Alcohol Awareness Month

Employees in recovery are legally protected in many cases against discrimination. For example, employers need to provide “reasonable accommodations,” such as changing work hours to let an employee attend treatment. A brochure from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) describes what an individual can do to prevent or remedy violations to his or her rights and overcome barriers due to past or current drug- or alcohol-related conduct.


“Harvest the Knowledge” at VPP Conference

The 15th annual Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Conference for Region VII will take place May 19-21 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines. The conference will feature a VPP Panel Discussion with Plant Managers from Iowa and numerous other workshops on ergonomics, fall protection, wellness programs, and other topics. The VPP designation, which is achieved through a partnership between management, labor, and OSHA, is OSHA’s official recognition of exemplary occupational safety and health at a worksite.

VPP-Region VII - www.regionviivpp.org/2008conferenceinfo.cfm

New Thinking About Websites

Working for the past 14 years in 35 countries has made Gerry McGovern an authority on managing web content. Some of the ideas from his provocative weekly email newsletter:

“Do you base success on measuring the volume of visitors and page impressions? Such measures may in fact reflect the failure—rather than the success—of your website.”

“It’s very easy to put a website together that is filled with content that the organization thinks is important. It’s a whole other challenge to have a website that is based on a deep understanding of exactly what customers need and when.”

“Do you know what happened to frequently asked questions (FAQs)? One dark, rainy night, they got dragged down an alleyway and were beaten to death by a bunch of infrequently asked questions.”

New Thinking (free subscription) - www.gerrymcgovern.com

Stay Up to Date on Iowa Occupational Health/Safety

The Iowa Department of Public Health has launched the Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program (OSHSP), a new program that will coordinate reports of Iowans’ occupation-related illnesses, injuries, and fatalities. The department intends for the new surveillance program to promote better data collection networks and to identify trends and patterns in worker injuries and illnesses.

Until the program is incorporated in the IDPH website, information is available from Kathy Leinenkugel, Program Coordinator, at 515-281-4930 (kleinenk@idph.state.ia.us).