



Professional Development Seminars

Auditing and Inspections:

A Management Systems Approach

Patty Olinger, Emory University

Is your auditing or inspecting program just checking boxes? Get more out of your auditing program! This Professional Development Seminar will introduce ideas and concepts of how to transform your audit or inspection program to assist you in capturing measures and metric, to use as a training tool, and to use for a safety culture evaluation. The session will also discuss how integrated audit programs fit into an overall EHS management system.

Biosafety 101

Kalpana Rengarajan, Emory University

This Professional Development Seminar is designed to teach the basic principles of biosafety for those new to the field. Designed to provide a general biosafety overview, this session will focus on understanding the different biosafety levels and risk group classifications. Other discussion topics will include: biohazard exposure and control measures, relevant regulatory requirements, disinfection, spill cleanup, and shipping of biological and infectious samples.

Creating a New Research Building: The Role of EHS in Obtaining Optimal Outcome

Mike Austin, University of Minnesota

Ken Kretchman, North Carolina State University

The design and construction of a new research building on campus is both an opportunity and a challenge. This seminar will look at the various phases of a project, starting with initial programming and proceeding to final acceptance and startup, focusing on those areas where the EHS professional can and should be involved. A number of key design considerations will be included in discussion, while emphasis will also be given to the comprehensive process. Attendees with experience in this area will be encouraged to contribute to discussion during the presentation.

Hazardous Waste 101: RCRA for Hazardous Waste Generators in Higher Education

Patrick Durbin, University of Texas System

Is this waste a hazardous waste regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act? Being able to answer this question definitively is the key to managing a successful waste management program. In this course, the presenter will examine how to: identify hazardous waste (specifically, lab-generated waste), determine the generator requirements, manage collection and containers (satellite accumulation), decide whether universal waste is right, and disposal options based on the land disposal restrictions.

How to Communicate Complex Information with a Simple Visual

Diane Kusek, Emory University

Learn how to capture institutional knowledge and experience and document it visually at the level you need. This is a participatory session that walks attendees through how to gather and organize information and document what is done in a visual sequence. This is not just for technical subject matter experts—even someone unfamiliar with a process or the terminology can learn how to map it and communicate complex information with a simple visual.

Laboratory Safety 101

Eric Knoll, Washington University in St. Louis

Laboratory Safety 101 is an overview of the safety hazards in a research laboratory and a typical laboratory safety inspection program. This session will be divided into four major sections including: laboratory safety inspection program options/examples, primary containment devices and certification, chemical and waste management, and overlooked safety hazards. Regulations and standards pertaining to laboratory safety and environmental compliance in the laboratory will also be discussed.

Marketing and Communications for your EHS Department

John Covely, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

Responsibilities of EHS departments are expanding rapidly. Many departments have limited visibility on campus, so the public perception can be vague. This Professional Development Seminar will help attendees: research attitude/awareness levels of the public; develop a brand that changes what people think; develop effective messages; create strategies to improve two-way communication; incorporate risk communications strategies; get employees to utilize communication principals; and create programming using the latest marketing paradigms.

Proven Techniques for Maintaining EHS Program Support in Challenging Economic Times

Robert Emery, University of Texas–Houston

When faced with challenging economic conditions, institutions are forced to examine the allocation of resources and make tough decisions. As EHS programs function largely in the realm of prevention, the value of the efforts put forth to keep untoward events from occurring may be overlooked during such economic assessments. This session will focus on a series of techniques developed over time that can equip EHS programs with the skills needed to effectively convey their programs value to decision makers. Participants will leave armed with examples and templates that can be quickly put into use when returning to campus.

University-Wide Comprehensive, Collaborative Safety Planning: Effective Structure, Tools, and Protocols

Jen Day Shaw, University of Florida

The University of North Carolina—Greensboro produced the largest active shooter exercise in the nation, with participation by county and city first responders and emergency management professionals, which was observed by professionals from 20 states. This Professional Development Seminar will provide participants with an overview of the various aspects of the comprehensive safety plan and access to protocols, policies, and structures tested through numerous emergencies. Participants will receive information that can be easily applied to many campus settings.