

Greater Houston Industrial Hygiene Council

Notice of June 18, 2009 Meeting

Meets At: University of Texas - Operations Center
Building

1851 Crosspoint Drive
Houston, Texas 77054
(713) 500-3498

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Registration begins at 8:30 AM

Parking: Please be sure to park in the fenced-in visitor's parking lot past the stop sign, cyclone fence & speed bumps. Parking violations will be given to those not parked the designated area.



Dates: Third Thursday of even numbered months
(Except Dec.)

Note: AIHA Gulf Coast Section meets during the odd numbered months

In 2009: February 19, April 16, **June 18**, August 20, October 15, December 10, (3RD Thursday of each even numbered month except December.)

Cost: For Lunch and Meeting \$ 35.00
Meeting Only: \$ 25.00

Accepted forms of payments are cash (exact change, please!), check made payable to SWCOEH, and American Express, Discover Card, Master Card or Visa. If paying by credit card, advance payments made online are encouraged. Meeting walk-ins are welcome.

CM Points: 1.0 ABIH Certification Maintenance Point per full day participation

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Reservations: **Reservations for meeting and lunch must be received no later than 10:00am on June 17th so proper catering arrangements can be made.** It is also very helpful to have an idea of the group size. Please let Janet Wiiki know if you plan to attend.

NOTE: You can now obtain the GHIHC Meeting Notice and RSVP to meetings on the ICU Web Site at:

www.icusafety.com

Look for notices to be posted approximately two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Greater Houston Industrial Hygiene Council

June 18, 2009

Session Arranged By:
ICU Environmental, Health and Safety,
The University of Houston Clear Lake
The University of Texas School of Public Health

“Research and Education in Environmental Health”

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-9:10 **Introduction and Announcements - Janet Wiiki CIH, CSP**
Principal Consultant
ICU Environmental Health and Safety

9:10-10:10 ***Environmental and Occupational Sciences – UT Health and Science Center***

Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD, CIH
Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
School of Public Health
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

The current program will be described, including the current curriculum, faculty, and student population. Important issues for the future of the program will also be discussed. These include ABET accreditation, the NIOSH ERC, numbers of students, pressures from other academic requirements, and future faculty needs. Larry will also present preliminary data from his soon to be completed study on the future supply of CIHs, based on demographic projection of the current numbers, and various projections of new CIHs entering the profession.

10:10-10:25 **Break**

10:25 -11:10 ***Industrial Hygiene and Safety Programs at University of Houston – Clear Lake***

Dennis Casserly, Ph.D., CIH
Interim Associate Dean
School of Science and Computer Engineering
University of Houston – Clear Lake

The Bachelor of Science and Master of Science programs in Environmental Science at the University of Houston- Clear Lake will be described with emphasis on the Industrial Hygiene (IH) and Safety specializations. These are evening programs primarily serving an adult clientele and they offer an opportunity for students to enter into an EHS career path as well as continuing education to individuals seeking academic backgrounds to assist them in preparing for certification exams (CIH and CSP). Topics to be presented include: required coursework such as the science foundation, Environmental Science core and the IH and Safety courses; Faculty; Student Chapter;

lab facilities; scholarship, COOP and internship opportunities; and accreditation information by the Institute for Safety & Health Management and ABET.

11:10 -12:00 *The Effects of Secondary Treated Municipal Wastewater on the Microbial Ecology of a Treated Wetland*

Aine Johnson, MS
Environmental Scientist and Project Manager
Krebs LaSalle Environmental
Hammond, Louisiana

Ms. Johnson will be presenting the details on her recently completed thesis project. Aine has extensive knowledge of Wastewater Treatment Systems including the effects of discharge on wetlands used as tertiary treatment. Currently with Krebs LaSalle, Aine is conversant in methods that can be used to apply knowledge to any challenge with background in the following areas; Analytical Research/Data Analysis; Project Management; Data Management; Regulatory Compliance/QAQC Requirements; Academia/Teaching; Telecommunications; Logistics; and Customer Service.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 Topic ***TBA***

Matt Berkheiser, Doctoral Candidate
UT Health and Science Center

1:30 – 2:00 ***Air Emission Check: Using Dispersion Modeling and GIS to Determine Concentrations of SO₂ and Affected Communities***

Coty Maypole, Doctoral Candidate
UT Health and Science Center

This paper is a methodological case study in which a release of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) required the evacuation of hundreds of workers, shelter-in place of schools and residences, as well as the hospitalization of a dozen workers. The aim of the study was to use dispersion modeling to find the concentrations of SO₂ released from the source and use geographic information systems to show the schools and residents that were affected by the release.

2:00 – 2:30 *Effects of Climatological Conditions on Injury Rates Among Outdoor Municipal Employees During the Period July 2004 Through June 2006*

Fiona Burke, MS
University of Houston – Clear Lake

Fiona will discuss her research examining how climatological conditions such as heat, humidity, wind, rain, and UV Index are related to injury rates among outdoor workers in a subtropical climate.

2:30 – 2:45 **Break**

2:45 – 3:30 **Nanotechnology**

John Baker, CIH
Senior Project Manager
ICU Environmental, Health and Safety

ICU has performed surface and air sampling for carbon nanotubes during the dismantling of nanotube manufacturing equipment. This talk will include some background material and a quick update on: The difference between engineered nanoparticles and incidental ultrafine particles; What are carbon nanotubes in particular?; A very brief overview on recent studies in carbon nanotube toxicity; Good sources of online information for staying current on this topic; Descriptions of practical field methods being employed at this time referencing work by ICU; and recent JOEH articles. John was formerly Deputy Director, Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology, Rice University in 2006-2007.

3:30 – 4:00 **Dominant Upper Limb Musculoskeletal Disorders**

Tiffany L. Thomas, Master's Student
University of Houston Clear Lake
Environmental Science: Industrial Hygiene Major

Tiffany will be discussing her Master's project proposal over Dominant Upper Limb Musculoskeletal Disorders associated with the use of Pneumatic Powered Handtools. Through this study I plan on drawing a link between workplace vibration exposure and cumulative trauma disorders of the arms, hands, fingers, shoulders and wrists. This study will be conducted in the greater Houston area and involve direct measurements by the use of an accelerometer, observation, and worker survey.

4:00 – 4:30 **Roundtable Discussion – The Future of the Industrial Hygiene Profession**

Please come prepared to discuss the future of the industrial hygiene profession including IH job duties, the continuing need for quality IH programs, and any trends you have observed in your own professional experience.

Moderator: Janet Wiiki CIH, CSP
Principal Consultant
ICU Environmental, Health and Safety

4:30 **Adjournment**