AAOHN, ACOEM Study Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Professionals’ Response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Working in collaboration, AAOHN and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) conducted a survey of their collective memberships in the fall of 2005 on the role and involvement of health care professionals in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The survey helped identify the roles members played in the response efforts, the information and resources they needed during the response, and the challenges they faced in their efforts to protect the health and safety of their employees as well as evacuees. This survey was also intended to help in the continuing efforts to design a preparedness system that maximizes the skills and expertise of occupational and environmental health physicians and nurses.

More than 700 physicians and nurses responded to the survey and one-third indicated that they were actively involved in the hurricane response. Of those who were involved, 37 percent spent more than 40 hours in the response and recovery efforts.

Some highlights from the survey indicate that respondents played a role in the response efforts in the areas of protection and preparation services and occupational health programmatic/policy interventions. Other findings indicate that respondents helped directly with clean up, acted as the missing persons lead for their corporation, and coordinated the collection and shipping of donations and medical supplies.

Those who played a response role were lacking health surveillance information, work environment/job hazard information, and medical supplies and medications. The survey also confirmed that communication was the biggest obstacle that health care professionals faced when trying to fulfill their role in the response.

Overall, occupational and environmental health professionals demonstrated that they were able to use their skills and expertise to address many challenges. The survey also validates the important role that occupational and environmental health physicians and nurses play in preparing for and responding to emergencies. A full report on the results of the survey will be published.

In recognition of the expanding involvement of occupational and environmental health professionals in emergency preparedness and response, both AAOHN and ACOEM have published papers that outline the role of their respective disciplines in this field. Each of these papers can be accessed through the Web links below.

AAOHN Position Paper:
The Occupational Health Nurse’s Role in All-Hazard Preparedness (8/04)

ACOEM Consensus Opinion Statement:
Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management as Core Competency in Occupational and Environmental Medicine (1/06)
http://www.acoem.org/positionstatements.asp?cata_ID=93

Winning OHN Week Essays Highlight Leadership

Congratulations to Nancy Zamboras and Vicki Miller, winners of the AAOHN 2006 National Occupational Health Nursing Week Essay Contest. Ms. Zamboras was awarded first place for her essay, “Leading Creatively through High Hurricane Winds with High Technology” and Ms. Miller received second place for her essay, describing her wellness campaign efforts with Untied Parcel Service.

As first place winner Ms. Zamboras receives a $500 scholarship good towards any AAOHN continuing education program. Second place winner Ms. Miller receives one year of paid membership in AAOHN.

Thank you to all our members who submitted essays. It was inspiring to hear about your personal occupational health nursing experiences and dedication to your profession. While everyone could not be awarded a prize and not everyone entered the contest, we believe all of the Association’s members are winners for their commitment to the occupational and environmental health profession and making work and community environments healthy and safe.

Please turn to page 4 to read the winning essays.
One of the ENDs (goals) of AAOHN is “Occupational and environmental health nurses have the resources, knowledge and skills to achieve meaningful and rewarding careers.” This means that OHNs have the knowledge and competencies for optimal practice opportunities, and are recognized as leaders in occupational and environmental health.

With concerns about pandemic flu, nanotechnology, bioterrorism, natural disasters, SARS, and other yet to be known exposures, the Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse is in a prime position to take the lead. Who better to develop, implement, and evaluate a plan to address these hazards, while coordinating with other members of the occupational health team and leaders in the community? Improving global health is a business imperative as more companies have sites overseas and employees frequently travel to overseas locations.

The 2006 AAOHN Symposium and Expo in Albuquerque, NM, had numerous educational sessions to prepare you for this leadership role. Topics varied from lessons learned from Katrina, nanotechnology, genetic surveillance, OHDEN (Occupational Health Disaster Expert Network), emergency planning and response, and pandemic flu to name a few. These timely topics generated many questions and pearls of wisdom.

Many chapters have had educational sessions on these topics as well. It is the conversations with other colleagues about their experiences with emerging global health threats that makes the learning real and enables you to apply the information that you’ve heard. Plus you establish vital contacts for future networking.

