

# EFO Safety and Health Committee News

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**November 25, 2015**

## **OSHA's GHS Hazard Communication's Final Effective Date on 12/1/2015**

On June 1, 2015, chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers were to be in compliance with all of the modified provisions of the updated Hazard Communication Standard. The final effective date is December 1, 2015 where the Distributor shall ship containers from a chemical manufacturer and importer with the updated Hazard Communication compliant label. For more information, see [OSHA HazCom](#).

## **NIOSH-Designed Technology Can Reduce Worker's Exposure to Silica at Hydraulic Fracturing Sites**

Researchers at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have developed and tested a prototype called the "mini-baghouse" that can protect oil and gas extraction workers by effectively controlling silica dust at hydraulic fracturing worksites. Research on the mini-baghouse will be presented November 4, 2015 at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Chicago. For more information, see [NIOSH Updates- Silica Exposure Hydraulic Fracturing Sites 11-04-15](#).

## **Whistleblower Guidance Being Updated**

OSHA is [seeking comment](#) on a draft document intended to help employers develop their own programs to protect employees from retaliation when they raise concerns about workplace conditions or activities. Comments will be accepted until Jan. 19, 2016. OSHA will consider all comments when preparing the final document. For more information, see the [news release](#).

## **Temporary Worker Safety & Health Video Releases**

In a new video, OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels emphasizes the shared responsibility of staffing firms and host employers to ensure the safety and health of temporary workers. The video can be viewed on the U.S. Department of Labor's [YouTube channel](#) or OSHA's webpage on [Protecting Temporary Workers](#).

## **EPA and Partners Collaborate on Lung Cancer Deaths Caused by Radon**

On November 10, the EPA, American Lung Association, and other partners announced a strategy to help prevent 3200 lung deaths annually by 2020 through radon exposure strategies. See [EPA and Partners Plan to Reduce Radon Exposures 11-10-15](#).

## **OSHA National Advisory Committee Schedules Meeting of Emergency Response and Preparedness Subcommittee**

OSHA has scheduled a meeting on December 8, 2015 for the Emergency Response and Preparedness Subcommittee. Among other issues, the subcommittee will discuss potential elements of an emergency response and preparedness proposed rule, such as facility and equipment preparedness, vehicle preparedness and operation, pre-incident planning, emergency incident standard operating procedures, post-incident analysis, and program evaluation. The meeting will be held from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information, see [OSHA Emergency Response & Preparedness Subcommittee](#).

### **CSB To Offer Spanish Language Safety Products**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is launching a new initiative aimed at expanding the agency's reach to better include Spanish speaking stakeholders. The CSB is now offering news releases outlining key safety information and lessons learned in Spanish. The first Spanish language new releases include one about the final investigation report into the massive explosion and fire that occurred in 2009 at the [Caribbean Petroleum](#) terminal facility near San Juan, Puerto Rico, and another regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal methyl mercaptan release that took place in 2014 at [DuPont's pesticide manufacturing plant](#) in La Porte, Texas. For more information, see [CSB Offering Spanish Language Products](#).

### **Oklahoma Safety Resources**

**OSHA:** Sign up for Quick Takes at <https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html>

**Safety Council** - Monthly luncheon meetings held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Sign up to receive their newsletters at <http://www.oksafety.org/>.

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