

# Safety News Letter

AMEDDC&S and FSH, December 2002

## Awareness Quiz

### Workplace Chemicals

1. Chemical Manufacturers must label containers and must provide
  - 1.1 an Apron
  - 1.2 an MSDS
  - 1.3 Coupon to McDonald's
  - 1.4 Safety Glasses
2. Employers must keep an MSDS
  - 2.1 Locked-up
  - 2.2 at a Nearest Pub
  - 2.3 at Easily Accessible Location
  - 2.4 with the Management
3. A chemical can enter a body via
  - 3.1 Skin/Eye Contact
  - 3.2 Inhalation
  - 3.3 Ingestion
  - 3.4 All of the above
4. Chemical exposure could cause
  - 4.1 Temper/Mood Swings
  - 4.2 Irritation of skin etc.
  - 4.3 Dizziness, Nausea etc.
  - 4.4 Any of the above
5. Household Chemicals are
  - 5.1 Never hazardous
  - 5.2 As hazardous as chemicals used at workplace
6. \_\_\_\_\_ offers best protection against hazardous vapors
  - 6.1 A glass of Frozen Margarita
  - 6.2 Hard Hat and Apron
  - 6.3 Chemical Cartridge Respirator
  - 6.4 Steel-towed Boots

Answers on Page 2.

### Safety Responsibilities

- Safety "responsibility" is not limited to the unit commander or a division manager.
- Soldiers and employees should bring unsafe acts or work practices to the attention of the designated

Collateral Duty Safety Officer and the Safety Manager.

- Risk-management concepts and methods must be practiced consistently.
- Understand, accept, and implement Risk Management processes.
- Be cognizant and wary of hazards associated with a task.
- Secure, utilize, and maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or safety devices such as Hard Hats, Safety Goggles, Respirators, Aprons, and Boots etc.
- Keep management informed of any unrealistic risk reduction measures, high-risk operations, and risk issues beyond one's control.

### Beware of Moving Machinery Parts

**Date of Accident/Incident:** Nov 20, 2002 about 1:15 PM

**Location:** Bldg 2841; Willis Hall

A contractor employee turned the Air Handler Unit (AHU) off at the starter to check the pulley wear and to change the filters. Employee opened the fan section door and reached in with his left hand that became tangled in the pulley and belts of the fan. Employee turned the power off but did not wait till all the moving parts came to a complete stop. Employee was hospitalized for about a week.

The employee involved in the accident has been trained and experienced in performing routine maintenance activities. All the same, the employee did not follow proper Lock-out & Tag-out procedures. Other factors that possibly contributed to the accident

were working in dark areas, and lack of machine guards.

### Holiday Decoration Safety Tips

- Be sure tablecloths, bows, and runners are kept away from flames and other flammable items.
- Be sure the flower arrangements do not contain poisonous berries or leaves.
- Never leave lighted candles un-monitored, especially if children or pets are in the room.
- Be sure to place ashtrays in every smoking area.
- Do not place ashtrays close to the tree or decorations.
- Monitor ashtrays during and after the party. Hot ashes should not be discarded until they are cold.
- Search cushions and other furniture immediately following the party to prevent fire from discarded cigarette-butts.
- If the party involved exchanging gifts, check discarded wrapping paper and bows for possible ignition sources.

### Upcoming Safety Training

Dec 18, '02	Bloodborne Pathogens
Jan 7, '03	Risk Management
Jan 16, '03	Confined Space
Jan 23, '03	HAZCOM

All training classes will be held at Bldg. 2121 Willis Hall. Class Rooms

Dec '02: Room 2121

Jan '03: Room 2122

Accident Prevention  
Starts with Hazard Detection

Moving Equipment With Obstructed Views Could Quickly Turn Into Very Sad News

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## Answers to the Quiz

1.2 A Chemical manufacturer must provide a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with each and every single pack or container. An MSDS lists such information as health hazards, safe handling procedures, personal protective equipment needed, and emergency response actions associated with the use or manufacture of a chemical.

2.3 Employers must keep an MSDS at an easily accessible location for the employees. An Employee must be able to easily look-up information, as often as an employee thinks it is necessary.

3.4 A chemical can enter a body via absorption through skin/eyes, inhalation, or by ingestion.

4.4 Chemical exposure could cause dizziness, nausea, rashes, and irritation of body organs including skin and respiratory tract.

5.2 Household chemicals are as hazardous as any other chemicals used or manufactured at workplace.

6.3 Respirators offer primary and best protection against inhalation of chemical vapors. Such respirators should be fitted with a chemical cartridge that is capable of filtering and keeping the chemical vapors out of the breathing zone. Apron, gloves, and safety glasses offer secondary protection by preventing absorption through skin and eyes.

## Signs of Depression Awareness For Prevention

- Significant change in behavior, appetite and/or sleep habits.
- Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities.

- Evidence of diminished ability to think or concentrate.
- Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach, or excessive guilt.
- Withdrawal from family or friends.
- **What to do if you notice that someone is depressed:**
  - Notify the Chain of Command ASAP.
  - Take all threats seriously and don't keep it a secret.
  - Confront the problem.
  - Tell the individual that you care and be direct.
  - Don't leave the person alone and get help.

## Wet Christmas Tree? Safety Facts

- Dry Christmas Trees account for 400 fires annually resulting in
  - 10 Deaths, 80 Injuries, and
  - \$15M in property damage
- Electrical shorts, lighters or matches and candle flames etc. oftentimes cause the fires.
- NIST studies indicate that within three seconds of ignition, a dry scotch pine is completely ablaze.
- NIST studies of a Scotch pine tree placed in a stand with 7.6 liter water capacity indicate that
  - A single match could not ignite the tree.
  - An electric current that ignited an entire matchbox failed to fire the tree.
  - The tree branches self-extinguished when the open flame from a propane torch was removed.
- **A Wet Tree Does Not Ignite.**

## Some Useful Websites

United States Department of Labor  
[www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/)  
SafetySmart.com  
[www.safetysmart.com/links/usaorg.html](http://www.safetysmart.com/links/usaorg.html)  
Injury Compensation for Federal Employees  
[www.nalc.org/depart/owcp/CA810.html](http://www.nalc.org/depart/owcp/CA810.html)  
Work and Off Duty Safety  
<http://safety.army.mil/pages/sbo/>  
OSHA Index  
[www.geocities.com/apwualbany/osh/oshaindex.html](http://www.geocities.com/apwualbany/osh/oshaindex.html)  
OSHWeb  
<http://oshweb.me.tut.fi/index.html>  
OSHA  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)  
Reference Desk  
[www.refdesk.com/](http://www.refdesk.com/)

Your questions and comments are always welcome.

Contact me at:

**Safety Manager**  
**AMEDDC&S and FSH Safety Office,**  
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**Directorate of**  
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[guadalupe.gomez@amedd.army.mil](mailto:guadalupe.gomez@amedd.army.mil)

Visit the Installation Safety Office at:  
<http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/iso/>

To Schedule A Training Class  
Please Contact  
Mr. Richard Edges at 210-221-0563  
[richard.edges@amedd.army.mil](mailto:richard.edges@amedd.army.mil)

Accidents Don't Happen  
By Chance  
Team Work Prevents  
Accidents

AMEDDC&S and FSH Safety Office Wishes Everyone a Safe Holiday Season