

# ADOSH ADVOCATE



**Improving Workplace Safety and Health**

<http://www.ica.state.az.us>

Darin Perkins, Director

Winter 2001

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Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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## ADOSH Advisory Committee

Arizona Revised Statute 23-409 mandates that the Industrial Commission create an occupational safety and health advisory committee to "assist the Commission in drafting standards and regulations"...and "to perform other functions as may be necessary." This statute also mandates that the committee be composed of a "reasonably balanced representation of regulated industries, including agriculture, and labor..."

In response to this mandate, the Industrial Commission has appointed 11 safety and health professionals to serve on this committee. The committee has been meeting on a quarterly basis for the past 18 months. These 11 men and women come from a variety of backgrounds. Currently, the committee is made up of three management representatives, three labor representatives, two public employer representatives, one agriculture representative and two "at large" members who have no vested interest in any particular industry. An ADOSH representative (typically the Director) serves as an ex-officio member of the committee.

At the committee's September meeting, a list of committee responsibilities was prepared and accepted. These responsibilities include the following:

- Review occupational safety and health standards.
- Advise on the development of statewide education and training programs.
- Assist with the development of Arizona-specific standards.
- Serve as a "sounding board" for ADOSH initiatives.
- Serve as a communication link between ADOSH and employer and employee groups.
- Recommend qualified individuals to be considered by the Governor for appointment to the Review Board.

ADOSH has always encouraged employers and employees to contact us with questions, comments, and/or concerns and we continue to do so. However, some employers or employees may feel more comfortable speaking with a member of the committee about a particular concern or issue. Following is a list of the current committee members, their employer, the area they represent and a phone number where they can be reached.

### MEMBERS

**William Powell** (Chair)  
Salt River Project, Management  
602-236-8105

**Charles Alvarez** (Vice Chair)  
OTAC, At Large  
480-722-9332

**Stacia Johannsen**  
Motorola, Management  
480-441-4479

**Jim Kelley**  
Az. Carpentry Union Trust, Labor  
602-995-5935

**Dennis Teel**  
Operating Engineers, Labor  
602-254-5266

**Michael Colletto**  
Community Horizons, Labor  
602-265-7332

**Paul McKee**  
City of Scottsdale, Public  
480-312-5022

**Janet McLay**  
City of Tucson, Public  
520-791-4343 ext. 219

**Rupert Sandoval**  
Agriculture  
480-759-1258

**William Cavness**  
The Asbestos Institute, At Large  
602-864-6564

**John Testa**  
Pulice Construction, Management  
602-944-2241

- Darin Perkins, Director

## When To Train ?

Training is the most frequently cited standard in accident investigations conducted by OSHA. ADOSH is no different. Throughout the country there is evidence that training is lacking, in some way, in every accident. In OSHA terminology, an "accident" is defined as an event resulting in the loss of one or more lives or the hospitalization of three (3) or more employees.

In almost every case where training was cited by the investigator it was also found to be a contributing cause to the accident. Financial penalties have become significant for training violations. Employers have the responsibility to provide their employees a safe place to work, free from recognized hazards. The key word is *recognized*. If the employee does not realize there is a fall hazard under the steel plates he is walking on, then he may not recognize the danger associated with a missing plate. He may also not realize that the sides of the open floor hole created by the missing plate must be guarded or that he must be restrained from getting closer than 6' to the edge of the hole, or equipped with and trained to use fall protection equipment.

Earlier this year, an employee working near an aeration basin at a treatment facility was walking across the stainless steel plates that covered a basin below. One plate had been removed. This employee was in his fourth day of employment with the company and had not received any site-specific hazard awareness, safety, fall protection, or chemical hazard training. He had been given a sheet with some safety policies on it and he signed a form that said he had read the sheet. The employer planned to put this employee through the training during the next regularly scheduled training session. This was just too little, too late for this employee.

No one knows why, but the employee went to the side of the open hole and fell 23' to his death on the concrete floor of the basin. He suffered severe head trauma. He was in his early 40's and left a family behind. With some site-specific training and a pre-work safety orientation this accident could have been avoided.

This story is, unfortunately, not unique. Fatal accidents occur at a disturbingly frequent rate and most of them involve a failure to train an employee. The message is clear; **Train first, then train again, then refresh the training, then retrain.** Train employees before putting them on a work site. Also, never assume that prior employers have trained your new employees.

-Ernie Miller

### DID YOU KNOW?

*ADOSH has split its consultation department into two separate sections, Phoenix and Tucson. The Supervisor for the new Tucson section is Mark Norton. Henry Marquez remains the supervisor for the Phoenix section. The consultants are there to serve you. Please feel free to contact them!*

## Indoor Air Quality

On April 5, 1994 Federal OSHA published a proposed rule "on the basis of substantial evidence" and according to OSHA's mission to protect the American worker, to reduce the health risks to employees when working in non-industrial environments inside of buildings. The proposed rule was aimed at reducing air contaminants and other air quality factors that initiate adverse health effects such as sensory irritation, respiratory responses, allergies, asthma and the signs and symptoms characteristic of exposure to chemical or biological substances such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, pesticides, endotoxins or mycotoxins. Of particular note was the addition of smoking into the rulemaking, which generates environmental tobacco smoke and has a negative impact on air quality.

It has been long evident that older buildings that have not been adequately maintained and operated may have contaminated air where parts of the building have been allowed to become a reservoir for microbial growth. According to NIOSH, the primary sources of indoor air quality problems are: Inadequate ventilation, 52%; contami-

nation from inside the building, 16%; contamination from outside the building, 10%; microbial contamination, 5%; contamination from building fabrics, 4%; and unknown sources, 13%.

Many studies have demonstrated that employee air quality complaints usually have some basis and are not likely caused by mass psychogenic illness. So although poor management, boring work, poor lighting conditions, temperature variations, poor ergonomic design and noise may create a work environment where complaining is common place, it has been found that chronic health complaints have substantiation beyond the "its all in your head" syndrome.

Although the evidence of deleterious health effects from indoor air quality problems is growing, the regulatory solution sought in the proposed rule of 1994 has been on a back burner at the Federal level for some time. At this time no target date has been set for publishing a final rule. Hearings began September 20, 1995 and ran until March 13, 1995, with more than 400 witnesses who testified. There were more than 100,000 comments received by Federal OSHA when the comment period ended in August 1995. It is not however, a dead issue.

Resources for dealing with indoor air quality problems are available through OSHA at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). Go to the Subject Index and under "I" go to the entry "Indoor Air Quality" where a wealth of information is available. Of particular note is OSHA's Technical Manual, Section III-Chapter 2 which provides guidelines for employers to prevent or alleviate IAQ problems. There are also links to other helpful references from the EPA and NIOSH.

-Linda Christopherson

For an electronic copy of this newsletter, send an e-mail to [adoshnews@ica.az.us](mailto:adoshnews@ica.az.us) with the phrase "electronic newsletter" in the subject or body. If you would like to be on the mailing list for a hard copy of this newsletter send your request to the above e-mail address.

## Get The Lead Out !!!

Radiator repair shops are notorious for over exposing their employees to lead (Pb) fumes while repairing radiators. When solder is applied to the top and bottom of the radiator lead fumes are released.

Lead volatilizes (boiling point) at 3164 degrees Fahrenheit; this is when lead becomes dangerous. The source of the lead fume exposure is from the flame coming into contact with the solder, which is the only way the repair of the radiator can be accomplished.

The employer can provide respiratory protection, but only as interim protection until the permanent ventilation system is installed and proven to be effective.

Personal air monitoring must be conducted initially. If at that time an over exposure occurs then two follow up air monitoring events must be conducted at least seven days apart. This monitoring must then be repeated 6 months later. This air monitoring can be discontinued after two consecutive monitoring results are found to be below the action level of 30 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter in air). The PEL (permissible exposure level) is 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and may not be exceeded in any eight hour time weighted average.

Reducing the over exposure to lead fume can only be accomplished through ventilation control methods. The only way to determine the effectiveness of the ventilation system is through air monitoring.

Irritability, loss of appetite, dizziness, irregular pains in the joints and abdomen are but a few of the symptoms associated with lead exposure. If you or your employees are experiencing these symptoms, contact your physician for a blood lead test.

