"Safety is NO Accident" - National Public Health Week

With that theme, the American Public Health Association (APHA) is focusing each day of National Public Health Week (April 4-10) on safety in a different arena of people’s lives. Among the APHA suggestions for ways employers could highlight the observance are:

- educating employees about workplace regulations
- creating a reporting system to allow workers to report hazardous working conditions
- conducting special training to help employees recognize or diffuse workplace violence

APHA National Public Health Week (Tuesday: At Work) - www.nphpw.org/nphpw11/tips_work.htm

In line with the APHA theme, the University of Iowa College of Public Health will release a web video, "Injury Prevention Starts with You," that offers tips for injury prevention at home, at work, at play, and on the move.

UI College of Public Health - www.public-health.uiowa.edu/

Spirometry Testing Demystified

If pulmonary function testing is (or should be) part of your employee health program, guidance is available from OSHA and NIOSH in the form of 1) a 1-page info sheet for workers, with spirometry testing explained in plain language and 2) an info sheet for employers, including a checklist of "critical elements" to be considered in a contract for spirometry testing services.


Search Tool for Industrial Chemicals

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to increase online access to its data on industrial chemicals. With the web-based Chemical Access Tool, users can search by chemical name for health and safety studies that have been submitted to the agency under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

EPA (Increasing Access to Chemical Information) - www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/transparency.html

"Preventing Sensitization and Disease from Beryllium Exposure"

NIOSH has issued an "Alert" on worker exposure to particles, fumes, mists, or solutions from beryllium-containing materials, specifying what workers and employers should do to prevent development of beryllium sensitization or chronic beryllium disease.

NIOSH - www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-107/

Happy Birthday OSHA

The agency was established 40 years ago on April 28, and OSHA is marking the event by creating a historical timeline. From issuing the first standard (on asbestos exposure) in 1972 to its 2010 National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety, the timeline highlights the activities the agency feels have contributed to steadily declining worker fatalities even as US employment has almost doubled over the four decades.

OSHA (Timeline) - www.osha.gov/osha40/timeline.html