

# Georgia Local Section

Quarterly Newsletter

For electronic versions see the [GLS web page](#).



## President's Message

Hello Local Section Members,

Cable network CNBC recently ranked Georgia the fourth-best state to do business. This overall ranking came from a number of state-by-state rankings in ten categories such as workforce, transportation, cost of doing business and others. The combined scores in the categories were then used to generate an overall ranking. Georgia's rankings in workforce (second) and transportation (third) were the reason for the state's high overall ranking. Additionally, a report from the Kauffman Foundation put Georgia third in the country in entrepreneurship rate (0.44 percent) coming behind only

Montana and Mississippi. The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes 28 metro counties, had the second-highest rate of entrepreneurial activity for large metro areas with 0.49 percent, closely following the Miami MSA with 0.5 percent. While this confirms what we who have chosen to live and work here already know, it also points out the need for us as practitioners to remain vigilant about workplace and worksite safety and health, especially as more companies, jobs and workers come to our area.

Interestingly enough, while Georgia is one of the best states

to do business in, it is not immune to the overall transformation that the business environment has gone through in the past ten years. When surveying the landscape of business over the last ten years, I tend to remember outsourcing, overseas contracting, talent shortages, and the demand on today's workers to "do more with less." Certainly, without your finger on the pulse of business in this city, you can get left behind. Which is why (you all knew it was coming) you have to be tied in to your profession, not only nationally, but locally. Our local section members have an extraordinary amount of expertise

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Draft 'Vapor' Guide Allows First-Time EPA Oversight of Some Work Sites

EPA officials have drafted a guidance document suggesting that agency-established environmental exposure levels should be considered at certain occupational settings contaminated by toxic emissions from underground sources, initiating a landmark move by the agency to regulate indoor

air and assert jurisdiction over certain workplaces usually regulated by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). The draft document governing so-called vapor intrusion is currently circulating among agency regional and headquarters offices, and could be released by the end

of the year. The draft advises agency and industry officials to consider strict EPA risk-based cleanup standards to limit vapor intrusion and indoor air contamination at certain workplace settings in lieu of weaker OSHA standards

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Next GLS Meeting

### Save the Date!

Summer Meeting Date: *August 21, 2007* at Delta Airlines' Training Center. Time and agenda will be sent in an e-mail notice to members.

Georgia Local Section  
American Industrial Hygiene Association  
Quarterly Newsletter  
July 2007

[www.georgiaaiha.org](http://www.georgiaaiha.org)

## Recent OSHA News

### 2007 Site Specific Targeting

OSHA announced its 2007 Site-Specific Targeting (SST) plan. OSHA will focus high-hazard worksites for unannounced comprehensive inspections for the coming year.

### OSHA plans on revising its PPE regulations

Comments were due by July

16, 2007. For more information please see the *Federal Register* notice.

### OSHA Debuts New Database of Chemical Information

OSHA and EPA jointly developed and maintain this database as a convenient reference for the occupational safety and health community. This

database compiles information from several government agencies and organizations. Available database reports include: "Physical Properties," "Exposure Guidelines," "NIOSH Pocket Guide," and "Emergency Response Information," including the DOT Emergency Response Guide. In addition, an all-in-one report, "Full Report," is available.

### ABIH CM Points

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene has awarded 1.0 certification maintenance (CM) points for each of the Winter and Spring 2007 Georgia Local Section Meetings.

The approval numbers are:  
# 07-916 Winter Meeting  
# 07-1391 Spring Meeting



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## Hot Tips from OSHA's QuickTakes

Summer is here! With warmer temperatures, employees working outdoors should be especially careful of the sun, heat and other hazards brought on by the summer climate. To reduce the risk of heat stress, OSHA recommends that employees:

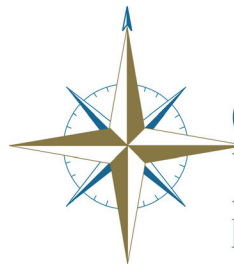
- Know symptoms, including headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting;

- Block out direct sun and other heat sources;
  - Use cooling fans/air-conditioning; rest regularly;
  - Wear a wide-brim hat, cap or bandana, and sunglasses that block UV rays; and
  - Drink plenty of cool water, about a cup every 15 minutes.
- OSHA resources, such as the *Heat Stress QuickCard* (English/

Spanish) and *Protecting Yourself in the Sun* pocket card (English/Spanish), offer additional tips for employers and employees on preventing injury and illness while working in hot weather.

--Excerpted from *OSHA's QuickTakes*,  
15 June 2007 edition

Don't receive QuickTakes? Click here to subscribe.