But making a difference is more than having the knowledge or using the technology to prevent or minimize emerging global health threats. It means establishing priorities and having the necessary resources. It means taking a collaborative view. It means being a leader. And that leader is you.

Susan A. Randolph, MSN, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN
President
president@aaohn.org
susan.randolph@unc.edu
**Member Update**

**104 New Members Join AAOHN in March 2006**

Welcome to the 104 new members who joined AAOHN in March 2006! We look forward to serving them throughout 2006 and many years to come.

Of these 104, 20 were recruited through the efforts of 17 AAOHN sponsors as part of the 2005–2006 Member–Get-A-Member Campaign (MGAM).

Thank you to all the MGAM sponsors for their recruitment efforts. Members not only strengthen the Association, but also advance the occupational and environmental health and safety profession and benefit the people it serves.

Congratulations to Rhonda L. Shipley from Wichita Kansas AOHN, our monthly MGAM prizewinner. Rhonda’s name was chosen in a drawing from all of March’s MGAM sponsors.

For more details on MGAM, including how you can become a sponsor, visit www.aaohn.org/member_services/mgam.cfm

You can view March 2006’s new members online at www.aaohn.org/member_services/new_members.cfm

**131 New Members Sponsored During 2005–2006 MGAM Campaign**


Thank you to all of our AAOHN sponsors and a warm welcome to our new members!

**Special Offers for Members**

The following offers are non-exclusive arrangements to provide valuable discounts to members and do not imply or represent AAOHN’s endorsement of the companies or products listed here.

- **AAOHN Platinum Plus Card**
  Sign up with MBNA at (800) 523-7666. Use priority code RL8A. For more information, go to www.mbna.com.

- **Hertz Car Rental**
  Contact Hertz in the U.S. at (800) 654-2210 or in Canada at (800) 263-0600. When making your reservation, refer to CDP#094353. For more information, go to www.hertz.com.

- **Professional Liability Insurance**
  Protect yourself with professional liability/malpractice coverage from Nurses Service Organization. For more information, go to http://www.nso.com/a.php?aohn1:jump.

**May AAOHN Journal Debuts New Design, Content at 2006 AS&E**

Reflecting the evolving roles and professional needs of occupational and environmental health nurses, the *AAOHN Journal* introduced its new design with the May issue at the 2006 AAOHN Symposium & Expo in Albuquerque, NM.

The content has also been re-tailored to focus on the most relevant issues and challenges facing occupational and environmental health nurses, as well as the knowledge and competencies required for optimal practice opportunities.

While the major portion of the content will still be professional practice and center on issues specific to the occupational and environmental health nurse, a new section in every issue will be dedicated to business and leadership. Express Speak has been rebranded as Health Update and will offer concise descriptions of common health issues frequently asked about by workers.

Be sure to watch your mailbox for the May issue of the *AAOHN Journal*.

**EIS Helps Expand Your Employment Horizons**

AAOHN’s Employment Information Service (EIS) can help you take your career to the next level. Tailored specifically for the occupational and environmental health field, EIS makes it easy to post your resume so employers can find you, or take the initiative and search for jobs either in a particular region or across the country. Sign up for Job Alerts that send you an e-mail the instant an opportunity is available in an area you specify. For more information and to get started, go to www.aaohn.org/member_services/career.
First Place Essay
Nancy Zamboras, RN, CCM, COHN-S
Occupational Health Associate, Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.

Leading Creatively through High Hurricane Winds with High Technology

Hurricane Rita made landfall at the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast region early Saturday morning, September 24, 2005, and we were not spared. Chemical processing units in the region were shut down. Once the storm passed, essential personnel were on-site assessing damages and determining what was needed to resume safe and timely operations. Also, in accordance with OSHA medical surveillance requirements, the annual testing of employees was scheduled to be completed within the next 6 months. The safety manager, occupational health nurse, and industrial hygienist would be responsible to coordinate these activities in the midst of the recovery from the devastating natural disaster.

It would be a challenge, but I was determined to stay on schedule with the required medical surveillance. The occupational health and environmental health specialists wanted to take advantage of all of the technology available to efficiently and expeditiously carry out the testing. Maybe it was a basic human desire to rise above adversity. Maybe it was the camaraderie of my colleagues working together to restore what was lost. Whatever it was, in spite of all the additional recovery efforts added to our daily lives, I was inspired and my creativity led the way.

