

# THE TURNING POINT

Volume 9 Issue 2

Nov. & Dec. 2009

## **The Vision of the Turning Point**

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes and trends regarding health and safety. The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding Raising the Standard Consulting USA Inc. (RTSC).

### **OSHA CONTINUING EDUCATION- GETTING THE TRAINING YOU NEED NOW**

Taken from: OSHA Campus.com Sept. 2009 Newsletter

Many jobs require special training and education that carries on throughout the life of the career. However, none are as important as the training requirements of OSHA jobs and any position that relates to OSHA. When it comes to OSHA continuing education requirements, failing to get updated training and education doesn't just threaten your license, it threatens your business and comes with hefty fines, which are much worse than any that the state licensing board could lay on you for letting your license expire without get CE credits.

OSHA continuing education is something that needs to be taken very seriously. Take the time to learn what regulations and credits you need to get in order to maintain your OSHA compliance or certification, and then go out and get those credits as soon as you can. Waiting until the last minute is going to practically guarantee that something will go wrong. It's Murphy's Law. Don't put yourself in that position because it isn't worth it. Instead, get your training early on and make sure that you are able to make the most of it from the start. Then you can move on with your life and stop stressing about it.

If your state regulations permit, you can even get OSHA CE credits online in some places. There are many different online training programs and courses to choose from, and each one offers the various compliance and continuing education credits that you might need. Finding the right online source for your needs might take a little digging, but it's an investment well made when you have the convenience of getting your continuing education from home and on your own time. Make sure that you take the time to verify that online courses are a permitted type of continuing education for your OSHA CE or compliance.

Too many people used to wait until the last minute to get their continuing education requirements taken care of. Now,

*Continued on Page 2*

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR UPDATES**

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA today announced it is issuing \$87,430,000 in proposed penalties to BP Products North America Inc. for the company's failure to correct potential hazards faced by employees. The fine is the largest in OSHA's history. The prior largest total penalty, \$21 million, was issued in 2005, also against BP.

Safety violations at BP's Texas City, Texas, refinery resulted in a massive explosion — with 15 deaths and 170 people injured — in March of 2005. BP entered into a settlement agreement with OSHA in September of that year, under which the company agreed to corrective actions to eliminate potential hazards similar to those that caused the 2005 tragedy. Today's announcement comes at the conclusion of a six-month inspection by OSHA, designed to evaluate the extent to which BP has complied with its obligations under the 2005 agreement and OSHA standards.

"When BP signed the OSHA settlement from the March 2005 explosion, it agreed to take comprehensive action to protect employees. Instead of living up to that commitment, BP has allowed hundreds of potential hazards to continue unabated," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Fifteen people lost their lives as a result of the 2005 tragedy, and 170 others were injured. An \$87 million fine won't restore those lives, but we can't let this happen again. Workplace safety is more than a slogan. It's the law. The U.S. Department of Labor will not tolerate the preventable exposure of workers to hazardous conditions."

For noncompliance with the terms of the settlement agreement, the BP Texas City Refinery has been issued 270 "notifications of failure to abate" with fines totaling \$56.7 million. Each notification represents a penalty of \$7,000 times 30 days, the period that the conditions have remained unabated. OSHA also identified 439 new willful violations for failures to follow industry-accepted controls on the pressure relief safety systems and other process safety management violations with penalties totaling \$30.7 million.

"BP was given four years to correct the safety issues identified pursuant to the settlement agreement, yet OSHA has found hundreds of violations of the agreement and hundreds of new violations.

**RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING USA INC.**

7 Waterfront Pl., Ste. 400, 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI, 96813, 808-426-3464, Fax: 905-840-3135 ~ [rtsc@rtsconsulting.com](mailto:rtsc@rtsconsulting.com) ~ [www.rtsconsulting.com](http://www.rtsconsulting.com)

**THE TURNING POINT 1**

however, many people are wising up and getting them done much sooner. It just makes good sense to get them out of the way so that you don't have to stress about them for the next two, three, or even four years until your license comes up for renewal. If you take the time to figure out what courses you need for OSHA CE, you will be much better able to get things out of the way and live a less stressful life because you are on top of your career and keeping your license and certification current.

### **NEW STANDARDS FOR FALL PROTECTION**

**Timothy R. Fisher, CSP, ARM, CPEA**  
**Director, Practices and Standards**  
**American Society of Safety Engineers**

We know that falls from heights is a significant hazard/exposure for all SH&E Professionals. It is believed that the Z359 Fall Protection Code is having a significant impact, and it has been announced that there are three new additions.

The **three new standards** are:

- **ANSI/ASSE Z359.6-2009**  
“Specification and Design Requirements for Active Fall Protection Systems”
- **ANSI/ASSE Z359.12-2009**  
“Connecting Components for Personal Fall Arrest Systems”
- **ANSI/ASSE Z359.13-2009**  
“Personal Energy Absorbers and Energy Absorbing Lanyards”

The ANSI/ASSE Z359 ASC for Fall Arrest/Protection is also working on 10 additional Z359 standards projects aimed at protecting workers from falls. The Code is continuing to get more and more interest and recognition from both the private and public sector. Since the launching of the Code in 2007, we continue to see SH&E Professionals and stakeholders getting more involved with fall protection/arrest. It is believed that this is a good thing, and plans are place to do even more in the future to address fall related hazards and exposures.

Information addressing the Code can be viewed at:  
<https://www.asse.org/shoponline/products/Z359-v2.php>

Information addressing Z359 overall can be viewed at:  
<http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/z359/info.php>



### **10 and 30 HOUR TRAINING COURSE**

Stanford Brown founder of Raising the Standard Consulting USA Inc. is an authorized trainer of the 10 and 30 hour construction industry outreach courses.

#### **AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE**

**Emphasis:** The classes are designed to be presented to workers. They emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards and regulatory codes. The presentations are tailored to the needs and understanding of the audience. Each class is evaluated to determine the best methods of training before the class begins.

**Site-Specific Training:** We believe that the most rewarding classes for students are the ones they can relate to because the trainer uses examples, pictures, and scenarios that come from the student's work place, industry or community.

**Homogenous Class:** The ideal class to teach is one where students have similar positions and needs. We endeavor to conduct separate training classes for supervisors, managers, and workers as much as possible unless a combined session would assist the students in fostering a culture of teamwork. We also try to separate workers into like groups, for example, office personnel, machine operators, and maintenance staff when possible.

**Training Purpose:** We explain up front, that the training isn't a bureaucratic exercise. We emphasize that it may save a life and help them continue to provide for their family. We explain that safety and health add value to the company, the workplace and their life.

**Use Objectives:** At the beginning of each session we describe the skills and abilities the students should have or exhibit for each topic and relate the objectives to the students' work, whenever possible.

**Presentation Assortment:** Students learn in different manners, and get tired of one training style. Therefore we use different trainers, computer presentations, videos, case studies, exercises and graphics to make the course interesting and enjoyable. By doing this we employ the three levels of training techniques - presentation (presenting the material in a variety of ways), discussion (getting the students involved in the learning), and performance (students practice the material they learned).

**Testing:** We use quizzes and tests to ensure the student understands key objectives. We also provide students feedback on incorrect answers in an open discussion format.

**Evaluations:** Students will have the opportunity to evaluate our classes. This feedback will help us determine whether the course is accomplishing its goals and provide input we can use to improve the training.

For specific details of each course, please visit our web-site at [www.rtsconsulting.com](http://www.rtsconsulting.com)

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

We are currently seeking intermediate and senior consultants for the State of Hawaii. We require a formal education in the field of occupational health and safety with a good knowledge of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration Act. We also require skill in program development and conducting public training sessions. We also require 3-5 years' experience working in the occupational health and safety field. If interested, please forward your resume.

### **WEB BASED TRAINING**

Raise the safety, health, and productivity of your employees to the top of your agenda and provide training solutions that deliver real results. We provide web-based training programs for the convenience of your organization. Please visit <http://rtsconsulting.360training.com> to register.

#### **∴ Healthcare Education**

- [Health Care](#)

#### **∴ Technical, Industrial & Safety Skills**

- [Canada Safety](#)
- [OSHA - Construction](#)
- [OSHA - General Industry](#)
- [OSHA 10/30 Hour Outreach Training](#)
- [OSHA – Hazardous Waste Training](#)

#### **∴ Public Safety**

- [Human Resources](#)

### **CHARACTER & INTEGRITY**

Is character and integrity seen as a core value in your organization? We offer specialized training in the importance of integrity among both executive and workers. Character and integrity is addressed regarding the workplace, marriage, and finances, in our training modules.

### **TEXTING & DRIVING**

Just a reminder to keep safe not only in the workplace but on the roads as well – please take a minute and view the following link to help keep in perspective why texting & driving is never a safe way to drive.

<http://ut.zerofatalities.com/texting.php>

### **HAWAII OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH (HIOSH)**

The following is a brief summary of a work related accident investigated by HIOSH. It is presented here in an effort to prevent similar recurrences in Hawaii's workplaces.

#### **Fall from Roof**

In mid-2008, a twenty-five year old roof worker was severely injured when he fell 24' through a fiberglass skylight and landed on the concrete floor below. The laborer was applying a coat of roofing material with a roller pole when he fell through the skylight. As a result of the fall, the victim broke his right elbow and his pelvis on the right and left sides. The victim stated that he had never received fall protection training prior to the accident; the company does not have records of employees receiving fall protection training when working at heights above 6 feet. On the day of the accident, none of the workers on the roof were using a fall protection system. One of the workers had previously used a body belt in place of a full-body harness while working on the roof. The skylights were known to be a hazard, but no measures were taken to prevent tripping in or stepping into a skylight. Citations were issued totaling \$3,000.

Recommendations:

1. Train employees in fall protection before they are allowed to work at levels above 6 feet in height.
2. Develop Standard Operating Procedures and/or conduct a Job Hazard Analysis prior to performing work tasks.
3. Ensure that all employees use appropriate fall protection systems when working at heights above 6 feet.
4. Management should conduct routine audits periodically to ensure job safety.
5. A copy of the company Safety and Health Program should be provided and clearly communicated to all employees.
6. Provide body harnesses as part of a personal fall arrest system. Body belts were disallowed effective January 1, 1998.

