

November / December 2009

NEWS FROM THE FIA SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

Employee Safety Perception Survey - Now Is The Time To Register - Don't Miss It!!

Companies that participated in the 2007 **Employee Safety Perception Survey** reported that in many cases, the survey opened their eyes to potential safety issues they were not aware of, as well as highlighting safety programs that were working.

The FIA Safety and Health Committee has developed this short, 50-question, Agree / Disagree *Survey*. The survey is designed to be administered by your company's safety and health coordinator, and should take no longer than 15 – 20 minutes for an employee to fill out. Employees **will not** be asked to identify themselves, their individual responses will be anonymous, to promote candor.

The Survey is designed to help **you** evaluate your workers' perception of your company's safety programs. The following are just a few of the areas that the **survey focuses on**:

- General view of your company's safety culture
- Management *buy-in* to a culture of safety
- Effectiveness of current safety programs
- Level of employees willingness to open up to, and work with, management regarding safety issues
- How much do your workers care about safety, and much more

Your company's individual responses will not be identified, and only known by you, and an FIA staff person. Your data will be tabulated on-site by your safety coordinator, and e-mailed directly to FIA. FIA will then enter your data into a comprehensive data base, made up of all participating companies. A personalized report will then be developed for you, showing you what the overall, aggregate Agree/ Disagree percentage was, and what your company's responses were for each question.

Why Participate?

- Identify and prioritize problem areas
- Increase employee involvement, awareness, and responsibility in safety programs
- Raise employee morale
- Establish an early warning system
- Expedite problem solving and program improvement
- Validate management decisions
- Establish baseline measures for future re-survey comparison

Survey Cost:

There is no fee for FIA Member Companies to participate in this Survey.

To participate, or for additional information, please contact George Layne, FIA Safety & Health Committee Liaison, @ **216-781-6260** – glayne@forging.org

Each company will receive their own personalized report. The person completing the Survey will be mailed their report, marked: "Personal and Confidential".

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Introduction to OSHA for Small Businesses in the Forging Industry

The FIA Safety & Health Committee has developed a workshop to help introduce forging companies to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is most commonly known by the acronym OSHA. By gaining an understanding of OSHA operations and procedures, you can learn how to work with OSHA to prevent or reduce injuries and illnesses in your workplace.

Training managers may download the 42-page presentation, along with an Instructor and Student Guides, for classroom presentations.

The workshop is divided into six sections:

1. Background of OSHA
2. Coverage, responsibilities and rights under OSHA
3. Standards
4. OSHA inspection process
5. Implementing a safety and health management system
6. Assistance to small businesses

At the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the tools OSHA uses to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses.
2. Identify basic employer and employee responsibilities and rights under OSHA.
3. Recognize how OSHA standards are organized and developed.
4. Select the steps of the OSHA inspection process.
5. Recognize the four elements of a safety and health management system.
6. Obtain information about compliance assistance.

To view/download the Presentation/Guides link to:

http://forging.org/intro_to_OSHA.html

For additional information contact George Layne at: glayne@forging.org

Safety Star Awards

Congratulations to the following companies for demonstrating a focus on safety and promoting a culture of safety throughout their companies.



ATI Portland Forge, Silver Star 255 Days without a recordable incident.



Scot Forge - Franklin Park, Silver Star 238 Days without a recordable incident.



Schaefer Equipment, Silver Star 227 Days without a recordable incident.



McInnes Rolled Rings, Bronze Star, 123 Days without a recordable incident.

Don't forget the "**Safety Star Awards Program**". When a company reports that they have gone 100, 200, or 300 days without a recordable incident, they will be recognized in the Safety Newsletter, and receive a **Star Certificate** of recognition for their accomplishment.

Safety & Health Committee Needs You!

- **Build a network of industry colleagues!**
- **Learn new techniques to improve safety, production & efficiency!**
- **Be involved...Be informed!**
- **Achieve recognition within the Industry!**
- **Grow personally & professionally!**
- **Have a voice in FIA programs & activities!**

FIA's Standing and Steering Committees form the backbone of the Association's programs and activities.

Committee participation is not only a service to FIA members and the industry, but a valuable experience for you as well. Your participation on the Safety & Health Committee forms an excellent network and resource base to keep you abreast of current trends directly affecting your company.

For information on Committee participation, please contact:

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Safety & Health Committee 2009 / 2010 Objectives

Objective:

Help FIA member companies reduce or eliminate workplace injuries, through education and benchmarking, thereby increasing employee morale, increasing employee production efficiency, and reducing Direct, Contingent, and Indirect Costs related to injuries. *OSHA estimates, for a company with a 10% profit margin, it takes **\$210,000 in ADDITIONAL SALES** to compensate for every \$10,000 paid in Workmen's Compensation. (*Source - OSHA Online Estimated Costs of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses and Estimated Impact on a Company's Profitability Worksheet: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/safetypays/index.html>)

• **Benchmark:**

Through Education and Benchmarking, provide FIA member companies the tools to help them keep the FIA Forging Producer DART (Days Away, Restricted or Transferred), Incident Rate Averages below **5.96**, (*5.96, last 5 - years FIA DART Average, 2004 -2008*).

