



SAFETY NEWS

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Mike Beebe, Governor

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James L. Salkeld, Director



2007 GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE NEAR

Make plans now to attend the annual Governor's Safety and Health Management Conference on April 25 and 26th at the John Q. Hammons Center/Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers, Arkansas.

The conference is sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers and is entitled Reaching for the Pinnacle of Safety. Co-sponsors include the Arkansas Chapters of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the American Society of Training and Development, OSHA Little Rock Area Office, the Arkansas Department of Labor, Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Rogers Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Keynote speakers will be Carl Potter, CSP, CMC, CSP, a private safety consultant, speaker, writer and researcher; and Michael Thompson, CSP, and President-Elect of the American Society of Safety Engineers. Twenty-five additional cutting edge breakout sessions will address such issues as: safety incentives, evaluating safety performance, electrical safety, people based safety, disaster preparedness, stress in the workplace, generational differences in the workplace, work zone safety, EMT/EMS, construction hazard identification, root cause analysis, and much more. Additionally, ASSE, ABIH, Nurse and EMT CEU applications will be submitted.

In addition to great speakers presenting workshops on key issues, the conference will also feature a vendor show and a pre-conference golf tournament. A room block at a reduced rate has been reserved at the Embassy Suites and will be available through April 10.

The Arkansas American Society of Safety Engineers is also sponsoring an ASP Examination Preparation Workshop presented by Span International on April 27-29th in conjunction with the conference.

To register for these outstanding educational opportunities, visit <http://ticketsage.com/asse>



EMPLOYERS MUST HAVE ILLESS/INJURY SUMMARIES POSTED

Federal OSHA is reminding employers that beginning February 1, they should have posted a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred during 2006. Employers are only required to post OSHA Form 300A (summary), not the OSHA 300 log. The summary must be posted from February 1 to April 30, 2007.

The summary must list the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2006 and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Information about the annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the calendar year is also required to assist in calculating incidence rates. Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses in 2006 must post the form with zeros on the total line. All
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MAY 6-12, 2007 IS NAOSH WEEK

The goal of the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is to focus the attention of employers, employees, the general public and all partners in occupational safety, health and the environment on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace.

See www.asse.org/naosh07 for details.



SUCCESS

Working Together for Safety



**ARKANSAS HAS
48 SHARP COMPANIES
AND 40 VPP SITES.**

Employers who have exemplary safety and health management systems, may qualify to be placed on the federal recognition and exemption program called SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program). In this program, the employer is removed from OSHA's programmed inspection schedule for up to three years.

Establishments meeting the requirements to become a SHARP site for the first time, may receive a special certificate from federal OSHA, a plaque, and a SHARP banner or flag to recognize their outstanding safety and health program. Companies achieving SHARP after the first time receive an exemption from OSHA's general programmed inspections for up to two years, and may receive a special certificate from federal OSHA. (On a case by case basis, consideration to participate in SHARP could be given to facilities not meeting the size limitations with the Project Manager's approval.)

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) was established by U.S. Department of Labor OSHA to promote effective safety and health management systems through partnerships between management, labor, and OSHA. Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding effort of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

VPP sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system, invites sites to apply, and then assesses applicants against these criteria. Their verification includes an application review and a rigorous on-site evaluation by a team of OSHA safety and health experts.

For more information on SHARP and VPP, contact the Safety Division of the Arkansas Department of Labor at 501-682-4522 or OSHA Area Office at 501-224-1841.



ZERO MOUNTAIN, INC. SUCCESS STORY

*by Chris Beason
Zero Mountain*

Zero Mountain, Inc. started working with the Arkansas Department of

Labor approximately nine years ago. It took more than just a little persuading for upper management to consent to invite "the DOL" to come and help us in our compliance and accident prevention efforts.

Our Workers Compensation Experience Rating was well above one and we were having in excess of 40 workers comp claims per year. Over several years, our accidents decreased and ADOL started talking to us about the SHARP program. It took a few years for our numbers to qualify for the program and we joined the program.

The SHARP program has increased the awareness of our safety program and goals. Employees from the hourly operators to the CEO are aware of the program and the benefits that are associated with it. We are proud of our accomplishments and everyone wants to continue to do better. The SHARP program has really helped to bring safety performance to the forefront.

Since we have been in the program, our accidents have dropped significantly and in two locations we have gone over a year without an OSHA recordable injury. After starting the SHARP program, our worker's compensation premium has dropped from \$274,696 to \$175,559. After other discounts and our modifier, this year's premium is \$99,708.

Being a SHARP company has also helped to lower property and other lines of insurance. Insurance carriers like the fact that we are working with the DOL and qualifying for the program. Also, our customers like to see the SHARP flag flying. We receive numerous annual "risk management" audits from our customers. They are always impressed by our SHARP status.

