of any transportation fuel at an astonishing positive energy balance per unit of 320 percent. Meaning, for every unit of fossil fuel used in biodiesel production, 3.2 units of energy is gained when the fuel is burned. Also, it has reduced emissions and is nontoxic and biodegradable (USDOE & USDA, 1998).



A biodiesel advocate assisted in hurricane Katrina response efforts by fueling relief ships with 13,000 gallons of fuel made from soybeans, vegetable and animal fats.

Regulatory Updates and Other News...

OSHA is reviewing several standards to determine if revisions are necessary and appropriate for implementation, to include:

- OSHA may revise Subpart S, Electrical Standards to conform to the NFPA 70E Standard.
- OSHA may revise the Walking and Working Surfaces Standards, 29 CFR, Subpart D.

Passageways, exit routes and fire extinguishers...

- The maximum travel distance to an exit is 250 feet from any point inside a building.
- Type K fire extinguishers, consisting of potassium acetate, should be installed in commercial kitchens for control of fires fueled by cooking oils, animal fat and “healthier” cooling oils.
- OSHA requires permanently marked aisles in the workplace to designate: walkways, work zones, storage areas and material handling/traffic routes.

Electrical safety...

- Ground-fault circuit protection is required for all temporary electrical wiring used in construction, maintenance and repair.
- Repair and maintenance on cord-and-plug equipment must be under control of the employee performing the work by a) visual means, or b) application of an isolation device over the plug.



Damage to a college fraternity house, caused by an electrical fire.

Frequently cited standard violations...

- Machinery and Machine Guarding (29 CFR, Subpart O) violations have passed the Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR, 1910.1200) as the most frequent citation issued by OSHA.

OSHA Inspections...

- If involved in an OSHA inspection, consider the scope/intent of the inspection to:
 - 1) limit your exposure when conducting the facility walk-through with the officer;
 - 2) involve personnel who can provide immediate abatement for violations discovered.

Potential Health Risks from Contaminated Sediments in Louisiana...

The EPA issued a news release on September 16 that stated eighteen sediment samples from across the New Orleans area were analyzed for bacteria and chemicals. Preliminary results indicate that some sediment may be contaminated with bacteria and fuel oils. There are human health risks associated from contact with sediment deposited from receding flood waters. As sediments begin to dry, EPA will perform air sampling to monitor potential inhalation risks and will also assess long-term exposure scenarios (Source: <http://www.epa.gov/>).

EPA Proposes Burden Reduction Rule for the Toxics Release Inventory...

The proposal offers incentives to encourage reduced emissions and is expected to save thousands of reporting hours per year, while still ensuring full reporting on over 99 percent of toxic releases. The proposal also provides new incentives to facilities to emit less in order to be able to use the shorter form. The proposed rule is part of an on-going effort to streamline TRI reporting. EPA issued a final rule in July 2005 that revised the TRI reporting forms to eliminate information not used, and to make use of data already available in existing EPA information systems (Source: <http://www.epa.gov>. Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, 202-564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov).

Communities in South Carolina to Reduce Smog Ahead of Schedule...

The Appalachian (Greenville) and Central Midlands (Columbia) areas are among fourteen communities across the United States that are ahead of schedule in the effort to reduce ground-level ozone. The communities committed to meeting EPA's more stringent 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007, one to two years earlier than required by the Clean Air Act (Source: <http://www.epa.gov>).

Recent Workplace Accidents...

Could an employee safety training program prevent such incidents?

In recent months, we have been reminded how quickly and easily an accident can occur on the job.

- In March of 2005, a boiler explosion at a southeast Columbia Plant, took the life of one of its 2,600 workers. Some of the hazardous chemicals used at the plant may have been involved in the explosion. The State Department of Labor (SCOSHA) issued over \$11,000 in fines against the company for not having regular equipment inspections and a maintenance program. The company was also cited for not having employees trained in emergency response procedures and not utilizing a permit-required Confined Space Entry procedure. The fines have since been reduced for immediate action taken by the company to resolve each issue.
- In another March incident, in Hilton Head, SC, a construction worker was suffocated to death when an unsecured trench collapsed on top of him. OSHA is investigating the incident to determine if protection was provided for the worker in the trench.
- In January, 2005 a North Carolina worker was buried alive, when the walls of a 10 foot deep trench fell down around him.

