The EHSI Eastern Region Conference at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington had a fantastic turnout last month with attendees from twenty-one NC community colleges.

Participants were brought up to date on all of the most pertinent safety issues facing their campuses during the day and a half long training. All attendees who completed the entire class also received the OSHA 10 hour training card to certify attendance in the training.

If you wanted to attend but weren’t able, we will be having our next gathering at Blue Ridge Community College on August 8 and 9th.

EHSI will be holding the 2012 Western Safety Conference at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock on August 8 and 9. This year EHSI is presenting the OSHA 10-hour training curriculum, and all attendees will receive an OSHA 10 hour card after completion.

In August we will be repeating the same topics giving college safety officials from Western North Carolina the opportunity to update their skills.

The following is a summary of the agenda for the BRCC meeting on August 8 and 9:

- Intro To OSHA
- Machine Guarding-Grinders-Hand Tools
- Hazard Communication-Globally Harmonized System (GHS)
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Ergonomics-Office Safety
- Walking and Working Surfaces, including Fall Protection
- Electrical Safety-Lock Out/Tag Out
- Arc Flash
- Safety and Health Programs-Safety Committees

Seating for the event is limited so please reserve your seat now. All community college employees who are part of your safety team are invited to attend.

The conference will be held from 8 am to 5 pm on the 8th with breakfast and lunch included. We will start back at 8 am on the 9th with breakfast included and finish by 12 noon.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Mountain Inn & Suites until July 15th. To reserve a room for the conference call (828)692-7772 or visit their website: www.mountaininnflatrock.com

To register for the event, or if you have any questions, please contact Tamara Heinemann by phone at 828-694-4738 or via email at: t_heinemann@blueridge.edu.

We are planning an after-class activity for all those who will be staying overnight. This activity may include a walking tour of the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, featuring the home and grounds of the famous poet and author, followed by dinner for the group.
Safety? There’s an App for That!

It hasn’t been that long since cell phones arrived on the scene. Now almost everyone has one. They have become so prevalent that they’ve nearly made pay phones a distant memory. Not only that, but they are evolving at such a rapid pace that they’re now devices used as much for entertainment and information as for making a call.

A smartphone is a cell phone that is, essentially, a hand-held computer with a built-in phone. They have become so powerful that a person now has more technology in their hand than was on board Apollo 11 during its historic journey to the moon.

Thousands of application programming interfaces or “apps” are available to enhance the utility of a smartphone. Many of these apps are free or can be downloaded for a nominal fee. In this article I will review some apps that have a safety slant. I am not endorsing or recommending any of these. I have not necessarily personally used them either, but I want to introduce you to a handful and make you aware what’s available.

- **AIR Now** is an EPA app that gives current air quality information for your location.
- **OSHA Heat Safety Tool** gives the current heat index for your location and assigns a risk level for outdoor activities.
- **Simple Weather Alert** provides NOAH weather alerts for your area. However, a weather app from a local television station will likely provide the best live, local radar for your town.

There are many chemical emergency apps available, although most are geared to Haz-Mat First Responders.

- **WISER** (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) has information on chemicals, resources in your area, and local environmental conditions.
- **Haz-Mat Pocket Guide** is the app version of the little orange *Emergency Response Guidebook*.

There is also an app for the Droid called **CFR-Title 29**; it is an add-on to the DroidLaw app (which must be installed first). For the iPhone there is **C.F.R. Title 29: Labor**. Both are designed to turn your phone into a mobile OSHA Standards manual and both include a search feature.

The Rebirth of Hazcom

by Douglas Plautz
Safety Officer
Wake Technical Community College

What began in 1992 as a call by the UN for the worldwide standardization of data for hazardous material shipments then spread around the Earth over the ensuing decade has finally been adopted by OSHA. On March 26, 2012, the *Hazard Communication Standard*, or Hazcom, underwent a major overhaul and became known as the . . . well, its still called Hazcom. But the modification is called the **Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**, more commonly referred to as GHS.

Hazcom (or GHS, they are used interchangeably) is the rule that requires facilities that use hazardous chemicals to ensure that containers are labeled, material safety data sheets are available and up to date, and that people who use or could be exposed to the materials have been trained and are protected.

The modification is fairly extensive—in fact, the announcement and explanation that appeared in the *Federal Register* was a 322-page book. In an effort to break the rule into something more digestible, OSHA published a 40-plus page guide to the new standard. They have affectionately nicknamed it “the purple book” and have made it available online at their website:

The Rebirth of Hazcom (continued)

While the majority of the new requirements do not apply to community colleges, there are three action items that will require a bit of effort on your part. These action items can be summarized as:

1. Employee Training,
2. MSDS Replacement, and
3. Hazcom Program Modification.

In order to best explain what you will have to do it is first necessary to briefly explain a couple of other parts of this new standard.

