EHSI Updates

EHSI Offers OSHA 10 Hour Training Cards

As many of you know, EHSI staff members have earned the credentials to provide OSHA 10 hour hazard awareness training. These very popular safety classes are very well attended and are customized to cover the OSHA Safety Standards that apply most directly to Community Colleges. Colleges can drastically reduce on the job accidents and risks by making all employees part of the hazard awareness and abatement team. This course is designed specifically for that purpose. Typically the class is broken down into two 5 hour sessions, but we have the freedom to be somewhat flexible. Attendees that complete the full 10 hours will receive the OSHA card. If you would like to schedule the 10 hour training event at your campus, or if you have any questions, please contact Tamara Heinemann by phone (828) 694-4738 or at t_heinemann@blueridge.edu

EHSI Eastern Region Conference on April 16-17 at the Wake Tech Public Safety Education Center

Please join us this April 16 and 17 at the Wake Tech PSEC as EHSI hosts our Eastern Region Safety Conference. We have an exciting two day agenda in the works and have an impressive list of guest speakers including Doug Plautz from Wake Tech, Connie Deuser from NC OSH, Dennis Parnell from the NC Industrial Commission, and Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry.

Important Dates for Implementing the GHS/Hazard Communication Changes

All college employees who handle hazardous chemicals must take part in the updated HazCom-GHS training by December 1, 2013. Don’t forget- EHSI offers this training online the first Tuesday morning of every month at 10 am. Go to ehsi.webex.com: The Password is always Safety1. All of your Safety Data Sheets (SDS) will need to be up to date with the standardized format by June 1, 2015, and labels must be in compliance by December 1, 2015. We obviously have some time on the SDS and labels, but don’t put off training any longer! Contact EHSI to set up a class, or join us online at our SafetyNet training center.

EHSI wishes Ruth a Happy Retirement!

Ruth Kidd has retired after over 10 years of dedicated service to EHSI. We all wish her a happy retirement as she will be deeply missed.
Safety Measures

PPE for Students

Student Loses Eye In Community College Shop Accident

I hope you never see this headline in your local paper. While participating in campus safety audits at various community colleges, I have witnessed many, many times, students working in vocational shops without any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). I have entered automotive shops where signs stating, “Safety Glasses Required,” are in full view and no one was wearing eye protection, including the instructor. I have been in welding shops where students were wearing shorts and sneakers and no one had eye protection except the ones actually welding, who had hoods. The ones hammering and filing and grinding had none. I have been in engine shops where no one had ear protection. Now they might not have been running an engine while I was there, but I’m sure they do at times and there was no PPE to be found. I’ve seen masonry students breaking bricks with a hammer and you guessed it, no safety glasses. This is so easy to correct. Make safety a part of your curriculum. Require students to use PPE and grade them on their overall safety routine. Spend the first day of each semester teaching safety procedures. I know items like using table saws, lathes, and planers are discussed. Talk to students about PPE and proper footwear for the shop, then implement a zero tolerance policy for when the students forget because they will. Most employers in the workforce will have a zero tolerance policy.

A student may not be able to go to Lowes and pick-out the right PPE off the shelf if they have no experience in the vocation they have chosen. So some colleges stock the proper PPE in the bookstore. This way the instructor can choose the correct PPE for the class. If the students buy their PPE off campus, the instructor should approve it before use. PPE wears out, so the instructor will need to regularly check and determine when it needs to be replaced.

Instructors who don’t use PPE when it is necessary are telling their students that safety is not important. Do as I say, not as I do. Remind them everyday at the start of class to get their PPE before they start work and use yours. Also go over the exit routes, in case of an emergency. In the event of a fire, students should evacuate. They should not feel that they are expected to use a fire extinguisher.

Housekeeping is very important. I have been in shops where the floors are as clean as any classroom, others not so much. There is no reason the last 10 minutes of class time can’t be spent cleaning up, sweeping and putting away tools and materials. Most workplaces will require this.

Our philosophy at EHSI is that if students learn safe work habits while in college, they will take those habits with them when they enter the workforce.

