



Volume 55

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Spotlight: Environmental Respect State Award Winners

The Environmental Respect Awards program is in its 18th year of celebrating agricultural environmentalism throughout the agricultural industry. We congratulate the following State winners for stepping up and showing their environmental respect. The National winner will be announced in July in a ceremony in Washington, DC. Members of the Asmark Institute are denoted in **red**.

Crop Production Services - Amenia, New York

Wilbur-Ellis Co. - Grant, Michigan

Crop Production Services - Worthington, Iowa

Posey County Co-op - Mt. Vernon, Indiana

Crop Production Services - Broadbrook, Connecticut

Precision Ag Services - New Richmond, Wisconsin

Sunrise Ag Service Co. - Manito, Illinois

Watonawan Farm Service - Truman, Minnesota

Crop Production Services - Meigs, Georgia

Douglass Fertilizer & Chemical - Hastings, Florida

Ritter Crop Services, Inc. - West Ridge, Arkansas

Agri Co-op - Holdrege, Nebraska

Goshen County Weed & Pest District - Torrington, Wyoming

MKC - Walton - Moundridge, Kansas

Mott Grain & Agronomy - Mott, North Dakota

Olton Grain Coop, Inc. - Olton, Texas

South Dakota Wheat Growers - Huron, South Dakota

JR Simplot Growers Solution - Lodi, California

Silverado Ranch Supply - Yerington, Nevada

Wilbur-Ellis Co. - Monroe, Oregon

Registrations Begin for the 2008 Emergency Response **Refresher** Course

Invitations to the 2008 refresher courses were mailed on May 30 and classes are already beginning to fill up. There will be 24 days of training provided at remote locations around the country this year for the one-day refresher course. Register today to ensure space is available for the class of your choice. Register online by [clicking here](#).

National Safety School 2008 - **Mark your calendars!**

The National Agronomic Environmental Health and Safety School will be held in Bloomington, IL this year on August 19 & 20. There is a renewed spirit and level of energy in the Safety School and we encourage everyone to register and participate in this quality program. An outstanding lineup of national speakers has been secured for the 2008 program, including **Ford West**, President of The Fertilizer Institute, **Nancy Fitz** with U.S. EPA, **Peter Gattuso** with U.S. EPA on RMP eSubmit, **Craig Matthiessen** with U.S. EPA on SPCC Plans, **Dwight Siewert**, Senior Compliance Specialist with J.J. Keller & Associates, and **Pam Guffain**, Vice

President of Membership Services with The Fertilizer Institute, will provide a national legislative update. HAZWOPER emergency response refresher training will also be held in conjunction with the Safety School's activities. The Safety School program will benefit you and your staff! We ask that you seriously consider attending this year to see for yourself. The 2008 agenda will be posted soon and can be viewed by visiting www.naehss.org.

While in Bloomington that week, we recommend you stay over an extra day to attend the Midwest AG Industries Expo (MAGIE) on August 20 & 21. It's truly one of the finest displays of "ride and buy" shows in the United States. For more information on registering for MAGIE, visit www.ifca.com.

Sometimes Trying to Help.....Doesn't Really Help!

Over the years we have made every attempt to prevent drivers from becoming disqualified. This included a series of calls and/or faxes sent in the days just prior to the disqualification action. It was a courtesy or complimentary act to help try to reduce the number of drivers affected. Certain times of the year when our busy season is at peak, we can't make these calls or send the faxes. We experienced one of these periods recently, and as a result of not providing the courtesy contacts, the staff and I received several calls complaining they had not been properly notified before being disqualified. I asked the callers that contacted me why the monthly Driver Status Report with the warnings starting at the 30, 60 & 90 days marked weren't sufficient. Their answers were startling - "we don't actually read those status reports, we wait for Donna to call or fax us." Wrong answer! Unfortunately, in trying to help we have encouraged our clients to circumvent the system. The courtesy contacts as we have come to know them have been eliminated for all practical purposes. They may still be performed from time to time, and at our discretion, but everyone is encouraged to review the monthly Driver Status Report and the rest of their correspondence from the Asmark Institute. If you have questions or comments on this change in procedure please contact **Allen Summers** at 270-926-4600, Extension 201.