Utilizing software applications owned and licensed by the corporation, I created and emailed 260 questionnaires to 130 employees, all scheduled for medical surveillance testing. Updated information was needed on hearing conservation, respirators, benzene and asbestos. Employees had the opportunity to complete the questionnaires at their convenience and return it via email to the occupational health nurse prior to the surveillance examination, which then allowed an automatic import into an electronic database. Once the questionnaire was imported to the employee file, a hard copy form of the completed questionnaire was generated, printed, and placed in an envelope for medical review. Lab values were also imported to the database within 48 hours of specimen collection using collaborative efforts between outside vendors, the occupational health team, and the information technology team. Hearing test results, conducted onsite by an outside vendor, were emailed to the occupational health nurse, imported into each employee’s hearing test history, and analyzed by computer software. Recordable hearing shifts, per OSHA guidelines, could be quickly determined using age correction in the calculation. I was then able to, with the help of an assistant, generate follow-up letters for the 130 employees and safety representative, detailing who would need to be retested within 30 days including recall dates.

Employees and testing staff were impressed with the efficiency and organization of the entire process: from the questionnaires to the coordination of advanced technology and reporting to follow-up communication. Employees reported this being the best annual testing they ever experienced including saving an hour or more of valuable time due to the new electronic process. And time was especially valuable during the hurricane recovery.

Second Place Essay
Vicki Miller RN, RMT
Occupational Health Supervisor, UPS – Wisconsin

At UPS there is no easy job. Everyone carries their weight and then some. Being the Occupational Health supervisor for the state of Wisconsin is no exception. However, my position holds some rewards that many others do not; I have the opportunity to impact the health and wellness of over 5,000 employees.

Each month, at UPS, we recognize a different wellness topic. The topic for April 2006 is smoking cessation. As you may know the affects of smoking and second hand smoke are extremely hazardous to one’s health. According to the American Lung Association, “an estimated 440,000 Americans die each year from diseases caused by smoking.” In efforts to keep UPS employees from becoming yet another statistic, I have partnered with the American Lung Association of Wisconsin and have created an informational video. The video is inspired by a popular demonstration, which illustrates the effects of smoking using two pig’s lungs. One lung has been infused with tar and smoke and the other resembles that of a healthy non-smoker. The video goes on to show inhibited breathing, distorted coloration, and other unfavorable effects from smoking as well as the benefits and resources available to help employees quit smoking, and has been distributed to all facilities in the state.

Though one could spend a lifetime focusing on smoking cessation, and many do, the physical nature of many UPS jobs create special needs in the area of health and safety. For instance, the driver who comes to your door each day, or the semi-driver you see on the highway.

In order to meet these special needs and keep these employees healthy and bringing you your packages each day, I created yet another informational video. This short film was created in partnership with occupational

continued on page 8
ABOHN Offers New Safety Manager Sub-Specialty Certification

Intro
Based on information obtained from a June 2002 needs assessment and data obtained from their 2004 Practice Analysis Study, the American Board of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (ABOHN) entered into a contractual agreement with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) in 2005 to collaborate on a Safety Manager sub-specialty certification for certified occupational health nurses.

Eligibility
Eligibility requirements to take the ABOHN Safety Management examination include the following:

• Certification as a Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN) or Certified Occupational Health Nurse – Specialist (COHN-S);
• At least 25% safety activities in current position;
• 50 contact hours of safety-related* continuing education in the most recent 5 years;
• 1000 hours of safety-related* experience in the most recent 5 years.

(NOTE: *Safety-related is defined as being contained in the knowledge and skills areas listed in the Safety Management examination blueprint.)

Definition of Safety Manager
ABOHN has defined a certified Occupational Health Nurse Safety Manager as an individual who “plans, organizes, implements and evaluates hazard control activities that meet organizational safety objectives to reduce or eliminate risks to people, property and the environment.”

Overview of the Safety Management Examination
The Safety Management examination measures a general range of basic knowledge required in professional safety practice. The examination is oriented toward knowledge typical of the academically trained, entry-level safety professional. Most questions focus on facts, definitions, terminology, methods, and comparable forms of basic knowledge. While some questions test applied knowledge, the applications rely on basic experience. Questions typically deal with safety problems, calculations, and situations.

The Safety Management examination consists of 200 multiple-choice questions with four possible answers. Each question is independent and does not rely on the correct answer to any other question. Data necessary to answer questions are included in the question or in a scenario shared by several questions. The score is based on the number of scored questions correctly answered.

Availability and Costs
The ABOHN Safety Management examination is offered only in a computer-based test (CBT) format. Five hours are allowed to complete the examination. Prior to beginning the actual examination, there is a tutorial to review the test format and procedures. Logging off after completing the examination formally submits the examination for scoring. The examination is scored immediately and provisional pass-fail determination made at the time of testing with a detailed score report to follow from the ABOHN office within 4 weeks.

ABOHN’s Safety Management examination may be taken at any of the national Prometric computer testing centers. The application fee is $125 and the exam fee is $275. An annual fee of $100 will be required to maintain the credential and will be pro-rated for the first year of certification.

New Designation
Qualified candidates who are successful on the ABOHN Safety Management examination will be awarded either a COHN/SM or COHN-S/SM credential, depending on the base credential held. In the case where the certified occupational health nurse also holds the ABOHN Case Management certification, the credentials will appear as COHN/CM/SM or COHN-S/CM/SM.

Benefits of This Certification
In today’s challenging market, occupational health nurses frequently compete for a variety of jobs that increasingly focus on safety, industrial hygiene, and environmental health functions. The addition of the ABOHN SM credential to an occupational health nursing certification will enable the occupational health nurse to demonstrate additional expertise in the safety role.

The SM certification will be considered a terminal safety certification by ABOHN unlike the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) Safety Fundamentals examination. In the event certified occupational health nurses holding the ABOHN Safety Management credential choose to pursue the BCSP Certified Safety Professional (CSP)® credential, they will be eligible to obtain a waiver of the BCSP Safety Fundamentals examination if other exam requirements are met.

More Information
To obtain a copy of the Safety Management Examination Handbook (that includes the test blueprint), a self-assessment test, an application, or a suggested study reference list, visit www.abohn.org. For additional questions, please contact the ABOHN staff at (888) 842-2646 or members of the Safety Advisory Committee, Deborah Roy at Debbie@stci.com or Mary Lou Wassel at Marylou.wassel@companigroup.com.
As the average age of the workforce increases, what are some strategies occupational and environmental health nurses can employ to maximize the health and safety of this growing population?

The median age of the U.S. population is increasing and is projected to climb from 35.5 in 2000 to 40.7 by 2050 (Salazar, 2006). In 2003, 21.2 million workers were age 55 and older (15.4% of the total workforce). Today (2006), more than 50 per cent of the U.S. population is over 50 years old. These factors will result in an increased number of individuals over the age of 65 during 2010-2030, with the worldwide average life span expected to rise another 10 years by the year 2050. In addition, the retirement age for workers in nearly all job categories is constantly changing especially since approximately 76 million baby boomers will reach retirement age within the next decade. In 2004, the largest workforce age group was 25 to 54 years and the second group was 64 and over. Thus, indicating that many of those retiring between the ages of 55 and 64 are returning to the workforce. At the same time, the United States has experienced an epidemiological transition in the leading causes of death from infectious diseases and acute illness to chronic diseases and degenerative disease processes. In 2002, the leading causes of death in developed countries were primarily cardiovascular diseases and cancer, followed by respiratory diseases and accidents (unintentional injuries).

The older worker population, with a normal decrease in reflexes, balance, strength, visual and auditory acuity, has an increased risk of musculoskeletal disease and injury as well as chronic illness. The frequent occurrence of certain concurrent medical conditions in the older adult may obscure the root cause of a presumed work related injury/illness. For example, diabetes, thyroid disease and degenerative arthritis are all capable of causing carpal tunnel syndrome irrespective of any particular occupation.

