



Speaking of Safety

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From the President's Desk

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As we all are fully aware, this has been another challenging year in Michigan's employment opportunities and our economy. All businesses have been forced to make difficult decisions resulting in ever-tightening budgets, and unfortunately, letting good people go. If we know anything about Michiganders though, it is that we are resilient and we can evolve even in the toughest circumstances.

The Safety Council also made difficult decisions this year in order to survive in this economic climate. The Safety Council has made changes in the way we work to meet our goals, and even in the goals themselves. The Safety Council is working with fewer membership companies as many companies are finding it difficult to maintain their annual membership to the Safety Council. We hope that the membership that we have lost in this economy will continue to look to the Safety Council for their training, auditing, and safety-related support. The Safety Council is also observing a decline in safety training and auditing services. Many businesses are able to find the resources to conduct their own safety training. The Safety Council is also able to offer specialized training to supplement existing programs. As safety professionals take on more and more responsibilities, training is sometimes difficult to arrange. The Safety Council can help fill in when extra assistance is needed, and at prices lower than most private consulting firms. Whether you are a member of the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan or not, be sure to contact the Safety Council for information regarding our training and auditing services.

The Safety Council has changed and evolved over the years, but will always stand by our mission which is "to provide the highest quality health and safety information, education, and training programs for our members and the community." The Safety Council will continue to offer quality safety training, auditing, and other safety-related services in order to keep people safe on the job, at home, and on the road. Please contact the Safety Council to see how we can help you.

Yours in Safety,

Jack Mihalko, MA
President/CEO

Calendar of Events

Register today for these upcoming classes & seminars:

October 9, 2009 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

October 16, 2009 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

November 11, 2009 - CPR/First Aid, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

November 13, 2009 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

November 20, 2009 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center



The Safety Council's scheduled training classes take place at the Safety Council Training Center in Bloomfield Hills, unless otherwise noted. The Safety Council is also able to take our training on the road. Contact the Safety Council to discuss hosting a training opportunity at the job site. The Safety Council's experienced trainers customize classes to address the specific needs of the of the company or job functions requiring the training. In addition, since the Safety Council is a non-profit organization, class prices meet the most stringent budgets. Proper safety training is a simple way to improve the bottom line. Safe employees and job sites equals less workman's compensation claims, days off work, and actually improves productivity. Any formula for success includes a safe workplace.

Don't wait until an accident costs you too much. Register for training today. Registration for all classes and seminars ends five (5) business days before listed start date. Payment must be made in advance to complete the registration process. Download our registration form from www.safetycouncilsemi.org under the Events Calendar page or Classes page.

For a description of class offerings or to register for any class, please contact the Safety Council by phone or email and keep checking the website! Call 248-858-8830 or email us at info@safetycouncilsemi.org.

Safety Council's Golf Outing

On August 5, 2009, the Safety Council enjoyed the company of many of our membership at our annual Golf Outing at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. We would like to thank all of the participants who joined us for a great day of golfing. The Safety Council would also like to thank the many companies who helped make this day a success by providing sponsorships. These companies include AM Health & Safety, Bergstrom Insurance Agency, Brown Out Electric, CAM, Cintas Corporation, Honeywell, Inland Industrial Services, Lockwood Manufacturing Company, Maxcis, Inc, Mine Safety Appliances, SVS Vision, Tyndale Company, Inc., and UPS.

The Safety Council would like to thank **Miller Canfield** for their **Platinum sponsorship**. Representatives from the Miller Canfield golf team include Tom Martin, Maureen Sullivan, Tom Taylor, and Doug Crim who is with Miller Canfield, pictured left to right in the photo below. Thanks team!

Miller Canfield, Platinum Sponsor, asks you to please be sure to come back next summer and golf with us again!



H1N1 & Seasonal Flu

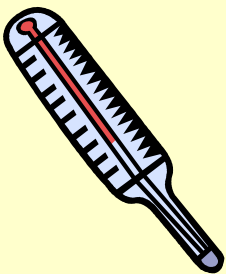
Are you ready for the pending flu season? The 2009 H1N1 influenza already affected businesses earlier this spring and summer, during which higher than normal flu rates were reported by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC is now predicting that seasonal influenza viruses combined with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus will result in higher illness rates this fall and winter. Planning for the fall and winter influenza season could make a significant difference in the health and safety of employees, productivity and absenteeism, as well as limiting the negative impact of the flu outbreaks in the community as well.