Action Items:

Education:

1. **Forging Specific Safety Tip Sheets** - produce a series of new safety tip sheets as a resource for safety managers.
 - a. **Translate Laceration Tip Sheet to Spanish**
 - b. **Develop a Heat Stress Tip Sheet**
 - c. **Translate Back Safety Tip Sheet to Spanish**
 - d. **Translate Material Handling Safety Tip Sheet to Spanish**
 - e. **Develop a Forklift Safety Tip Sheet**
2. **"Introduction to OSHA for Small Businesses"** Webinar - produce a PowerPoint presentation for use as a Webinar, and future posting on the Safety Website.
3. **Online Influenza Pandemic Resource Center**, for use as a resource for safety managers
4. **Safety Courses for Forging University**. With funding support from FIERF, convert three current safety videos, (Safety Orientation, Press Safety and Hammer Safety) to online, interactive Web based courses, hosted in the Forging University.
 - a. **Safety Orientation**
 - b. **Press Safety**
 - c. **Hammer Safety**
5. **Safety Training Certificate Program**

With the addition of the three new Forging Specific courses, the Forging University library will offer 14 safety courses. The Safety Committee will promote/offer a **Safety Training Certificate of Completion** for any FIA member employee that completes any "5" of the 14 safety courses.
6. **"Frequently Asked Forging Safety Questions"** - develop, and post on the Safety Website
7. **Safety Newsletter** - produce and distribute a quarterly Newsletter
8. **Safety Alerts & Answering Member Safety Questions** – continue being a resource for the forging community

Benchmarking:

1. **Employee Safety Perception Survey** – provide member companies a tool to help them quantify and analyze the true safety culture within their own companies, as well as benchmarking their findings with other forging producers.
2. **Injury and Illness Survey and Report** - distribute and promote, giving companies the opportunity to benchmark their DART Rate and safety results with other like companies in the industry.
3. **Safety Star Program**, recognize and reward companies that meet 100, 200, or 300 days without a recordable incident
4. **Safety Photo Best Practices Program** - show best safety practices throughout the industry

H1N1, (Swine) Flu Preventive Tips

Dr. Vinay Goyal is an MBBS,DRM,DNB (Intensivist and Thyroid specialist) having clinical experience of over 20 years. He has worked in institutions like Hinduja Hospital , Bombay Hospital , Saifee Hospital , Tata Memorial etc.. Presently, he is heading our Nuclear Medicine Department and Thyroid clinic at Riddhivinayak Cardiac and Critical Centre, Malad (W).

The following message given by him makes a lot of sense and is important for all to know

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications).
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat, or bathe).
3. *Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). *H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
4. Similar to 3 above, *clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. *Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Neti (very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities), but *blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.*
5. *Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). *If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. *Drink as much warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc) as you can. *Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

OSHA Releases Fact Sheet on Aligning the Hazard Communication Standard to the Globally Harmonized System

Proposal to modify the HCS to align with the GHS: OSHA is proposing to modify the current Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to align with the provisions of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The HCS requires that chemical manufacturers and importers evaluate the chemicals they produce or import and provide hazard information to downstream employers and workers by putting labels on containers and preparing safety data sheets. Under the current HCS all employers must have a hazard communication program for exposed workers, including container labels, safety data sheets, and training.

GHS: The primary benefit of the GHS is to increase the quality and consistency of information provided to workers, employers and chemical users by adopting a standardized approach to hazard classification, labels and safety data. The GHS provides a single set of harmonized criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards and specifies hazard communication elements for labeling and safety data sheets. Under the GHS, labels would include signal words, pictograms, and hazard and precautionary statements and safety data sheets would have standardized format. This system was agreed on at an international level by governments, industry, and labor, and adopted by the UN in 2002 with a goal of 2008 for implementation.

Why modify the HCS: OSHA's proposal to adopt the GHS will not change the framework and scope of the current HCS but will help ensure improved quality and more consistency in the classification and labeling of all chemicals. This will enhance worker comprehension, resulting in appropriate handling and use of chemicals. The harmonized format of the safety data sheets will enable workers to access the information more efficiently. In addition, currently multiple labels and safety data sheets must often be developed for the same product when shipped to different countries. This creates a major compliance burden for chemical manufacturers and those involved in international trade, increasing the cost of providing hazard information. The adoption of GHS will minimize this burden.

Major proposed changes to the HCS:

Hazard Classification: Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures.

Labels: Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.

Safety Data Sheets: Will now have a specified 16-section format.

Information and Training: The GHS does not address training. However, the proposed HCS will require that workers are trained within two years of the publication of the final rule to facilitate recognition and understanding of the new labels and safety data sheets.