

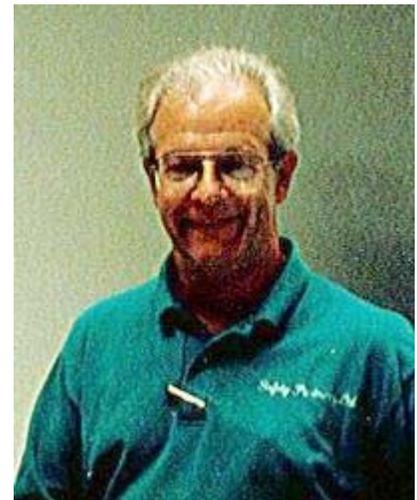


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### Remembering Bill St Peters

We said goodbye to a good friend on Saturday, July 11, 2009, when **Bill St Peters** passed away at the age of 65. Bill was a major factor in our *Emergency Response to Agricultural Incidents* course since he first came on board in 1996. He touched each participant in a way that made their training a memorable experience. Bill was the owner and president of Safety Partners LTD in Godfrey, IL. He was a volunteer for the Special Olympics for 28 years, a past president of the American Heart Association, served on the board for the March of Dimes and was an accomplished Refinery Fire & Emergency Response Instructor at Texas A&M. Our thoughts and prayers are with **Norma**, his wife, and **Dave Volentine**, his stepson and successor in the business. He will be missed by all of us who knew him. We extend our condolences to the family. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the family by [clicking here](#).



### Wisconsin Ag Loses a Leader

We were also very saddened to learn of the passing of **Mike Turner**, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Crop Production Association. Mike died on July 22, 2009, after a long and courageous fight with cancer. He is survived by his wife **Brenda**, children **Kyle, Briana, Mikala** and **Natalie**, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy. Mike's tenure at WCPA was marked by high energy, hard work, innovation, enthusiasm, and a positive, can do attitude...no matter what the challenge might be. He managed the association through a name change and a reinvention of the organization. Mike was a loving husband and father, a man who delighted in nature, and a skilled author of three children's books - [That Cat is Really Something](#), [The Big Search](#), and our favorite, [Lily McHillabee Lost Her Key](#). Expressions of sympathy or inquiries into obtaining his books can be sent to the family at 2048 Lynwood Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

### National Safety School 2009 - Register Today!

The National Agronomic Environmental Health and Safety School will be held in Bloomington, IL this year on August 18th & 19th. 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 topics and speakers for 2009 has been secured. The Safety School program will benefit you and your staff! We ask that you seriously consider attending this year to see for yourself. The 2009 agenda has been posted and can be viewed by visiting [www.naehss.org](http://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 19th & 20th. 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](http://www.ifca.com).

### **Asmark Institute Recognized for New Management Dashboard**

We encourage you to check out CropLife Magazine's article on *Snapshots*, the management dashboard launched last year. Developers **Amber Duke**, **Dustin Warder** and **Dena Rhodes** are highlighted in the article that shows the new web-based feature from an idea on notebook paper through to the finished product. **CropLife Editor Eric Sfiligoj** visited the Asmark Institute and wrote the article that was featured in their June issue, focusing on technology and innovative uses within the ag industry. Check the entire article out by [clicking here](#).

### **TFI Successful in Preventing Tax on Fertilizer**

The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) in Washington D.C. secured a victory for the industry this week when they were able to convince legislative leaders to remove a proposed tax on fertilizers from federal legislation that seeks to create a Clean Water Trust Fund. Originally, the legislation aimed to tax fertilizer to the tune of \$500 million per year to support federal investments in drinking water infrastructures. This is yet another example why it is so important to be a member of your state and national associations. Congratulations TFI staff and thank you!

### **N-Serve 24 DOT Shipping Description Changes**

Anyone shipping, transporting or offering for shipment, N-Serve 24 should review their Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping papers and placards to insure the information they are using is current. Dow AgroSciences recently revised the proper shipping description and placard associated with N-Serve 24. N-Serve 24 was classified as a combustible material and has been reclassified as a flammable.

### **EPA's Container Containment Rule**

On August 16, 2006, EPA promulgated the final pesticide container and containment rule (71 FR 47330) twelve years after first being proposed in 1994. The regulations require pesticide registrants, users, retailers, refillers, commercial applicators, and custom blenders, to comply with applicable provisions of the rule. The rule establishes standards for refillable and nonrefillable containers, including design specifications for rinsing, durability, and standardized closures. It requires pesticide labels to provide instructions on how to properly clean containers before disposal or recycling. The rule also establishes standards for secondary containment structures at certain agricultural storage sites and for containment pads at certain agricultural pesticide dispensing operations. This rule will affect almost everyone in our industry - are you in compliance with the deadlines set out? We recommend that you get up to speed on this rule by reviewing the following links. Click on [EPA's website](#) for more information. [Click here](#) for the actual rule. CropLife America has a great [poster](#) that can be downloaded and posted in your farm center.