(Sources: WIS News 19, Coble Trench Safety.com)

Crandall Corporation offers many OSHA, EPA and DOT related training courses, such as HAZWOPER, Confined Space Entry, Trenching and Excavations, Forklift/Powered Industrial Truck Operator Certification and many more... For more information, call 800-248-4801.

HAZWOPER Training

(Continued from page 1)

1. First Responder Awareness

To obtain the First Responder Awareness level, employees must have sufficient training (approximately 8 hours) to be able to:

- Understand facility hazardous materials and associated health/physical risks;
- Understand the potential outcomes from a hazmat emergency;
- Recognize hazardous materials and identify releases, when possible;
- Understand his/her role in response;
- Understand the emergency notification system;
- Understand and have access to the North American Emergency Response Guidebook.

2. First Responder Operations

To obtain the Operations level, employees must have at least 16-24 hours of training that will provide skills necessary to identify and contain an on-site hazardous material spill. However, operations level does not permit worker exposure to chemicals above OSHA's permissible exposure limit(s). Employees at this level must understand elements of Awareness Level training plus:

- Understand basic hazards and risk assessment techniques;
- Select and use facility-specific PPE and other equipment (Level B maximum);
- Understand basic hazardous materials terminology;
- Perform basic control, containment and/or confinement operations;
- Understand and implement basic decontamination procedures;
- Understand relevant standard operating procedures and facility emergency protocol.

Continued on page 4...

HAZWOPER Training

(Continued from page 3)

3. Hazmat Technician

To obtain the Hazmat Technician level, employees must have at least 40-48 hours of training for offensive tactics and aggressive response efforts to stop a hazardous material release. Employees at this level must understand elements of Operations Level training plus be able to:

- o Implement the facility emergency response plan;
- o Classify, identify, and verify known and unknown materials using instrumentation;
- o Select and use proper advanced PPE (Level A);
- o Understand risk and hazard assessment techniques;
- o Perform control, containment and/or confinement operations;
- o Understand termination and decontamination procedures;
- o Understand chemical and toxicology terminology and principles.

4. Hazmat Specialist

A Specialist must obtain Hazmat Technician level training and have at least 8 additional hours of training relating to the local/state emergency response plans, knowledge of specialized advanced monitoring/assessment instrumentation, determine and implement hazard assessment techniques, develop a site safety control plan, understand chemical, biological and nuclear principles and act as a liaison between the company and local emergency response teams/media.

5. Incident Commander

The Incident Commander assumes control of the hazardous material release and must have sufficient training to implement the facility emergency response plan and coordinate with local/state emergency response teams. The Incident Commander must obtain Hazmat Technician level training and have at least 8 additional hours of training.

To maintain status at any level, an employee must receive annual training of approximately 8 hours. This training can be a combination of classroom and practical, incorporating instructional and hands-on/field work. For more information regarding training topics, materials, proficiency evaluation, certificates and recordkeeping, refer to OSHA's HAZWOPER Training Curriculum Guidelines located in Title 29 CFR, 1910.120, Appendix E. **Crandall Corporation** can provide HAZWOPER training for your company's affected employees...just call us at 800-248-4801.

Will Consumers Pay the Price for a Cleaner Environment?

In response to increased fuel prices, security threats and concern for the environment, many car manufacturers are producing automobiles that run on alternate sources of energy, such as ethanol and hydrogen-powered fuel-cell cars. Of those manufacturer's, Ford has announced plans to step up development of "eco-friendly" vehicles.

But, will consumers pay the premium to own one? On average, hybrid cars get almost twice as many miles/gallon, but cost about 30% more than their gas/diesel counterparts. So, if a consumer purchases a hybrid vehicle that costs \$10,000 more than its petroleum-fueled cousin and travels around 15,000 miles per year, it would take more than eleven years to enjoy the gas savings. (Do Americans keep cars that long?) So, the question remains and may be answered by upcoming supply and demand trends in hybrid vehicles...is cleaner air really important to us?



Financial rewards are not the incentive for purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles.

Crandall
Integrated Compliance
Management

www.crandallusa.com
800-248-4801