Safe Summer Update

EHSI Safety Leadership Conference

Thanks to all who attended the 2014 EHSI Safety Leadership Conference last April 29 at Randolph Community College. We were excited to have 49 safety professionals from 26 community colleges in attendance for the NC Industrial Commission’s Advanced Safety Leadership course. Special thanks are in order for Robert Graves and the staff at Randolph Community College for providing such a hospitable location and taking such good care of us while we were there. The strong participation in our advanced safety training events is a great example of the commitment and dedication to occupational safety that is shared among the NC Community Colleges. As we plan for next year, we hope that you will provide us with some input as to what types of classes you would like to see in the future. If you have any ideas for topics at future EHSI safety conferences, or if you would like to host a conference at your school, please contact Tamara at t_heinemann@blueridge.edu or 828-694-4738.

New Service Request Form

College safety officials will be receiving or have already received an email from EHSI that links you to our new EHSI Service Request Form. This form will allow you to update your college’s safety contact information as well as request services from The Environmental Health and Safety Institute.

The service request form will help EHSI to plan our travel for the year and ensure that we are able to satisfy all the requests for services at a time that is best for the colleges. We hope to receive most of the forms back from you in July, however the form will always be available and can be submitted or updated at any time.

In addition to the new online service request form, EHSI will be implementing some new methods of sharing digital files and information with all of the colleges this year. You will soon be able to access a wide range of written programs, checklists, and job hazard analyses that will help you maintain and enhance your college’s safety efforts. Stay tuned for more information on file sharing in the not too distant future!

We hope that all colleges will take full advantage of EHSI’s wide range of services including campus wide safety inspections, OSHA required safety training (both onsite and online via SafetyNet), OSHA written program updates, or attending our annual safety conference. Many of you in the lead safety role at your college are new to that position and may not be fully aware of the services provided by EHSI. If you would like more detailed information, or if you have any questions, please contact me at 828-694-1749 or jamesmc@blueridge.edu. We look forward to another year of providing excellent service to the NC Community Colleges!
OSHA Announces New Interactive Training

WASHINGTON - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today released a new interactive training tool to help small businesses effectively identify hazards in the workplace. Employers and workers can virtually explore how to identify common workplace hazards in the manufacturing and construction industries. Users of the new training tool will learn not only hazard identification skills but also learn about hazard abatement and control.

Hazard identification is a critical part of creating an injury and illness prevention program that will keep workers safe and healthy on the job, said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. This new tool not only educates employers about how to take control of their workplaces and protect workers, it also demonstrates that following well-established safety practices is also good for the bottom line. Assistant Secretary Michaels announced the new tool today at the American Society of Safety Engineers conference in Orlando, Fla. Through the hazard identification tool, users can play from the perspective of either a business owner or an employee as they learn to identify realistic, common hazards and address them with practical and effective solutions. The tool explains the key components of the hazard identification process, which include information collection, observation of the workplace, investigation of incidents, employee participation and prioritizing hazards. OSHA developed the tool in conjunction with its Training Institute to assist small business owners in effectively identifying hazards in their workplace. The hazard identification training tool can be found on OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov/hazfinder.

To view the game trailer, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj_IqaWSbKo&feature=youtu.be.

For additional compliance assistance resources visit www.osha.gov.

Summer Storms 2014

A lot of storm activity occurs in the warm weather months. We know that tornados usually occur from February through early May and also in November. But tornados can occur at any time of the year that weather conditions are correct. The United States has the most tornados of any country per year as well as the most powerful tornados. During the last decade the United States averaged 1,270 tornados per year.

