

Minutes

NPA Safety and Health Teleconference

2/14/01

Attendees:

Bonnie King, Area Office

Gene Life, Miles City

Greg Hunt, Laramie

Ted Bernard, Fort Collins

Glen Becker, Clay Center

Chad Nielson, Brookings

Recorder: JoAnne Gresens, Manhattan

Dave Allard, Grand Forks

Ron Wien, Fargo

Glen Uhler, Akron

Terrie Wierenga, Logan

Glen Trostle, Logan

Alvin Harding, Lincoln

Review of Last Month's Telecon Minutes (Bonnie):

- No changes

New OSHA Recordkeeping Standard (Alvin Harding, Jr.):

- Alvin will move all of the material, including the three new forms into the NPA Telecon area of the website. The forms can be filled online and printed out.
- Bonnie reminded us that the OSHA log should be completed as injuries and illnesses occur.
- Under the new standard, the summary will be posted for three months instead of one.
- One set of criteria will be used for both work-related injuries and work-related illnesses. Formerly, all illnesses were recorded regardless of severity.
- Applies the same recording criteria for musculoskeletal disorders that other injuries or illnesses have.
- Includes new definitions of "first aid", "medical treatment" and "restricted work".
- Adds additional exemptions to the definition of "work-relationship".
- Clarifies the recording of "light duty" or "restricted" work cases. Cases are recordable when an employee is restricted from their normal duties. A normal duty is one performed at least once/week.
- Requires standard threshold shifts in employees' hearing to be recorded.
- Requires recording all needle stick and sharps injuries that involve contamination by another person's blood or other bodily fluids.
- Counts "days away" or "days restricted" or "days transferred" rather than just "lost workdays" and uses calendar days instead of workdays. Alvin noted that this has probably been underestimated in the past. Important to work closely with location timekeeper(s).
- Also reminded us that some cases covered by Workers' Compensation may not be OSHA recordable and others may be recordable, but not covered by Workers' Comp.

Industrial Hygiene Baseline Survey (Bonnie):

- The baseline survey form is on its third revision right now. The REE IH Team has a Telecon tomorrow and will continue to finalize the layout. There shouldn't be too many more changes.
- Bonnie still wants to include the mode code, so the information can be linked back to Occupational Medical Surveillance Program.
- Headquarters is investigating the use of software that may or may not be compatible with Microsoft Access or Microsoft Excel. Alvin is creating a database in Access.
- Although columns have been added to list controls that are in place during chemical use (administrative, engineering, PPE), there is a separate section addressing ventilation.
- Added to form: Hazards NOS (Not Otherwise Specified) to include ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, magnetic fields, thermal stress, noise, lighting, dusts, allergens, asbestos.
- Biohazardous material has generated some discussion. A biohazard may not be the actual hazard being worked with, but could be incidental to the task, such as possible Hantavirus exposure in a work area.
- Attendees appeared to think that a November 2002 deadline was a reasonable amount of time to complete the baseline survey.
- Some location units will be physically moving and wonder if a baseline survey is appropriate at this time.
- The survey is to be done on a room-by-room basis.
- Alvin e-mailed everyone an Excel template for the Top 20 Chemicals of Concern That will be used for NPA surveys and added "amount to be used" to the form.

Implementation Program Teams Progress Reports (Bonnie):

- Bonnie presented the completed packages to Dr. Blackburn and Tina and is hoping for a response by the beginning of March.

Worker Compensation Specialist Training (Bonnie):

- Excellent training opportunity for your location's Workers' Comp contact. In NPA it appears to be handled by the LAOs, some of the full time LSOs or a combination.
- Training and materials are no cost, but the location is responsible for travel and per diem.
- The Denver D.O.L contact is Paula Breitling, FAX : 720-264-3046. Bonnie has sent for additional information, but has not received it yet.
- The next course is scheduled for August 21-23, 2001, in Denver.

OMSP CDs (Bonnie):

- Bonnie and others were given the new version (Version 2.0) of the Occupational Medical Surveillance Program CD while in Athens. Changes were suggested but have not shown up yet.

- Bonnie has put it on the NPA website (not our team website) and it is available for anyone to download at <http://www.npa.ars.usda.gov/Safety/OMSP.htm> The password is USDA182B (case sensitive).
- In playing around with the program and comparing it to the old procedure, Bonnie has found that CBCs and blood chemistries, for example, may not be ordered as frequently. This may surprise some program participants who are used to having certain tests run every year. We should consider this a transitional year as we begin using this new approach.
- Since there are still some chemicals not yet found on the database or situations that you may feel are not completely addressed, you can still rely on your professional judgement and discretion. The CD and database will continue to change and improve as we work with it.

Next Teleconference:

- March 14, 2001 at 1:00 P.M. MST
- Call in number is 202-260-8715.