As the life span increases, more working Americans (young and older) will face the burden of caring for an aging or ill spouse or relative. This burden is revealed in the forms of suffering from caregiver stress and the need for work schedule adjustments, e.g., leave of absence, changing from full-time to part-time, etc. Rapidly changing technology can be a stressor for the aging worker as well. The worker therefore needs support to deal with and manage these stressors.

Strategies for the Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse (OHN):
• Develop and implement programs to prevent and treat musculoskeletal disorders related to poor ergonomics, age-related factors and chronic conditions. Consider careful job placement and the potential need for job modification.
• Sponsor health promotion and wellness programs and services with age-relevant topics.
• Develop and implement disease management programs and services based on assessment of the needs of your specific workforce.
• Assure a safe work environment with adequate lighting and sufficient auditory acuity of the workforce.
• Increase support for caregiver roles assumed outside of the workplace including community resources and referrals.
• Be proactive in introducing new technologies in a process and timeline designed to address the learning needs of the total worker population.
• Promote and offer preparatory programs for the older worker returning to the workforce and the eventual retirement that may decrease related stress and/or depression.
• Serve as an advocate for the aging workforce, which is itself an aging workforce group.

Ensuring a healthy, safe and productive workforce is the OHN’s primary mission, and the OHN is in an ideal position to assist workers in this transition in life. Studies reveal that staying physically active, eating right and getting regular health screenings help prevent or delay many diseases and disease related disabilities. As a subpopulation, the aging workforce can benefit immensely from proactive programs and interventions. May has been designated Older Americans Month by the U.S. Administration on Aging, www.aoa.gov.

Resources and References

— adapted from column originally appearing in the September 1999 issue of AAOHN News.
ProHealth Alert

Teens Focus of OSHA Summer Jobs Safety Campaign

“Summer is peak time for teen employment,” said Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) chief Ed Foulke recently at a special event to launch OSHA’s new Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign.

A multi-year project, the goal of the Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign is to increase awareness about workplace hazards and provide possible solutions to those hazards for young workers and their parents. The campaign will focus on industries in which young people are likely to work during their high school and college years. The first year will target the landscaping industry and is themed, “Landscaping - Plant Your Feet on Safe Ground.”

For more information on young workers and the campaign please visit OSHA’s Teen Workers Web page at www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html.

Job Insecurity Has Major Impact on Worker Health

A recent University of Michigan study has found that feeling insecure about your job harms both mental and physical health—whether you actually lose your job or not.

The study reported that job insecurity can have as great an impact on health as a serious or life-threatening illness. People who said they felt insecure about their jobs had much lower self-rated health and private-sector workers fared worse than their public-sector counterparts, while black workers were the most adversely affected reporting very high levels of depressive symptoms.

For more on the study and a link to the American Psychological Association for more information about workplace stress, please go to www.forbes.com/lifestyle/health/, page down to the Health Research box, type “job insecurity” into the Search by Keyword field and click Go.

Obesity Significant Factor in Worker Health Claims

According to a recent study, 25 percent of women’s and 14 percent of men’s “lifestyle” health claims costs are linked to obesity.

The study suggests that companies’ bottom lines and workers’ health could both benefit from redirecting employee-health promotional strategies towards wellness initiatives that include weight management programs. Of the 10 lifestyle health risks the researchers focused on they found that, “obesity was by far the most costly.”

For more on the study please go to www.upi.com/HealthBusiness, type “obesity worker health claims” into the search field at the top right of the page and click Search. A link to the article will be displayed.

OSHA’s Top Ten List Offers Safety, Compliance Opportunities

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s list of the 10 most-violated workplace safety and health standards presents an opportunity for employers to improve workplace safety and reduce the chance of violations.

In addition to relaying yearly statistics, the publication of the list gives employers insight into OSHA’s enforcement policies and procedures. By focusing more closely on compliance efforts for the top 10 standard violations, employers could reduce workers’ risks from serious workplace hazards and potentially reduce their exposure to citations in areas that accounted for 50 percent of last year’s noncompliance violations.

For more on OSHA’s Top Ten List please go to www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/14900.