Refer to the lead standard in General Industry, 29 CFR 1910.134 for the standard's requirements. This will ensure proper compliance with the OSHA standards and effectively reduce or eliminate the affected employees' exposure to lead fumes.

-Steven Weberman



## Congratulations

Congratulations are in order to our newest VPP Star Participant, **Mechtronics of Arizona Corporation**. After a rigorous inspection and review of the facility's safety and health program, Mechtronics has been invited to join the team. With an injury incidence rate 29% below the industry average and a written safety and health program in place, Mechtronics has indicated its attitude toward the safety and health of its employees and is well deserving of this award.

The company's commitment to safety was demonstrated at all levels of management as ADOSH representatives spent four days inspecting operations, interviewing employees and reviewing written programs. The involvement from management was apparent with **Bob Hahn**, President and CEO, **Ron Spriggs**, Vice president, Operations, and **Luis A. Nieves**, Health/Safety and Environmental Manager taking the lead to make safety and health a high priority in the company's daily operations.

The Voluntary Protection program is aimed at recognizing, emphasizing and encouraging good safety and health program management. To be approved to the Star program, an employer must make an application to ADOSH that is worksite specific And describe how that worksite meets the rigorous requirements for the Voluntary Protection Program. If the application appears to describe a system of programs that meet the requirements, ADOSH will arrange a non-enforcement onsite review of the worksite. ADOSH consultants will then review records, interview employees, management and conduct an inspection of the facility.

While at the site ADOSH then decides whether or not to recommend approval to the star program. If approved as a Voluntary Protection Program participant the worksite will no longer be subject to random programmed

inspections by ADOSH compliance staff, for a period of three years.

The Voluntary Protection Program is a combined effort by ADOSH, and employers in an effort to establish a safe working environment for all. Your interest and involvement is beneficial to everyone.

-Kenneth P. Gaut



Q. I have several employees that are covered under the bloodborne pathogens standard listed in 1910.1030. I have offered them Hepatitis B vaccinations but they do not want them. Is that all I am required to do with respect to the vaccine?

A. First let me remind you that employees whose duties involve occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials as defined in the standards are to be offered the hepatitis B vaccine within 10 days of their initial assignment to such duties. In the event an employee declines the vaccination it is important to have the employee sign a declination form. A sample of such a form and it's required wording is found in appendix A of the standard. This serves as your documentation that you did in fact offer the employee the required vaccination. I have done many inspections dealing with this issue where the employer stated he /she offered the vaccination series and it was declined. When I ask about the declination form there is no record of one.

You must also keep in mind that if the employee initially declines the vaccination series and then later decides that they want it, the employer still has the obligation to provide that series at no cost to the employee.

-Mark D. Norton

Partner With ADOSH  
New Ways of Work-

## ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

Registration for each course begins no earlier than 30 days prior to the date of the course. Location address and time of course will be determined at time of registration. Course information can also be viewed on the Industrial Commission's web site at [www.ica.state.az.us/ADOSH/training.htm](http://www.ica.state.az.us/ADOSH/training.htm) From this site, interested parties may e-mail instructors to register or obtain additional information. **All ADOSH classes are free of charge. Courses and dates are subject to change or cancellation.**

Date	Course	Location	Trainer	Phone #
January 23	Electrical Safety & Lockout/Tagout	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
January 30	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Avondale	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
February 8	Scaffold Safety Awareness	Show Low	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
February 13	Excavation Safety Awareness	Tucson	To be determined	520-628-5478
February 15	Respiratory Protection	Avondale	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
February 22	Excavation Safety Awareness	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
March 8	Electrical Safety & Lockout/Tagout	Yuma	Joe Gates	602-542-1641
March 14	OSHA in the Medical Office	Tempe	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
March 16	OSHA in the Medical Office	Flagstaff	Fernando Mendieta	602-542-1640
March 22	Excavation Safety Awareness	Thatcher	To be determined	520-628-5478

Trainers may also be contacted by e-mail at [joe.gates@osha.gov](mailto:joe.gates@osha.gov) and [fernando.mendieta@osha.gov](mailto:fernando.mendieta@osha.gov)

**Dates are subject to change**

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