

## A Health and Safety Bulletin from

# UI HealthWorks and WORKSAFE IOWA

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### Save the Date - Occ Health Symposium

The 11th Annual Occupational Health Symposium will be Wednesday-Friday, March 25-27, 2009, at hotelVetro in downtown Iowa City, IA. The preliminary topics for the programs are as follows:

Wed - Exposure Assessment Strategies

Thurs - Safety/Ergonomics/Legal Issues

Fri - Medicine/OHN/Clinical topics

Speakers, CE credits, and other details will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

### Standards for Contact Lenses

By updating its 2003 guidelines for contact lens use in industrial settings, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) intends to inform physicians in the workplace of OSHA standards regarding the use of this eyewear. Key among the points is that contact lenses do not fulfill PPE requirements for eye safety in the performance of eye-hazardous work tasks, although they do provide the best visual ergonomics for users of full-face respirator masks. Special training in first aid may be needed for contact lens wearers at risk for chemical exposure.

**ACOEM (Use of Contact Lenses in an Industrial Environment) - [www.acoem.org/guidelines.aspx?id=570](http://www.acoem.org/guidelines.aspx?id=570)**

### Labor Laws and Disaster Recovery

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) has received some complaints about out-of-state contractors who may be violating Iowa's labor laws related to wages, contractor registration, or health and safety standards.

Information on standards to be followed by all is available online

**Gov. Chet Culver/Lt. Gov. Patty Judge (Rebuild Iowa Office Urges Employers To Learn And Obey Iowa's Labor Laws) - [www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2008/07/15\\_3.php](http://www.governor.iowa.gov/news/2008/07/15_3.php)**

### Changes to State Standards

The Iowa Labor Commissioner has proposed adoption of federal changes to the occupational safety and health standards that clarify the employer's duty to provide personal protective equipment and train employees. Comments on Iowa's adoption of these changes are due by March 4 (to [kathleen.uehling@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathleen.uehling@iwd.iowa.gov)).

**US Dept of Labor (Clarification of Employer Duty To Provide Personal Protective Equipment and Train Each Employee) - [www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=FEDERAL\\_REGISTER&p\\_id=21370](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=21370)**

### New IOSHA Poster

A new poster summarizing the rights and requirements of employees and employers is available from Iowa Workforce Development. The poster must be at least legal sized (larger format is also available) and displayed in a break room or some other location visible to all employees.

**"Job Safety and Health: It's the Law" (poster) - [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/70-8025.pdf](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/70-8025.pdf)**

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)).