Multicultural Workforce Presents Challenges in Ensuring Worker Safety

An article in the online edition of Occupational Hazards explores the challenges and approaches to solutions in ensuring the safety of a multicultural workforce.

The article cites foreign-born workers’ inexperience in recognizing hazards and their fear and reluctance to report them as two of the many examples of the complex set of challenges these workers present to safety professionals. It also considers the fact that many immigrant workers, eager to work at any job they can find, often end up in the most dangerous occupations.

Another major challenge that the article addresses is the language barrier that often exists, making suggestions on how to more effectively train and educate those not fluent in English.

The article can be found at www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/14866.

WHO Issues Avian Influenza Interim Infection Control Guidelines

The World Health Organization has issued comprehensive interim infection control guidelines for health care facilities in the event of an avian influenza outbreak.

Considering the risk of increased possibilities that the H5N1 virus, already endemic in bird populations, will evolve into a strain that is highly infectious and easily spread among humans, the guidelines point to basic infection control precautions as the cornerstone of the approach to prevent transmission of communicable diseases in health care facilities.

continued on page 8
The guidelines cover the entire scope of precautions for health care facilities including standard infection control, occupational health recommendations, specimen collection, family member/visitor recommendations, waste disposal, dishes and eating utensils, linen and laundry, environmental cleaning and disinfection, patient discharge and postmortem examinations.

A 58-page PDF of the guidelines is available at www.wpro.who.int/. Click on Publications and Documents on the left-side navigation bar, choose Avian influenza from the Health Topic pull-down menu, type “interim who infection control” (with quote marks) in the Keyword field and click on Find. The document’s name, “Interim WHO Infection Control Guidelines for Health Care Facilities: AI, including Influenza A (H5N1) in Humans (9 February 2006)” is linked to the PDF.

250,000 Young Workers Face Injury Each Year: NIOSH Based on the latest published statistics, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that approximately 250,000 workers aged 16 to 17 years sustain on-the-job injuries.

Averaging 2.2 million adolescents in that age group worked in the U.S. in 2004. Young workers are at substantial risk due to their unique biologic, social, and economic characteristics. An average of 64 workers under age 18 died from work-related injuries each year during 1992–2002. The U.S. Public Health Service has a Healthy People 2010 objective to reduce youth emergency department injury rates to 3.4 injuries/100 full-time equivalents by 2010. The rate in 1999 was 5.2 injuries/100 full-time equivalents.

Key resources on Young Worker Safety and Health can be found on the NIOSH Web site, www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth.

IOM Recommendations Due on Flu Masks A report from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (IOM) is due this spring with recommendations concerning the reuse of disposable N95 respirators in healthcare settings and the need for reusable masks for the general public in the event of an Influenza (flu) pandemic.

In the event of effective vaccines and anti-viral medications not being available in adequate supply during a pandemic, particulate respirators and surgical facemasks would be an integral part of preventing human-to-human transmission of the virus. Because current disposable N95 respirators have a limited effective lifespan and their supply could be severely impacted by demand, the Department of Health and Human Services has asked the IOM to provide recommendations on measures that can be taken permitting the reuse of disposable N95 respirators in healthcare settings. The IOM has also been asked to make recommendations on the need for reusable masks for the general public.

For more, visit the IOM Web site, www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/32033.aspx.
Health Snapshot

Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance

Spring can be a great time to enjoy fresh air and outdoor activities, but workers—especially in agricultural occupations—should exercise caution when working with pesticides. When used properly, pesticides offer a variety of benefits to society. They increase crop production, preserve produce, combat insect infestations, and control exotic species. However, pesticides also have the potential to cause harm by affecting critical areas such as the nervous system. Approximately one billion pounds of pesticide active ingredient are used annually in the U.S., and over 16,000 pesticide products are being marketed in the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 10,000-20,000 physician-diagnosed pesticide poisonings occur each year among the approximately 3,380,000 U.S. agricultural workers. Agricultural workers, groundskeepers, pet groomers, fumigators, and a variety of other occupations are at risk for exposure to pesticides including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and sanitizers.

Surveillance for occupational pesticide-related illness and injury is designed to protect workers by determining the magnitude and underlying causes of over-exposure to pesticides in the workplace. Surveillance also serves as an early warning system of any harmful effects not detected by manufacturer testing of pesticides.