The severity of illnesses that H1N1 will cause or the amount of illness that may be report cannot be predicted with a high degree of certainty. However, more people and communities are likely to be affected as influenza is more widely transmitted. The CDC revised recommendations for businesses and now suggests that employers plan to respond to outbreaks in a flexible way. The CDC suggests that businesses be prepared to refine pandemic response plans if a potentially more serious outbreak occurs this fall or winter.



To determine how to decrease the spread of influenza and reduce the impact of influenza in the work place, employers should consider how to reduce transmission among staff, protect people how may have an increased risk of influenza-related complications, maintain business operations, and minimize adverse effects to business relationships and supply chains (customers, vendors, etc.).

The CDC and its partners are monitoring national and international data on the severity of illness caused by influenza and other data that could be useful in preparing and monitoring the corporate pandemic plan. Businesses should begin to monitor normal and seasonal absenteeism rates, and monitor for unusual increases of absenteeism in the fall and winter. Businesses should assess the essential business functions and determine the level of absenteeism that would begin to threaten normal business activities. Planners can then prepare more aggressive measures to protect business continuity as absenteeism escalates.



During an influenza pandemic all sick people should stay home - away from the workplace, schools, and other public places. Hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and routine cleaning of commonly touched surfaces should be increased from normal routines. As the severity of illness increases, employers should be ready to implement additional measures that the CDC may recommend, such as increasing the physical distance between people, increased school dismissals, closing child care facilities, cancelling community gatherings and business meetings, cancelling non-essential travel, and implementing work-from-home opportunities whenever possible.

A corporate pandemic plan should be flexible enough to address and contain small influenza outbreaks and include plans should a severe influenza outbreak occur in the community. Employers should involve employees in the development of a successful plan. Include normal and seasonal absenteeism rates in the corporate plan and allow sick workers to stay home without fear of losing their jobs, as well as flexible leave policies so employees can stay home to care for sick family members or should schools and child care facilities close. Note that symptoms of an influenza-like illness will include fever or chills and a cough or sore throat. Additional symptoms may include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea or vomiting. Communicate with local health departments, the state health department, and monitor the CDC for outbreak information and community-wide pandemic instructions. Add a link to the CDC website to your corporate website: www.cdc.gov.

Contact the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan and the CDC for additional information or assistance with preparing a corporate pandemic plan. Early planning and preparation will help maintain business continuity through the upcoming flu season.

In the Spotlight – Flu Vaccinations & Prevention

The CDC predicts that this flu season could be more severe than previous seasons. To limit the spread and frequency of illness, organizations should provide information and training on good health habits. While vaccinations are a hot topic for many, the yearly seasonal flu vaccination is one tool in preventing a serious illness, as well as reducing medical leave and lost worker productivity costs. Organizations can contact local health departments and hospitals to conduct worksite flu immunizations to assist employees in getting their immunizations if they chose to do so.

As the CDC and many news stations are reporting, there are two vaccines for this flu season 1) the seasonal flu vaccine that should be available for most people and 2) the H1N1 flu vaccine that may be distributed to high-risk groups before becoming available for the rest of the public. Talk to your doctors and pediatricians for information about whether you and your family members are eligible for these vaccines and when you can come in to get them.

In addition to flu vaccinations, organizations can encourage the practice of “social distancing” or increasing the physical distance between colleagues when in meetings or at desks, etc. Also hand-washing procedures and cough/sneeze etiquette can be posted in restrooms and break rooms. This year, it is critically important to stay home if you are sick to prevent the spread of either the seasonal flu or the H1N1 flu. Extra caution now will help limit the spread and frequency of both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu.

Our Mission

The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan is a not-for-profit, public service organization. As the primary leader, our purpose is to provide the highest quality health and safety information, education, and training programs for our members and the community.

The Council’s goal is to prevent injuries and illnesses, and property loss concerning every aspect of a person’s life. This will be accomplished through open communication and networking by our organization with Council members and the community.

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