Most times we get tornado weather information in two or more levels such as a tornado watch if conditions are conducive to develop tornados and tornado warning if a tornado has been spotted or shown on radar. Also when we have severe thunderstorms not only do we have rain and lightning, but the conditions are good to produce tornados. The information levels for thunderstorms are the same as for tornados, a watch if conditions are conducive to develop thunderstorms and a warning if thunderstorms have been
Summer Storms 2014

spotted or shown on radar. Another year round hazard but usually seen a lot in the summer is lightning that accompanies thunderstorms. Thunder can be heard ten miles away from the lightning that makes it. The lightning is seen immediately, but the sound travels at about 1 mile/5 seconds. So if you count 15 seconds from when you see the lightning until you hear the sound of thunder the lightning is about 3 miles or less away. If that occurs seek shelter immediately because successive lightning strikes are often two to three miles apart. If the first lightning strike is three miles away, the next strike could hit you. Many times tornado and thunderstorm activity can be fast moving making sheltering in place a very good option. The emergency planning needed for your safety should be done before the storm arrives. When a tornado or thunderstorm watch goes into effect we need to make preparations immediately to implement our emergency plan. More on the plan’s content later. The other and probably more well-known summer storm activity in North Carolina is the hurricane. The hurricane season is here, the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. Weather forecasters tell us that 2014 will be a near normal hurricane season. The outlook is 14 (±4) tropical storms, 6 (±3) hurricanes ≥ 74 mph sustained winds and 3 (±2) intense hurricanes usually ≥ 96 mph sustained winds. The weather service’s statistics also tell us it has been nine years since a category three hurricane ≥ 111 mph winds made landfall in the United States. The nine years is the longest streak in recorded weather history. Even though it’s been nine years since we have had a major hurricane is no reason to be complacent. Lesser hurricanes can be devastating, remember hurricane Sandy from 2012. Hurricanes can be huge rain and wind events that can lead to wind damage, flooding and saturated soil. The flooding and saturated soil can cause toppled trees and large mud slides that I am sure we have all seen. The planning needed for summer storm activity is recommended by many agencies such as FEMA, American Red Cross and the National weather service. At Community College campuses some of the items we should be prepared for are: shelter locations, first aid kits, food, water, flashlights, battery operated radio, blankets/clothing, maps or plans of evacuation routes, communication equipment (i.e. cells with a charging means w/o electricity) and other items needed at your location. Also there are many other items that should be addressed at home such as a safe location for medications needed, children’s items, animal care, important documents and some cash. More information can be found at the above listed agencies websites. Always remember almost all agencies will tell us to be self-sufficient for at least three days, because they may not be able to respond until the storm has ended and may be over-whelmed after the storm. Lastly, remember the summer is also vacation time for most of us. You should have information about vacation destinations such as what storms occur there and evacuations routes. Also take your emergency kits with you and enjoy your summer vacation. See http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/
ASK EHSI

Question: A student had an accident and bled on an area with carpet. How do we safely clean blood from the carpet with Bloodborne Pathogens in mind?

Answer: Isolate the area and while wearing appropriate PPE (eye protection, gloves, and a mask at minimum), remove all the blood possible by blotting with a disposable cloth or paper towel. Avoid smearing and spreading the blood into unstained areas. Use a disinfecting carpet cleaner that lists on its label that it is effective for use on Bloodborne Pathogens, or HIV, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis C. Use the carpet disinfectant as directed and the pathogens will be eliminated.

Another choice is cleaning the area with a carpet steam cleaner, again after the blood is removed by blotting with a disposable cloth or paper towels. The high temperature steam will kill any remaining pathogens.

EHSI CONTACT INFORMATION
http://www.blueridge.edu/ehsi/
Email - brcc-ehsi@blueridge.edu
EHSI Staff:
Allen McCullough
828-694-1749
jamesmc@blueridge.edu
Chuck Arrowood
828-694-1738
jc_arrowood@blueridge.edu
David Martin
828-694-1759
dm_martin@blueridge.edu
Tamara Heinemann
828-694-4738
t_heinemann@blueridge.edu

EHSI SafetyNet Training Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>(all training starts at 10:00 a.m.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-15</td>
<td>Electrical Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-19</td>
<td>Chemical Hygiene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-9</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-16</td>
<td>Ladders and Fall Protection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>