The following OSHA standards apply to college employees:

1910.132(a) Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation or physical contact.

1910.132(d)(2) The employer shall verify that the required workplace hazard assessment has been performed through a written certification that identifies the workplace evaluated; the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed; the date(s) of the hazard assessment; and, which identifies the document as a certification of hazard assessment.
OSHA Training Requirements

What are the OSHA training requirements for the various standards that are applicable to many Community College campuses? OSHA usually has a training requirement for most standards where employees could be exposed to safety or health hazards. The hazards could be chemical, physical or some other health hazard. The training requirements OSHA may have are usually but not always explicate or make it the employer’s responsibility to assign people who are certified or competent or qualified. Some standards refer to designated personnel meaning selected or assigned by the employer and as being deemed qualified to perform specific duties. An example of a qualified electrician is someone knowledgeable and trained (licensed, trained through an apprenticeship program or in house trained) to work on electrical circuits and knows electrical safety work practices.

All training conducted should be documented and contain the name of the employees trained, the date(s) of the training, the standard or subject of the training and the name and signature of the trainer.

All OSHA training must be completed before an employee is assigned to work in an area with safety or health hazards. OSHA standards may require initial training only, initial and periodic training or initial training and annual refreshers. But training listed in the standards needs to be updated and or retraining provided if the employer determines that past training was inadequate, there are deviations from prescribed procedures, equipment is changed, working conditions change or the standard is changed. Examples of standards that require initial training only are various types of PPE, Permit Required Confined Space, Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) and the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). But the HCS will need additional training this year because the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) will be rolled into the HCS.

A few other standards require initial training and periodic retraining or evaluation. The Powered Industrial Truck (PIT) standard requires evaluation at least every three years and the Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals requires refresher training at least every three years. The following standards require initial training and annual refreshers: Hearing Conservation Program, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), Respiratory Protection, Fire Brigades, Portable Fire Extinguishers, Asbestos, Lead, Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) and Formaldehyde.

This is not an all-inclusive list of the training requirements for all OSHA standards but it does cover most of the standards that are required by Community Colleges.

For additional information you can go to the OSHA website at www.osha.gov, the North Carolina Department of Labor www.nclabor.com or contact us here at EHSI.

Women In the Workplace

March is Women’s History Month and while great strides have been made in women's rights there remain a few areas of concern. Today women make up nearly half the workforce and face several issues, including stress and workplace violence. Work organization and job stress are topics of growing concern. Levels of stress-related illness are nearly twice as high for women as compared to men. Job stress has been linked with heart disease, muscle and bone disorders, depression, and employee burnout. Many conditions cause stress among women including balancing work and family demands on time. Women may also face a lack of job control, job insecurity or role uncertainty at work. Poor relationships with coworkers, supervisors, and or sexual harassment may also be stressors for women in the workplace. There are several ways to deal with job stress. First of all talk with your supervisor. Recognizing and addressing factors that cause or contribute to stress is the best way to eliminate the issue. Other ways to help deal with stress include exercise, relaxation...

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Women In the Workplace

Techniques, a healthy diet and adequate sleep. According to OSHA there are nearly 2 million workers who report workplace violence every year and more go unreported. In 2011 there were 4,609 fatal workplace injuries in the U.S. Of those 780 were the direct result of violence by other persons or animals. Workplace violence is also the number one cause of death for women in the workplace. However, both men and women can be victims at work. Bullying and rudeness by co-workers or supervisors is the most common forms of aggression. Regardless of how it manifests itself, workplace violence is a major concern for employers and employees. The Workplace Violence Prevention Act, (N.C.G.S. Chapter 95 Article 23.) allows an employer to file an action for a civil no contact order in district court by an employer on behalf of an employee who has suffered unlawful conduct at the workplace. An employee who is the victim of violence should provide a description, a photograph and a copy of the most recent restraining order to campus security for everyone's safety. An employer that has experienced acts of workplace violence, or becomes aware of threats, intimidation, or the potential for violence in the workplace, should implement a workplace violence prevention program combined with employee training.

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

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
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<td>Groundskeeper Safety</td>
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<td>Heat Stress</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness</td>
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