NIOSH supports a variety of pesticide-related programs and also disseminates publications related to pesticide illness and injury surveillance. Some of these pesticide-related activities include the following:

• **SENSOR-Pesticides Program**: The Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) program is intended to build and maintain occupational illness and injury surveillance capacity within state health departments. The SENSOR-Pesticides Program is most useful for timely identification of outbreaks and emerging pesticide problems.

• **SPIDER Database Software**: This software is useful for states to enter data on each individual with pesticide-related illness. It will also allow NIOSH to aggregate data across states. SPIDER is thought to be the first software that is capable of collecting, managing, and reporting in a standardized fashion all pertinent information needed by NIOSH and EPA to conduct surveillance on acute pesticide-related illness.

• **MMWR Articles**: The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) is a CDC weekly scientific publication containing data and reports on specific health and safety topics. MMWR articles have focused on pesticide-related topics such as “Pesticide-Related Illnesses Associated with the Use of a Plant Growth Regulator” (in Italy) and “Aldicarb as a Cause of Food Poisoning” (in Louisiana).

• **NIOSH Publications**: NIOSH Publication No. 2006-102, Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury Surveillance: A How-To Guide for State-Based Programs, provides information on how to develop and maintain surveillance programs for acute and subacute health effects from pesticide exposure. The guide also addresses issues of capturing pesticide-related illnesses and injuries in workplace and non-workplace settings.

• **Integrated Pest Management in Schools**: The integrated pest management (IPM) program uses common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water, and shelter for pests in school buildings and grounds.

For additional information on NIOSH-supported pesticide illness and injury surveillance activities, please visit the NIOSH Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance Web page, http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/pesticides/.


The 5th Annual Advanced Concepts Conference in Occupational Health & Case Management by DVD Associates LLC / Annette B. Haag & Associates. July 11-12; Las Vegas, NV. This conference provides attendees with cutting edge and state-of-the-art information; benchmarks, resources and tools related to the management of occupational health, workers’ compensation, case and disability management programs across all business settings. For further information, visit www.DVDandHaag.com and click on Advanced Concepts.

Enhance Your Career in Occupational Health
This unique Online Study Program is just ONE CLICK AWAY!

Obtain a Master’s in Public Health Degree in Occupational Health Nursing via Distance Learning

- Flexible Schedule
- Independent, Distance Study
- Accessible Faculty
- Fully Accredited by both NLNAC and CEPH

“Remote education is becoming an important avenue for life-long learning. If attending class in your pajamas from the comfort of your own home sounds good, distance education may be for you!”
- Nursing Spectrum Magazine, 2005

For more info, contact:
Judy Ostendorf (judy_ostendorf@unc.edu) or Bonnie Rogers (rogersb@email.unc.edu) and visit our website: http://www.sph.unc.edu/phlp/distance/ohn.htm

Minorities are encouraged to apply!

Protect and Promote the Health of our Workforce
The following activities have been approved by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. AAOHN is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. The AAOHN Approver Unit provides this complimentary listing as a service to its clients. (NOTE: Sponsors wishing to ensure listing should have the activity approved at least 60 days before the scheduled date.)

**Getting the Information Needed for Client Evaluation: Techniques for Effective Interviewing**
- **Approved contact hours:** 3.2
- **May 11, Salisbury, N.C.**
- **Sponsor:** North Carolina State AOHN
- **Contact:** Genevieve Reed, MSN, RN-C, COHN-S, (704) 637-1889

**Occupational Hearing Conservation Certification Course**
- **Approved contact hours:** 23.7
- **May 31-June 2, Columbus, Ohio**
  - July 12-14, Davenport, IA
  - Aug. 2-4, Indianapolis
  - Sept. 6-8, Madison, Wis.
  - Oct. 4-6, Louisville, Ky.
  - Nov. 1-3, St. Louis
  - Dec. 6-8, Columbus, Ohio
- **Sponsor:** Hearing Safety-Midwest, Inc.
- **Contact:** James J. Jerome, (317) 841-9829

