Private Sector Injury/Illness Data Promising

In 2008 (the most recent data), nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses declined among private industry employers to 3.9 cases per 100 FTE workers; however, the incidence rate among public sector workers was 6.3 cases per 100 workers (this is the first year State and local government workers were included in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses). Both private and public sector SOII estimates for 2008 are available by State; the contact for Iowa is Anne Jackson, Iowa Workforce Development (515/281-5151).

Workplace Injuries and Illnesses-2008 - www.bls.gov/news.release/osh.nr0.htm
State Occupational Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities - www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm#I

Mysteries of Immunity

Some people who were vaccinated last year for seasonal flu have been less likely this year to either be hospitalized or visit a doctor with the H1N1 flu virus, according to the results of a study in the US military community. The age groups with the most protective effect were older (40+) and younger (17-24); for people 25-39 years old there was no protection. Researchers cannot explain the differing results for various ages or why last year's vaccine protected people against this year's threat, and the current seasonal flu vaccine is not believed to protect against H1N1.

USA Today (Last year's flu shot may help ward off swine flu, study shows) - www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-11-19-swineflu-vaccine-protection_N.htm

Revised Acetylene Standard

The colorless gas commonly used as fuel for welding and metal cutting can become explosive if liquefied, heated, compressed or mixed with air. OSHA has revised its acetylene standard for in-plant transfer, handling, storage and use of acetylene cylinders.


Lots of Winter Left

On a person with frostbite, do you rub the affected area? Do you rub a person with hypothermia (whose body temperature has dropped below 95 degrees)? This and other guidance is part of "The Cold Stress Equation," an OSHA pocket guide. [Answer: 1) No - rubbing will damage frostbitten tissue; 2) No - rubbing the body of a person with hypothermia may stop their heart.]

OSHA (English pocket card) - www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3156.pdf
OSHA (Spanish pocket card) - www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3158.pdf

"EEO is the Law"

A new "Equal Employment Opportunity is the Law" poster, which must be displayed with EEOC 9/02 and OFCCP 8/08 posters, adds information about the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, among other updates, and can be obtained online or through the mail.

EEOC Poster Request Form - http://www1.eeoc.gov/employers/poster.cfm

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).