Our experience with the SHARP program and the ADOL has been very positive. First and foremost it has made Zero Mountain a safer place to work. We have reduced injuries and the costs associated with them. Employees take pride in our safety performance. Insurance costs have dropped, and we have stronger relationships with our customers.

Thanks, SHARP!

Zero Mountain has four locations in the SHARP program: Fort Smith, Lowell, Johnson, and Russellville.



'07 SAFETY SEMINARS PLANNED

The Arkansas Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission co-sponsor safety seminars across the state each year, sometimes with additional sponsorship from local safety associations.

These seminars differ from other safety seminars in that they are geared to the hourly employees, people on safety committees, and supervisors. Of course, personnel managers, engineers, maintenance workers, and plant managers are also welcome to attend.

Each seminar lasts one day, with four or more subjects discussed at each location. A registration fee of \$20 covers lunch and all materials.

This year's seminars have been slated for:

Little Rock	March 14
Pine Bluff	March 29
Hope	May 2
Fort Smith	May 10-11
Russellville	May 9
El Dorado	May 31
West Memphis	June 14
Bentonville	August 9
Texarkana	August 16
Batesville	Sept. 13
Jonesboro	Sept. 19
Monticello	Oct. 4

For information on a seminar in your area, call Judy Harwell at 501-682-9092 or e-mail:

Harwell.Judy@dol.gov

Thousands of Arkansans have attended these seminars. Make plans to join them!



FIRE IN THE HOLE

With spring and summer upon us, fire ants are close behind. And while we may all see these ugly creatures from afar in our yards, some workers are more apt to get to know them up close and personal.

Fire ants are reddish-brown and range from 1/16 to 1/4 inch in size. These aggressive insects nest near homes and buildings (look out gardeners and landscape workers) and can cause problems when they search indoors for food and moisture. They also enter air conditioners and other electrical equipment (beware electricians and utility workers) where they can damage fuses and wiring.

Disturbing a mound of fire ants can result in "swarms" of ants coming out the top. Tunnels inside the mounds have been found to a depth of 10 feet in some soils. Clay soils will have deeper tunnels than a sandy soil.

Fire ant queens have lived for as long as seven years, but on average live approximately three years. In general, fire ant workers live four to six weeks. While there are several ways fire ants spread, the primary method of movement is the movement of fire ant infested material. Plant nursery stock, hay and grass sod are some of the culprits (attention home and garden personnel and farmers).

Fire ants eat both plant and animal material and live as well as dead insects. They have a definite impact on the environment in that there is a decrease in ground-dwelling insects in habitats where they are well established. Their impact on wildlife including turtles, deer and quail is currently under study.

To kill a fire ant colony, you have to kill the queen. Disturbing the mound often merely causes the colony to move to another location. Often when contact insecticides and home remedies are used, the queen is not wiped out, but the disturbance does cause the colony to move. Organic methods of treating fire ants, such as the use of hot water or steam and diatomaceous earth, while somewhat effective, only impacts the ants that come in contact with the liquid.

Although the bait products that are on the market may appear to be quite expensive, when used with the two-step method of

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control, they are affordable and provide longer term control than many other products. Baits are more effective and provide longer term control because they are products that impact the queen and/or her egg laying ability.

The two-step method involves spreading a bait insecticide over the entire yard in the spring and fall, or anytime during the warm season when ants are active. The second step is to treat each mound with an approved insecticide, no sooner than 3 days after you apply baits. (Take care to follow manufacturer's instructions and wear the recommended protective clothing, i.e., long-sleeved shirt and long pants, shoes plus socks, waterproof and chemical resistant gloves, protective eyewear.)

Typical reactions to fire ant stings include burning, itching and white pustules that form within a day or so. Treatment includes over-the-counter products that relieve pain and prevent infection. Occasionally swelling occurs and

ice should be applied. If necessary, antihistamines and corticosteroids may be prescribed.

Severe reactions to fire ant bites (chest pain, nausea, sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling or slurred speech) require immediate medical treatment.

For more information on fire ants, contact the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service or visit their website at <http://www.uaex.edu>

POST – (contd. from pg. 1) summaries must be certified by a company executive.

The form is to be displayed in a common area wherever notices to employees are usually posted. A copy of the summary must be made available to employees who move from worksite to worksite, such as construction employees and employees who do not report to any fixed establishment on a regular basis.

Employers with ten or fewer employees and employers in certain industry groups are normally exempt from federal OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and posting requirements. A complete list of exempt industries in the retail, services, finance and real estate sectors is posted on the OSHA Web site (www.osha.gov).

Exempt employers may still be selected by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics to participate in an annual statistical survey. All employers covered by OSHA need to comply with safety and health standards and must report verbally within eight hours to the nearest OSHA office all accidents that result in one or more fatalities or the hospitalization of three or more employees.

Copies of the OSHA Forms 300 and 300A are available on the OSHA Recordkeeping Web page in either Adobe PDF or Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet format.