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October - Fire Prevention Month
Not only lives can be lost in a fire—so can jobs, if a workplace is not rebuilt afterward. With fire prevention the focus this month (and the designated week of October 3-9), this would be a good time to review and practice guidelines for prevention and safety in your particular workplace. On the home front, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is emphasizing the importance of smoke detectors.

safetyXchange (12 Fire Prevention Tips for Workers) - www.safetyxchange.org/health-safety/12-fire-prevention-tips-for-workers
DOE Hanford (Fire Safety on the Job) - www.hanford.gov/fire/Fire_Prevention_Month/Job_Fire_Safety.htm
NFPA (Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with) - www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=2017&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202010

DOT Final Rule Takes Effect October 1
The Department of Transportation has amended some of its drug testing procedures to follow US Department of Health and Human Services requirements, and the final rule is effective October 1. Lab-related requirements now cover testing for Ecstasy, cutoff levels for cocaine and amphetamines, and testing for heroin.

For additional clarification, contact Mark Snider, 202/366-3784 (mark.snider@dot.gov)

Iowa Governor's Safety & Health Conference Coming in November
This comprehensive symposium, November 3-4 at the downtown Des Moines Marriott, features keynote speakers Colonel Bob "Nunndog" Nunnally, USAF (Ret.), and Guy Gast, president of the Iowa Division of the Waldinger Corporation. In addition to these headliners, a wide variety of breakout sessions will be offered on ergonomics, injury prevention, safety training, nanotechnology, drug testing and clinical topics related to occupational health. Registration fees can cover either two days ($230) or 1 day ($130), and continuing education credits are available for CSPs, CIHs, and nurses. For the first time ever, nursing CEUs are available for the entire two-day conference.

"Navigate Safety" (39th Annual Iowa Governor's Safety & Health Conference) - www.regonline.com/gsconference2010

A Little History: October is the month for fire prevention based on commemorating the Great Chicago Fire (October 8-10, 1871). The first National Fire Prevention Week was proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. And that story of the Chicago fire starting when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern? Sorry—that was fabricated by a reporter. Some historians instead blame Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, a neighbor of the O'Leary's who may have been smoking in their barn and started the conflagration that claimed 300 lives and 18,000 buildings, and left almost a third of the city's population of 300,000 homeless.