**Intensive Short Course: Hearing Protection Devices and Hearing Conservation Programs**
- **Approved contact hours:** 7.8
- **June 22, Seattle**
  - Aug. 17, San Ramon, Calif.
- **Contact:** Cyd Kladden, (317) 692-3066

**NIOSH - Approved Spirometry For Occupational Health Professionals**
- **Approved contact hours:** 18.0
- **July 11-12, Indianapolis**
  - Dec. 6-7, Indianapolis
- **Sponsor:** Methodist Occupational Health Centers, Inc.
- **Contact:** Diana L. Williams, BS, MHA, COHN-S, (317) 216-2535

**Basic Disability Management for Claim Adjusters and Case Managers**
- **Approved contact hours:** 3.0
- **July 12, 2005 – July 12, 2007**
  - (Internet-based, learner-paced)
- **Sponsor:** Wembly Corporation
- **Contact:** Jennifer Christian, MD, (508) 358-5218

**Workers’ Compensation Legal Issues and Defense Strategies**
- **Approved contact hours:** 9.0
- **July 17, Hyannis, Mass.**
- **Sponsor:** SEAK: Medical and Legal Systems, Inc
- **Contact:** Terri Arthur, (508) 540-7213

**Occupational Health and Safety Principles and Nursing Certification Review**
- **Approved contact hours:** 23.0
- **July 17-19, Las Vegas**
  - Aug. 23-25, Atlanta
- **Sponsor:** Annette B. Haag & Associates
- **Contact:** Jean David, (805) 527-8988

**Workplace Violence Prevention**
- **Approved contact hours:** 1.2
- **Sept. 7, Berwick, Pa.**
- **Sponsor:** Susquehanna Valley Pennsylvania AOHN
- **Contact:** Carol Parks, BSN, RN-C, COHN-S/CM, (570) 542-3474

**CAOHC Approved Audiometric Course**
- **Approved contact hours:** 24.0
- **Sept. 27-28, Indianapolis**
- **Sponsor:** Methodist Occupational Health Centers, Inc.
- **Contact:** Diana L. Williams, BS, MHA, COHN-S, (317) 216-2535

**CAOHC Approved Refresher Audiometric Course**
- **Approved contact hours:** 10.2
- **Sept. 28, Indianapolis**
- **Sponsor:** Methodist Occupational Health Centers, Inc.
- **Contact:** Diana L. Williams, BS, MHA, COHN-S, (317) 216-2535

**MDA 101: How to Use The Medical Disability Advisor in Disability Case Management**
- **Approved contact hours:** 2.0
- **Nov. 23, 2005 – Nov. 23, 2007**
  - (Internet-based, learner-paced)
- **Sponsor:** Wembly Corporation
- **Contact:** Jennifer Christian, MD, (508) 358-5218

**FOUNDATION BLOCKS NOW AVAILABLE WITH CE CREDITS!**

**New Online-Only Resources Offer Convenient Way to Earn Contact Hours**

Foundation Blocks I: Lead Surveillance Program (1.0 Contact Hours)
Foundation Blocks V: Travel Medicine/Health Program (1.0 Contact Hours)
Foundation Blocks XI: Hearing Conservation in the Workplace (1.4 Contact Hours)

**More Titles Available!**

To learn more visit www.aaohn.org/education/online-learning/FBonline.cfm
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2007 AAOHN SYMPOSIUM & EXPO
Orlando, Florida • April 13-20, 2007

To Submit or Not Submit? That is the Question

Have you ever considered presenting an educational session at Symposium & Expo, but were not sure where to begin? There are four basic steps to the process:

1. Selecting a topic
2. Creating an abstract
3. Creating a title
4. Completing and submitting forms

Opportunities for presentations exist in workshop, Lunch and Learn, General and Concurrent session and Research/Poster presentations.

Detailed information, helpful tips, complete guidelines and thorough directions are available on the AAOHN Web site at www.aaohn.org/education/symposium-expo/cfp.cfm.

Share your expertise! Submit a proposal for the 2007 AAOHN Symposium & Expo and present an educational session for your colleagues in occupational and environmental health.

Submission due date is June 8, 2006.