

EFO Safety and Health Committee News

February 19, 2016

National Safety Stand-Down May 2-6, 2016

The [U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) and other federal safety agencies announced today that they have designated May 2-6, 2016, for the third annual National Safety Stand-Down. The event is a nationwide effort to remind and educate employers and workers in the construction industry of the serious dangers of falls - the cause of the highest number of industry deaths in the construction industry. To guide their efforts, OSHA has developed the official [National Safety Stand-Down web site](#) with information on conducting a successful stand-down. After their events, employers are encouraged to provide feedback and will receive a personalized certificate of participation.

Guidance for Determining Potential Health Hazards of Chemicals

The agency plans to issue new guidance on how to apply the Weight of Evidence approach when dealing with complex scientific studies. On February 16 0 31, OSHA will begin accepting comments on its Guidance on Data Evaluation for Weight of Evidence Determination, which is intended to help employers consider all available information when classifying hazardous chemicals. The "weight of evidence" approach assists manufacturers, importers and employers to evaluate scientific studies on the potential health hazards of a chemical and determine what information must be disclosed on the label and safety data sheet (SDS) for compliance with the Hazard Communication Standard. This draft is a companion document to a recently posted [Hazard Classification Guidance](#)*. This guidance document is not a standard or regulation and it does not create any new legal obligations and is intended to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace. The recommendations are advisory in nature, informational in content, and intended to educate scientists and non-scientists alike who prepare labels and SDSs so that they provide accurate and consistent information.

OSHA Severe Violator Enforcement Program

OSHA released their Severe Violator Enforcement Program (SVEP) on 1/8/2016. To see the case list and follow-ups on these, go to <https://www.osha.gov/dep/index.html> for additional information. The SVEP Directive and White Paper are also available on this webpage.

OSHA and Health Canada on Aligning Hazard Communication Regulations

OOSHA and Health Canada continue their efforts to align workplace hazard communication regulations in Canada and United States. Meetings were held in the past in November and December 2015. The next meeting will be a webinar on March 3, 2016. To find out more, visit the

Step-Up to Protect Oil and Gas Exploration Sites

OSHA has announced the 2016 Step-Up for Safety in the Upstream Oil and Gas Industry to raise awareness among employers and workers about hazard in oil and gas exploration. During Step-Up events, employers around the country will take time out to conduct site inspections, safety training, and other activities. These events will be held mid-February until the end of March. The Step-Up is part of OSHA's alliance with the National Service, Transmission, Exploration & Production Safety Network and the NIOSH. There are 22 regional STEPS Networks who will coordinate and promote these events. or more information, visit the [Step Up for Safety Web site](#), which includes a menu of resources that employers can use during their events.

OSHA Issues New Bulletin on Electric Generators Cooled by Hydrogen Gas

On January 22, 2016, OSHA issued a new Safety and Health Information Bulletin on the hazards when purging hydrogen gas-cooled electric Generators. To see this SHIB and other, see [OSHA SHIBs](#).

Dangers of Tank Gauging – New Hazard Alert

A new hazard alert from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identifies health and safety risks to oil and gas industry workers who manually gauge or sample fluids on production and flowback tanks. It was triggered by a series of preventable deaths related to manual gauging of tanks. The new alert, [*Health and Safety Risks for Workers Involved in Manual Tank Gauging and Sampling at Oil and Gas Extraction Sites*](#), provides specific recommendations for employers that will protect workers from hazards associated with opening tank hatches to manually gauge or sample hydrocarbon levels. The recommendations fall into three main categories: engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment. For more information, see [NIOSH/OSHA Dangers of Tank Gauging](#)

2016 Safety Conferences

Below is a list of the safety conferences scheduled for 2016 with their internet websites:

- Oklahoma ASSE Chapter Safety Expo and Golf Tournament: April 7-8, 2016 in Oklahoma City. See <http://okc.asse.org/> for additional news.
- The 2016 Region VI VPPPA Conference will be held in Ft. Worth, TX at the Fort Worth Convention Center on May 16-19, 2016. See www.regionvivpp.org for additional information.
- 2016 Oklahoma Safety & Health Conference held June 15-17, 2016 in Norman, OK. See <http://www.oksafety.org/> for additional news.
- The 2016 National Safety Council Congress & Expo will be held in Anaheim, CA October 15-21, 2016. See www.nsc.org for additional information
- AIHce 2016 will be held in Baltimore, MD on May 21-26. See www.aiha.org for additional information.
- The 2016 National VPPPA Conference will be held at the Gaylord Palms & Convention Center in Kissimmee, FL on August 29-Sept 1, 2016. See www.vpppa.org for additional information.
- AIHA Fall Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX on October 24-25, 2016 in San Antonio, TX. See www.aiha.org for additional information.

Oklahoma Safety Resources

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