

## A Health and Safety Bulletin from

# UI HealthWorks and WORKSAFE IOWA

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### Drug-testing: Letter v. Intent of the Law

When a small business participates in a consortium that includes its safety-sensitive employees in a much larger pool of DOT-covered workers, the small employer's workers may never be subject to "random" drug testing. The Federal Transit Administration considers this compliance issue in a recent newsletter.

**FTA Drug & Alcohol Regulation Updates (Winter 2009, page 5) -**

<http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/DrugAndAlcohol/Newsletters/issue38/pdf/Issue38.pdf>

### When the Going Gets Tough

All of the worry and stress building up in these difficult economic times can create a volatile workplace—one that could erupt into violence. Preventing workplace violence is a matter of accurate prediction and policies that address, among other things, hiring and firing, crisis intervention, and supervisory training.

**safetyXchange (Acknowledging the Risk) -**

[www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/a-prevention-strategy-part-1-of-3-acknowledging-the-risk-2](http://www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/a-prevention-strategy-part-1-of-3-acknowledging-the-risk-2)

**(Anticipating the Risk) -**

[www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/prevention-strategy-part-2-3-anticipating-risk](http://www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/prevention-strategy-part-2-3-anticipating-risk)

**(Responding to Aggression) -**

[www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/prevention-strategy-part-3-3-responding-aggression](http://www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/prevention-strategy-part-3-3-responding-aggression)

### Apologies All Around

After an argument or other conflict with a co-worker, it's tempting to tell yourself you should just move on, but an apology may be the better course.

**safetyXchange (Apologizing with Aplomb: A 5-Step Method) -** [www.safetyxchange.org/newsletter.php?id=369](http://www.safetyxchange.org/newsletter.php?id=369)

### OSHA Challenge Supports VPP Progress

Organizations interested in the Voluntary Protection Programs now have a roadmap of the steps to meeting VPP requirements. OSHA Challenge outlines the actions, documentation, and outcomes through three stages, completion of which positions the employer for expedited approval to OSHA's VPP Star or Merit Program. The agency has found that on average, Challenge participants' injury and illness rates decrease by almost 40%.

**OSHA (Challenge Pilot Program) -** [www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/challenge.html](http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/challenge.html)

### Your Family Health Portrait

With the growing emphasis on genetics and health care moving toward computerized recordkeeping, tools like the Surgeon General's electronic family health history may be useful. The software helps consumers assemble a "family health tree" of information that can be shared with health care providers or other family members. The internet-based software does not make the information available to the government or anyone else.

**HHS (My Family Health Portrait) -** <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/fhh-web/home.action>

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](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe)).