Register Now for Occupational Health Symposium

This annual conference provides information, resources, and networking opportunities for Midwest professionals whose focus is the health and safety of workers. Sponsored by the University of Iowa’s Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety, this year’s Symposium takes place on Thursday, March 29, and Friday, March 30, at the Sheraton Hotel in Iowa City. On Wednesday, March 28, a pre-symposium program will focus on safety programs to reduce workplace hazards. This gathering has taken place annually since 1999 and attracts industrial hygienists, safety professionals, occupational medicine physicians, physician assistants, occupational health nurses, nurse practitioners, human resources professionals and others.

Heartland Center (Symposium info, registration form) – www.public-health.uiowa.edu/heartland/OHS2007_FINAL.pdf

Symposium Topic: Diversity

It’s a fact in the modern world—and a good thing: it stimulates creativity, for example, and helps a company recruit desirable employees. Diversity means more than race or gender; it includes age, class, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, and spiritual practice. A session on “Cultural Differences in a Diverse Workplace,” presented by Dorothy Simpson-Taylor from the University of Iowa’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, will be part of the Occupational Health Symposium sponsored by the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety.

University of Florida (“Diversity in the Workplace”) - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HR022

The Value of Safety

Do you need to persuade your employer that investing in workplace safety can improve the “bottom line”? OSHA now provides information on the costs of workplace injuries and illnesses and economic benefits of workplace safety and health.


Latest Guidance on Pandemic Flu

OSHA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a booklet in February that will help employers prepare for an influenza pandemic. It provides information for all types of workplaces and describes the differences between seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza. Recommendations for employee protection are based on four levels of anticipated risk.


Drug and Alcohol Testing: 2007 Random Rates

Random drug testing rates for Department of Transportation agencies are available. The Federal Transit Administration rate was reduced from 50% to 25%.

DOT - www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/rates.html

UI HealthWorks is a member of the WORKSAFE IOWA Occupational Medicine Associate Network, the only university-affiliated network of occupational health providers. WORKSAFE IOWA is an outreach program of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe).