



# SAFETY NEWS

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Mike Beebe, Governor

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James L. Salkeld, Director



*(left to right) Joseph A. Diaz, Human Resource Manager; David Schneider, Workman's Compensation Commission; Mark Audet, Plant Manager; James Salkeld, Arkansas Department of Labor Director; and Larry Alexander, Safety Coordinator.*



*(l to r) Dolly Williams, Judy Harwell, Clark Thomas, Juanita Matlock, and Karen Green*

## GRAPHIC PACKAGING INTERNATIONAL IN FORT SMITH EARNS A ONE MILLION WORK HOURS SAFETY AWARD

**T**he employees of Graphic Packaging International in Fort Smith were recently the recipients of a One Million Work Hours Safety Award presented by the Arkansas Department of Labor, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Arkansas Insurance Department. Graphic Packaging Holding Company, headquartered in Marietta, Georgia, is a leading provider of paperboard packaging solutions for a wide variety of products to food, beverage and other consumer products companies.

The company's 372 employees accumulated 1,000,000 work hours without a lost day away from work due to a work related injury or illness between October 29, 2008 and January 19, 2009. They have had a 50-member safety committee made up of both  
*(contd. on Page 3 – See AWARD)*

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OSHA CONSULTATION PROGRAM AND STAFF RECOGNIZED

**T**he OSHA Consultation Program at the Arkansas Department of Labor received the prestigious Regional Administrator's Distinguished Consultation Award from the U. S. Department of Labor on April 28, 2009. Clark E. Thomas, Safety Administrator/Project Manager with the Arkansas Department of Labor accepted the award at the national On-Site Consultation Training Conference held in San Diego, California. The award recognized the Arkansas Department of Labor for their teamwork and excellence in providing services to the small business community in the state of Arkansas.

In addition to the team award, several exceptional staff members were individually recognized for their accomplishments. Judy Harwell, Karen Green, and Nita Matlock were presented with plaques for their work in coordinating and staffing the highly successful safety/health annual conferences held in various regions  
*(contd. on Page 3- See PROGRAM)*

# TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE FOR OSHA'S TARGETED COMPANIES

By Kim Fisher, Industrial Hygienist  
Arkansas Department of Labor OSHA

The U.S. Department of Labor recently sent letters advising 231 companies in Arkansas they had been placed on OSHA'S Site-Specific Targeting (SST) list. This means these companies have a good chance of being visited by an OSHA Compliance Officer this year.

Information from the OSHA 300 Log of Injuries and Illnesses was collected nationally from 80,000 establishments and used to determine which establishments were experiencing elevated occupational injuries and illnesses, and thus would be included on the SST list. Two different injury and illness calculations were used to make the determination; the DART rate and the DAFWII case rate.

## The DART Rate

The DART rate includes cases involving Days Away from work, Restricted work activity, and Transfers to another job. It is calculated based on the totals listed for each column on the OSHA 300 Log as follows:  $(\text{Column H} + \text{Column I}) \div \text{EH} \times (200,000)$  where Column H is the number of cases on the OSHA 300 Log involving days away and Column I is the number of cases involving restricted work activity and/or job transfers. EH is the total number of hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, and 200,000 is the base number of hours worked for 100 full-time equivalent employees.

**For example:** *Employees of an establishment, including management, temporary, and leased employees, worked 645,089 hours at the workplace. There were 22 injury and illness cases involving days away and/or restricted work activity and/or job transfer from the OSHA 300 Log (total of Column H plus Column I). The DART rate would be  $(22 \div 645,089) \times (200,000) = 6.8$ .*

## The DAFWII Case Rate

The DAFWII case rate is the number of cases that involve Days Away From Work due to Injury or Illness per 100 full-time equivalent employees. Cases that involve only temporary transfers to another job or restricted work are not included. It is calculated based on  $(\text{Column H} \div \text{EH}) \times (200,000)$  where Column H is the number of cases involving days away from work. EH is the total number of hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; and 200,000 is the base number of hours worked for 100 full-time equivalent employees.

**For example, from the OSHA 300 Log:** *Employees of an establishment, including management, temporary, and leased employees, worked 452,680 hours at the workplace. There were 25 injury and illness cases involving days away from work from the OSHA 300 Log (total of Column H). The DAFWII case rate would be  $(25 \div 452,680) \times (200,000) = 11.0$ .*

## OSHA'S Inspection Criteria

The 2006 injury and illness data that was collected by the 2007 Data Initiative is used in the 2008 Site-Specific Targeting program. The national average for the DART rate for private industry for 2006 was **2.3**, and the average DAFWII case rate was **1.3**.

The SST program initially selects all workplaces with a DART rate at or above 11.0, **or** a DAFWII case rate at or above 9.0 (only one of these criteria must be met) for the Primary Inspection List. The Secondary Inspection List will be used if the Primary List is completed before the expiration of this year's SST program. It contains establishments reporting DART rates of 7.0 or greater but less than 11.0, **or** a DAFWII case rate of 5.0 or greater but less than 9.0.

In order to verify the reliability of claims by establishments that they have achieved low DART rates, OSHA will select approximately 175 low-DART-rate establishments in high-DART-rate industries (nationwide) and conduct inspections there.

Some of the establishments that did not provide rate information in accordance with the 2007 OSHA Data Initiative Survey by April 11, 2008 have been added to the Primary Inspection List. Inclusion of non-responders is intended to discourage employers from not responding to the Data Initiative in order to avoid inspection.

## Free Class

The Arkansas Department of Labor is offering a one day class to companies who received the SST letter. It is designed to help explain some of the OSHA regulations industry is required to follow and will cover basic safety and health principles and requirements that often lead to injuries in the workplace. The class agenda includes: OSHA recordkeeping, machine guarding and lockout/tagout, ergonomics, electrical safety, personal protective equipment assessments, walking and working surfaces, and preventing accidents through accident investigation.

The class will be held at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters on July 23, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The State Police Headquarters is located at #1 State Police Plaza Drive (at Geyer Springs and I-30 in southwest Little Rock). The class is free, but you must pre-register and bring a photo ID to be allowed into the classroom. If you have been identified on OSHA's SST List and are interested in attending this basic OSHA class, please call 501-682-4523 and tell the operator you want to attend the SST Training Class.

## Free Assistance

The Arkansas Department of Labor's OSHA Consultation Division provides free consultation services to help you comply with OSHA regulations and reduce workplace illnesses and injuries. We have safety specialists and health specialists who can come to your facility and assist you with your specific safety concerns (**Contd. on Page 3 – See OSHA**)



# OSHA ANNOUNCES RULEMAKING ON COMBUSTIBLE DUST

By Tonia Cooper  
Industrial Hygienist Supervisor  
Arkansas Dept. of Labor OSHA

In a recent news release, OSHA announced that they will issue an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on combustible dust hazards. The agency will hold stakeholder meetings to evaluate possible regulatory methods and request data and comments on combustible dust hazard issues, such as hazard recognition, assessment, communication, defining combustible dust and other concerns.

Since 1980, more than 130 workers were killed and over 780 injuries occurred in the United States due to combustible dust explosions. This data includes the 14 people killed in February 2008 at the Imperial Sugar Company plant in Georgia and three workers burned in April 2009 in a pet food plant dust explosion in Illinois.

Secretary of Labor, Hilda L. Solis commented that combustible dust explosions have caused numerous deaths and devastating injuries over the years. Additionally, Secretary Solis stated, "OSHA is reinvigorating the regulatory process to ensure workers receive the protection they need while also ensuring that

employers have the tools needed to make their workplaces safer."

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) recommended in 2006 that OSHA issue a combustible dust standard. OSHA received support from CSB for a standard during a congressional hearing when the board said a new standard, along with enforcement and education, could save workers' lives.

For more information on combustible dust, visit OSHA's website at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/index.html>.

## AWARD (contd. from Page 1)

management and employees for the past ten years. For information on how your company can become eligible for a safety award, contact Juanita Matlock at the Arkansas Department of Labor, 501-682-9090, or email [juanita.matlock@arkansas.gov](mailto:juanita.matlock@arkansas.gov).

## PROGRAM (contd. from Page 1)

throughout Arkansas. Twelve conferences with 1,550 participants were presented in 2008. (The current conference schedule is available at [www.arkansas.gov/labor/whats\\_new/index.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/labor/whats_new/index.html).)

Also recognized was Margaret "Dolly" Williams. The plaque, from Regional Administrator Dean W. McDaniel, cited her for "outstanding contributions over the last 30 years to the data management operations of the Arkansas Consultation Program." Clark Thomas added "Dolly is our rock solid base, keeping our OSHA records (and all of us) on track."

## OSHA (contd. from Page 2)

and needs.

We can offer free consultation services to your company if you have less than 250 employees on-site, less than 500 corporate-wide in the U.S., and if we have not conducted a visit at your company within the past year. If you have more than 250 employees on-site or more than 500 corporate-wide, we may be able to assist you as resources permit. Federal OSHA will not conduct a scheduled, programmed inspection at your facility while you are working with our consultants.

To request free consultation services, you may call our office at 501-682-4523 or fax us at 501-682-4532.

### SAFETY NEWS

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## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN THE WORKPLACE DURING A PANDEMIC

In light of the recent H1N1 virus scare that has shaken the world, the U.S. Department of Labor OSHA has made some recommendations about the best strategy to reduce the risk of becoming ill with pandemic influenza. Number one: Avoid crowded settings and other situations that increase the risk of exposure to someone who may be infected. If you must be in a crowded setting, minimize your time

there. Some basic hygiene and social distancing precautions that can be used in every workplace include the following:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or with a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve. Dispose of tissues in no-touch trash receptacles.
- Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with coworkers and customers.
- Avoid shaking hands and always wash your hands after physical contact with others.

- If wearing gloves, always wash your hands after removing them.
  - Keep frequently touched common surfaces (for example, telephones, computer equipment, etc.) clean.
  - Try not to use other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment.
  - Minimize group meetings; use e-mails, phones and text messaging. If meetings are unavoidable, avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with others and ensure that the meeting room is properly ventilated.
  - Limit unnecessary visitors to the workplace.
  - Maintain a healthy lifestyle; attention to rest, diet, exercise and relaxation helps maintain physical and emotional health.
- For more information, see *Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic*, OSHA Publication No. 3327, which can be accessed at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).