New Hire Kit Steps Up Validation & Automation

Some of our clients can expect the New Hire Kit feature on the website to look and work a little different soon. We have been testing the new automated system for about 18 months with one of our clients and plan to roll out a basic level of the system to the balance of our clients in the next two weeks. Upon submitting the information for a new hire or re-hire employee, clients will be prompted to complete an authorization form and more specific information based on the applicant's Social Security Card and Driver's License. All Social Security Numbers (SSN) will be validated to ensure the number provided is accurate and matched to the person's name being used. The update will also automate checking the Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) or driving record for all drivers and provide an adjudicated report. The adjudication process should lead to a more uniform and accurate review of the MVRs. In both cases, the SSN and MVR, employers will be alerted by Asmark Institute staff as issues are noted. In the past 18 months of testing, the background checks on SSN and MVR have resulted in an alarming number of inaccurate or fraudulent data. With the search becoming more difficult for employees, our goal is to help our clients identify qualified candidates that are eligible to work and drive on their behalf. Coming soon, and as demand builds, will be the option to perform a wide variety of automated background checks.

2008 Technology Projects.....an AMAZING Year!

They say what doesn't kill you, serves to make you stronger! 2008 is one of the most exciting years we have ever known. Take a look at the list of the 2008 projects involving technology....

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| - Dashboard | Electronic "visual" report card |
| - New Set of English DVDs | English version shot with new footage |
| - New Set of Spanish DVDs | Complete new Spanish version |
| - Fire Prevention Plan | Web-based tool for pre-fire planning |
| - VIPNetwork | Video Conference Network |
| - Web-based Audit | First web version |
| - New Hire Kit Upgrade | Designed to validate & automate data |
| - mySPCC Plan Express | Version for facilities with tanks <5,000 Gal |
| - mySPCC Plan | Version for facilities with tanks 5-10,000 Gal |

- Biometric Website Access	Allows website access using fingerprints
- RMP eSubmit	Testing, integration for next 5-year update
- Hourly Offsite Backup	Secure offsite backup of records on the hour
- Online Registration System	New system registers participants for training
- Web-based Status Reports	Electronic "visual" 24/7 notification system
- Tailgate Session Tracking	System to create and track training sessions

DOT Proposes CDL Learner's Permit

New minimum standards for issuance of commercial learner's permits (CLP) are being proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The proposed regulations address knowledge and skills testing requirements, issuance and standards for CLPs, and the issue of fraud prevention. This proposal would require successful completion of a knowledge test before issuance of a CLP. Currently, this is a prerequisite for issuance of the CDL. Prohibition on use of foreign language interpreters in administration of knowledge and skills tests is also proposed. The proposal would require that an applicant obtain a CLP and hold it for at least 30 days before applying for a CDL. The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

Before issuing a CLP to a driver, the issuing state would be required to perform a check of the applicant's previous driving record to ensure that the driver is not subject to any disqualification provisions found in §383.51 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). Disqualifying activities may include, but are not limited to, substance abuse violations, refusing an alcohol test, leaving the scene of an accident, driving with a revoked, suspended or cancelled license, etc. The proposal also includes requirements that are intended to prevent and detect fraudulent testing and licensing activity in the CDL program. Proposed measures include requiring verification of Social Security Numbers (SSN), proof of legal presence in the United States, preservation of digitized driver photos by state driver licensing agencies, and background checks and formal training for all examiners.

Comments will be accepted regarding this proposed rulemaking until June 9, 2008. Please do not submit the same comments multiple times or by more than one method. Comments are accepted by carrier at: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations (M-30), West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. Telefax: (202) 493-2251. Please mark all comments attention Docket: FMCSA-2007-27659. [Click here](#) for more information.

Region 5 EPA Head Steps Down

The administrator of Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 in Chicago, **Mary Gade**, announced May 2 she was resigning for personal reasons. Publicly, Gade has said she was forced to resign due to her aggressive demands on a Dow Chemical Company clean up near the company's headquarters in Midland, Michigan. Gade is on record as saying "her hard-charging posture with respect to the Dow cleanup resulted in senior agency officials stripping her of her regional administrator duties and ordering her to either resign or be terminated." Representatives of Dow were surprised by Gade's move. **Bharat Mathur**, deputy regional administrator, will take over Gade's duties at the EPA. Note: Region 5 has pursued an unusually high number of enforcement cases over the past few years, some of which involved the timely reporting of releases and Risk Management Program violations.

