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Reminder: Emergency Response Refresher Dates

Refresher training for the Emergency Response to Agricultural Incidents course is just around the corner. The August dates and locations: 8/19 in Wheatland, IN, 8/20 in Hoopston, IL, 8/21 in Bloomington, IL (held in conjunction with the Safety School and MAGIE), 8/26 in Findlay, OH, 8/27 in Ansonia, OH, 8/28 in Fairmount, IN and 8/29 in Franklin, IN. See you there!

National Safety School 2008 - Register Today!

The National Agronomic Environmental Health and Safety School will be held in Bloomington, IL this year on August 19 & 20. The 2008 Safety School is a **must-attend for everyone** whose duties include regulatory compliance, loss control or risk management at a retail agricultural facility. We have an outstanding lineup of national speakers for this year's program. Speakers include:



- Ford West** President of The Fertilizer Institute - Keynote
- Marybeth Kelliher** DHS - The Next Steps....
- Nancy Fitz** U.S. EPA - Container/Containment Rule
- Peter Gattuso** U.S. EPA - New RMP eSubmit program
- Troy Swackhammer** U.S. EPA - SPCC Plan Update
- David Brody** Crown Premiums - Manufacturing the Safety School Truck
- Dwight Siewert** J.J. Keller & Associates - DOT Drug & Alcohol Compliance
- Pam Guffain** Vice President of Membership Services with TFI - Insights from the Hill
- Brian Bothast** IL OSHA - Visibility Rule
- David Waugh** Mosaic - How Potash is Mined
- Charles Hochman** U.S. DOT - The Future of Testing Nurse Tanks
- Richard Breckenridge** IL EPA - New Fire Prevention Plan
- Claudia Niess** U.S. EPA - New Web-Based Pesticide Labeling Initiative

Since this is the 30th Anniversary of the Safety School, each registered participant will receive one of the 1:24 scale Commemorative Dry Spreader Trucks. The truck is a precision replica of the popular 1934 Ford V8. Don't miss out! HAZWOPER emergency response refresher training will also be held in conjunction with the Safety School's activities. Click [here](#) to register for the 2008 Safety School!

While in Bloomington that week, we recommend you stay over an extra day or two and 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. Click [here](#) to register for the 2008 MAGIE Show!

New Fire Prevention Plan Tool to be Launched

A number of devastating fires at cooperatives in Illinois within the past few years prompted a great deal of widespread attention and discussion on how these fires should be handled at retail agricultural facilities. The Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) was asked to help with the discussions and ultimately assisted its members in reaching common ground with the agencies involved. IFCA's work with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) and the Illinois Emergency



Management Agency (IEMA) culminated in the need for a more cooperative and proactive effort. Throughout the discussions, the need to safeguard against the potential of a fire, the need for increased pre-planning with the fire-response organizations and the development of better facility-specific data on inventory and surrounding conditions that affect the decision of whether or not to extinguish the fire became obvious.

IFCA worked with IEPA, IFSI, IEMA and the Asmark Institute to develop a new web-based Fire Prevention Plan tool designed to fit the needs of agricultural facilities. The new tool will be introduced and launched at the 2008 National Agronomic Environmental Health & Safety School and will be free to Asmark Institute clients and users registered through IFCA. Users will provide information specific to their facility and will be able to download a highly-personalized written Fire Prevention Plan. We appreciate the efforts of **Jean Payne** and **Kevin Runkle** for allowing us the opportunity to be involved with this very worthwhile project.

Are You Prepared for a Fire Emergency?

It takes only a few seconds for a fire to ignite and quickly spread. Are you and your employees prepared to handle a fire emergency? When a fire occurs, you need to react immediately. The completeness of your fire protection procedures and training will determine how smoothly the next steps take place. In most instances, you want employees to stop what they are doing and evacuate the building via the nearest exit. Do employees know where to go and what to do next? It's also important to maintain your fire safety equipment and coordinate with all affected parties — especially your local fire department. Use this checklist as a quick audit of your fire protection procedures.

- Is your local fire department well acquainted with your facility, its location, and specific hazards?
- Are fire alarm systems tested at least annually?
- Are fire extinguishers recharged regularly and noted in the inspection tag?
- If you have a fire alarm system, is it certified as required?
- Are portable fire extinguishers provided in adequate number and type?
- Are fire extinguishers mounted in readily accessible locations?
- Are employees periodically instructed in the use of fire extinguishers and fire procedures?
- Are employees trained/re-trained on fire safety procedures and their responsibilities?
- Do employees know what to do if they spot a fire or signs of a fire?
- Do you perform fire evacuation drills?

Fire protection is everyone's responsibility. If everyone knows what to do when the fire alarm sounds, lives, and your company can be saved.

U.S. EPA Appoints Enforcement Official to Head Region 5

U.S. EPA Administrator **Stephen Johnson** appointed **Lynn Buhl**, an enforcement official at EPA headquarters, to the top job of Administrator of Region 5 in Chicago on July 21. Buhl currently is Deputy Assistant Administrator in the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in Washington, D.C. Region 5 is responsible for EPA activities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Johnson's appointment comes ten weeks after the abrupt resignation of former Region 5 chief **Mary Gade**. Gade had gone on record as saying she was forced to resign due to her aggressive demands on Dow

Chemical Company to clean up a series of dioxin-contaminated sites near its headquarters in Midland, Michigan. Buhl has served as Deputy Assistant Administrator in EPA's enforcement office since September 2006. Previously she served as acting Secretary of Maryland's Department of the Environment and Deputy Secretary of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. Prior to her service in Maryland, Buhl worked at Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality and in EPA's Region 5 office as an Assistant Regional Counsel.

Reminder: New I-9 Must be Used Effective June 30

U.S. employers are required to begin using the revised 2008 version of the Form I-9, which is used to verify employees' identities and authorization to work in the United States. The new form includes the revision date, June 16, 2008, and replaces the June 5, 2007 version. Click [here](#) for a PDF copy of the new I-9 form.

Wisconsin Retailer Cited for Late Spill Report

U.S. EPA Region 5 recently assessed one of our clients in Wisconsin a penalty of \$10,478 for failure to promptly report an 800-pound release of anhydrous ammonia to the National Response Center (NRC) in October of 2005. The NRC was notified two hours after the company first knew of the incident. The chemical was released from a nurse tank during transport and lasted approximately 20 minutes. An anhydrous ammonia release greater than 100 pounds must be reported immediately.

IRS Increases Standard Mileage Rates Effective July 1

The IRS standard rate to calculate deductible costs of operating a vehicle for business purposes will increase to 58.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. This rate can be used in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for use of their private vehicles for business purposes. The new six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase to 27 cents a mile.

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