One of the biggest changes to Hazcom will be to the material safety data sheet, or MSDS. Along with getting a name change, the document will also be getting a face lift (of sorts). What we used to call an MSDS in the olden days we will soon be referring to as a safety data sheet, or SDS.

And what makes an SDS different from an MSDS (besides the letter “M”)? The type of information and the layout of the information.

According to Hazcom’s original rules for an MSDS, there really were not a lot of specific rules for what had to be included in the document. And while it is true that OSHA established some guidelines for the kinds of information it had to contain — using phrases like “physical hazards” and “health hazards” and “first aid procedures” — there was a lot of room for interpretation on how to meet the intent of Hazcom’s MSDS standard.

As a result, MSDSs for the same substance compiled by different manufacturers could range anywhere from 2 to 10 pages.

For the SDS, OSHA has taken a new approach. It will be divided into 16 sections, and each section will include specific information.

The section on first aid measures, for example, will describe how to provide immediate treatment for overexposure based on the way the substance got into a person’s body (e.g., through inhalation, via a cut on the skin). The section will also list symptoms and side effects to look for along with information on any special treatment that should be provided.

Another new feature is the pictogram. A pictogram is a diamond-shaped icon that is intended to convey specific hazards, such as skin or eye irritant, carcinogen, explosive, or flammable material. There are nine pictograms and they will appear on a container’s label.

Containers of hazardous chemicals have always been required to display the name of the material and the manufacturer’s name and address. Soon, in addition to pictograms, container labels will also include signal words, where appropriate, to call attention to materials that require a greater amount respect when using them. The signal words will either be Danger or Warning. Danger will be used for the more severe hazards, while warning will be used for chemicals with less severe hazards. [Ed. note: this nebulous wording is taken directly from OSHA’s regulations.]

Labels will also display one or more relevant Hazard Statements, which is OSHA-prescribed wording that will further describe the hazard(s) of a chemical.

Finally, labels will incorporate precautionary statements as needed. These are brief lines of standardized text that will identify specific hazards, such as “causes severe eye damage,” or will note practices meant to minimize contact or exposure to the hazardous chemical, such as “keep locked up when not in use.”

With this foundation, these are the action items that are applicable to community colleges.

1 Employee Training. All employees who use or may come into contact with a hazardous chemical (a term, by the by, to which OSHA has applied a very specific yet comprehensive definition) must be provided with an explanation of the new label elements and SDS format. This training must be completed by December 1, 2013.

2 MSDS Replacement. Although it is up to hazardous chemical manufacturers and distributors to develop and supply safety data sheets, it is the responsibility of each college to ensure that each MSDS has been replaced with the corresponding SDS. Exactly when you will begin seeing a flurry of electronic or hardcopy updates is uncertain; however, they will have to be provided to you no later than June 1, 2015.

3 Hazcom Program Modification. Your written hazard communication plan which documents, among other things, your college’s SDS, labeling, and employee training compliance strategy, will have to be updated to reflect the new terminology as well as any way your program has changed as a result of the new requirements. This must be completed by June 1, 2015.

Summer is here and with it comes another danger to outdoor workers and groundskeepers. Workers with prolonged exposure to hot weather and direct sun face an increased risk of heat-related illness such as Heat Rash, Heat Fatigue, Heat Stress and Heat Stroke. Last year 30 workers died, and thousands more became sick due to heat-related illness according to OSHA. These illnesses are preventable by educating employees about the warning signs and dangers posed by heat while providing adequate water and additional breaks. OSHA has launched a new educational campaign to prevent heat-related illnesses. Check out their webpage for helpful information as well as new employee handouts, fact sheets and training assistance.

http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html

EHSI Western Safety Conference 2012 will be held August 8 & 9 at Blue Ridge Community College. The OSHA 10-Hour Course will be presented, and participants will receive their OSHA 10-hour card. Contact Tamara Heinemann to register or for more information.

### EHSI SafetyNet Training Schedule

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<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
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<td>8-21</td>
<td>Chemical Hygiene—Lab Safety</td>
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<td>9-4</td>
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<td>9-18</td>
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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
Ruth Kidd
828-694-1767
ruthk@blueridge.edu

Environmental Health & Safety Institute
180 West Campus Drive
Flat Rock, NC 28731-4728