Don't Trip Up Over Extension Cord Safety

An extension cord comes in handy when your wall outlet isn't located near the lights or appliances you want to plug in. Still, more than 2,000 people a year wind up in hospital emergency rooms after being burned, shocked, or tripped by an extension cord. Use extension cords safely. Here's how:

- Use extension cords as a temporary fix, not a permanent solution. They're not designed for large loads or extended use.
- Extension cords are meant to lengthen an appliance cord, not as an extra outlet.
- Choose extension cords that have the approval of a national testing agency like Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Choose polarized extension cords only. On them, one prong is wider than the other, which prevents you from inserting the plug backward.

- Don't "string" extension cords together.
- Throw away old, cracked, or frayed extension cords. There's no way to repair them, and they can start a fire.
- Keep extension cords out from under rugs, where they can overheat and get trampled on.
- Never use nails or staples to attach an extension cord to a wall. You might damage the cord and shock yourself.
- Never cut or remove the ground prong from any electrical cord.

OSHA's Top 25 violations for 2007

OSHA compiles statistics on violations to its standards each year and for 2007 there were 109,639 violations with adjusted penalties of over \$35 million. The following table lists the top 25 most frequently violated regulations for Part 1910, General Industry. These are federal statistics and are the result of violations that occurred in states that are regulated by federal OSHA. Citations for states that operate their own occupational safety and health programs are not included in these statistics.

Top 25 General Industry violations by subparagraph January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007					
	Subject	Standard	Total violations	\$ Initial penalty	\$ Adjusted penalty
1	Hazard communication-Written program	1910.1200(e)(1)	2,272	\$1,103,359	\$354,930
2	Machine guarding-Types of guarding	1910.212(a)(1)	1,576	3,216,600	985,709
3	Hazard communication-Employer must provide hazard information and training	1910.1200(h)(1)	1,141	406,186	142,863
4	Guarding floor openings, platforms, and runways	1910.23(c)(1)	841	2,253,922	581,819
5	Machine guarding-Point of operation guarding	1910.212(a)(3)(ii)	786	1,812,842	519,408
6	First aid-Eye wash/emergency shower facilities not in near proximity to employees	1910.151(c)	757	872,162	290,020
7	Lockout/tagout-Written energy control procedures	1910.147(c)(4)(i)	752	1,528,399	390,237
8	Abrasive wheel machinery-Exposure adjustment/safety guards	1910.215(b)(9)	723	331,848	109,575
9	Electric-Wiring methods, components and equipment-Cabinets, boxes/Conductors	1910.305(b)(1)	695	597,834	205,644
10	Lockout/tagout-Establish an energy control program	1910.147(c)(1)	681	1,017,500	363,355
11	Hazard communication-MSDS available for each hazardous chemical	1910.1200(g)(1)	675	108,071	46,121
12	Respiratory protection-Provide medical evaluation prior to fit test and respirator use	1910.134(e)(1)	654	363,123	94,349
13	Respiratory protection-Establish a written program	1910.134(c)(1)	636	467,429	144,757
14	Powered industrial trucks-Operator training	1910.178(l)(1)(i)	632	822,191	293,247
15	Electrical-Equipment must be installed according to instructions	1910.303(b)(2)	601	525,643	179,065
16	Lockout/tagout-Annual procedure inspection	1910.147(c)(6)(i)	526	704,163	189,206

17	Mechanical power transmission-Pulley guarding	1910.219(d)(1)	520	560,679	204,339
18	Personal protective equipment-Written certification of hazard assessment	1910.132(d)(2)	508	160,250	42,598
19	Electric-Wiring methods, components and equipment-Cabinets, boxes/Covers	1910.305(b)(2)	497	365,040	124,237
20	Abrasive wheel machinery-Work rests	1910.215(a)(4)	494	350,378	121,181
21	Personal protective equipment-Must conduct a hazard assessment	1910.132(d)(1)	491	387,625	124,051
22	Lockout/tagout-Training and communication	1910.147(c)(7)(i)	491	665,390	224,388
23	Eye and face protection-Use of appropriate eye and face protection	1910.133(a)(1)	489	405,862	148,849
24	Compressed air-Reduce to less than 30 p.s.i.	1910.242(b)	481	432,585	154,083
25	Personal protective equipment-Provide, use, maintain equipment in a sanitary and reliable condition	1910.132(a)	480	1,056,478	359,632

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