### **CSB Investigative Team to Examine Fatal Ammonia Release near Columbia, South Carolina**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board deployed an investigation team to the site of an anhydrous ammonia release that occurred July 15, 2009 at Tanner Industries located south of Swansea, South Carolina. According to media reports, a woman driving her car near the facility was overcome by the ammonia vapor and was fatally injured. Seven other individuals were taken to a local hospital for what were thought to be non-life threatening injuries. The CSB team was headed by **Investigation Supervisor Robert Hall**, PE. **Board Member William E. Wright** will accompany the team and act as the chief spokesperson. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure, as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. The Board does not issue citations or fines, but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA.

### **Administration Makes Changes to Employee Verification Policy**

The Obama Administration and DHS recently announced that they will require businesses with federal contracts to use a government electronic database system to verify that their employees have legal immigration status to work in the United States. After a six-month review, Homeland Security officials decided to go ahead with a worker-verification plan based on the electronic system, called E-Verify. The system, which

the Bush administration sought to put into effect in its final months, is meant to prevent federal contractors from hiring illegal immigrants. E-Verify is an online system operated jointly by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Participating employers can check the employment eligibility of new hires online by comparing information from an employee's Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, against SSA and Department of Homeland Security databases. DHS also announced they would rescind the "No-match" rule, another Bush administration proposal that would have forced employers to fire any workers whose Social Security information did not match the records of the Social Security Administration. This rule mandated that employers verify the legality of their workers if a name or SSN did not match on a filed W-2.

### **Immigration Notifies Companies Audits are Coming**

Over 650 U.S. companies received notices this month from U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) to expect audits and inspection of I-9 immigration forms from workers, part of what the Obama Administration calls a "crack down" on employer compliance with employee eligibility laws. The companies selected were chosen based on leads and information obtained through investigations, ICE said, refusing to name companies or locations. ICE called the audits the "first step in a long-term strategy to address and deter illegal immigration," and signals the first shift away from targeting illegal workers for arrest. Critics of the action said the Obama White House is trying to earn credibility on the immigration issue before tackling legislation to reform U.S. immigration laws. Under the ICE audit program, companies are being asked to provide employee records without subpoena, issuing what it calls "notices of inspection" instead. I-9 Forms require employers to review and record identity documentation for all employees and whether the employer finds the documents "reasonably appear to be genuine and related to the individual."

### **"Organic" Doesn't Guarantee Quality, Taste or Anything it Seems**

There is a growing public awareness to the misconception of the benefits of organic food. "Just because it's organic doesn't mean it's the best. Let flavor dictate," according to Los Angeles Times writer **Russ Parsons**. Check his full [article](#) out. Even Showtime's **Penn & Teller** are getting in on the debunking with a show dedicated to the myths behind organically grown food. The show features a taste test with two halves of a banana and a life-long follower of the organic cult that you should see. Penn & Teller are known for analyzing cultural phenomena, debunking myths, criticizing people and aspects of society they deem "Bullshit," and generally have fun doing it. Showtime's schedule can be viewed by [clicking here](#). (As always, viewer discretion is advised when watching a Penn & Teller program.)

### **CSB Releases New Safety Video on Combustible Dust**

Washington, D.C., July 28, 2009 – The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a new safety video depicting how accumulations of combustible dust at worksites can provide the fuel for devastating explosions that kill and maim workers, shut down plants, and harm local economies. Entitled, "Combustible Dust: An Insidious Hazard," the new video is available online at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov). The video features all-new CSB computer animations, which illustrates three major dust explosion accidents the CSB has investigated: West Pharmaceutical Services in Kinston, North Carolina; CTA Acoustics in Corbin, Kentucky; and Hayes Lemmerz International, in Huntington, Indiana. For each accident, the animations show how explosive dust accumulated over years on plant equipment, pipes, floors, ducts, dust collectors, and other areas. The video shows how conditions develop needing only an ignition source to set off a primary explosion, which lofts the accumulated dust, leading to deadlier secondary explosions. News footage and still photographs depict actual damage caused by these explosions, as well as other accidents, including last year's tragedy which killed 14 workers at the Imperial Sugar Company in Port Wentworth, Georgia. **CSB Chairman John Bresland** said the CSB hopes the video will be viewed across general industry – in all facilities where combustible dust may be generated in the manufacturing process. "It is our hope," the chairman said, "that company executives, safety managers, and labor groups will take 29 minutes to view this video and ask themselves, 'Could this happen at our operation?' And then take action to eliminate dust hazards from their facilities."

**Note:** On the eve of OSHA's much-anticipated proposed rule on combustible dust, industry sources report the proposed rule is expected to expand greatly the entities regulated. It is expected the entities already affected

may see minor revisions in the rule. The most prominent affect on entities already regulated may be stepped-up enforcement. Entities in other industries that may produce dust to a lesser degree may become regulated as one of the main results of the new proposed standard.

**Reminder: Federal Minimum Wage Increased on July 24th**

The federal minimum wage for affected employees rose from \$6.55 to \$7.25 per hour on July 24th. Twelve states now have minimum wage rates higher than the federal minimum wage. Current state minimum wages for other states can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Thought for the times.....**

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress." - **Ronald Reagan**, popular former President of the United States.

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