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## Member News: Moving On

Long time GLS member and former GLS Board member Max Kiefer, CIH has transferred to Denver Colorado to the manage NIOSH's Denver Field Office. We wish Max well in his new office and thank him for his past work with GLS!

GLS member Jenny Houlroyd has relocated back to her hometown near the south Jersey shore. She is working for the Federal Aviation Administration at their William J. Hughes Technical Center outside of Atlantic City. Best of luck to Jenny!

## Recent Changes to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Rule

SPCC regulations are implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). An SPCC plan is required if you store more than 1,320 total gallons of oil above ground combined from all sources. As few as 25 55-gallon drums can trigger the SPCC regulation. The 1,320 gallon threshold quantity relates to oil storage capacity. Therefore, if you have an oil storage tank that can hold 500 gallons of oil, however, you only keep it half full, you still must count this tank as 500 gallons according to SPCC regulations. Only containers with the capacity to hold 55 gallons or more have to be counted toward the threshold. Oil storage also includes quantities of oil stored within equipment/machines above the de minimis capacity of 55-gallons. Oil stored in containers that have a capacity of 30-gallons, 5-gallons or quarts are exempt from this regulation, including the threshold quantity assessment; Oil, as defined under SPCC, can be new or used, of any kind or form, including, but not limited to petroleum, hydraulic, mineral spirits or diesel oil.

When the total storage

capacity of oil is in excess of 1,320 gallons, then the SPCC Plan requirement is triggered. The SPCC regulations require that a site-specific SPCC plan be developed. An example SPCC plan can be viewed on EPA's SPCC web page within the guidance document, *SPCC Guidance for Regional Inspectors*. The general requirements for Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plans can be found in 40 CFR 112.7. In general, the SPCC plan must describe any previous spills and the actions taken to respond to that spill. The SPCC plan will require periodic inspections of oil storage areas and secondary containment for some equipment. The plan must also evaluate the rate, direction, and amount of a spill that could potentially occur at the facility. The SPCC plan must also describe any containment and diversion equipment.

There have been recent amendments to the SPCC rule of the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation at 40 CFR part 112. The EPA signed the final rule on the amendments in December 2006 and became effective February 26, 2007. In May 2007,

the compliance dates for existing owners and operators to prepare or amend and implement SPCC Plans were extended until July 1, 2009. The stated intention of the EPA is to streamline the regulatory requirements for a subset of facilities. Below you can find a summary of the amendments to the SPCC Rule:

- Provide the option to self-certify SPCC Plans in lieu of review and certification by a Professional Engineer (PE) for facilities that have an above ground oil storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or less and meet other qualifying criteria.\*
- Provide an alternative to the general secondary containment requirement without requiring a determination of impracticability for qualified\* oil-filled operational equipment. Some examples of oil-filled operational equipment include hydraulic systems, gear boxes, circuit breakers, or other systems containing oil solely to enable the operation of the device.

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## Recent Changes to the SPCC Rule (continued from Page 4)

- Define and exempt particular vehicle fuel tanks and other on-board bulk oil storage containers (called motive power containers). Examples include trucks, automobiles, bulldozers, aircraft, self-propelled cranes, and locomotives.
  - Exempt mobile refuelers from the sized secondary containment requirements for bulk oil storage containers. (A mobile refueler is bulk storage container onboard a vehicle or towed, that is designed or used solely to store and transport fuel for transfer into or from an aircraft, motor vehicle, locomotive, vessel, ground service equipment, or other oil storage container)
  - Remove some SPCC requirements for animal fats and vegetable oils for certain types of facilities. Requirements removed refer to onshore oil production facilities, onshore oil drilling and workover facilities, and offshore oil drilling, production, or workover facilities. The requirements were removed because they do not apply to facilities that handle, store, or transport animal fats and vegetable oils.
  - Extend the SPCC compliance dates for farms. For farms starting operation on or before August 16, 2002, they are to maintain their existing SPCC Plan. For farms starting operation after August 16, 2002, they are to prepare and implement a plan when EPA specifies a compliance date which has not been set.
- \*Facilities and/or equipment are eligible if they did not discharge from any oil-filled equipment (1) more than 1,000 US gallons of oil in a single discharge to navigable waters or (2) two discharges of oil to navigable waters each exceeding 42 US gallons within any twelve-month period, in the three years prior to the SPCC Plan certification date, or since becoming subject to Title 40, Part 112 of the Code of Federal Regulations if the facility has been in operation for less than three years.
- The EPA has provided more detailed information at: [www.epa.gov/oilspill](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill)
- If you are unsure if the SPCC amendments affect your facility or you need any additional assistance with your compliance issues please feel free to contact Monti Staton at 404-407-8645 or via email at [monti@gatech.edu](mailto:monti@gatech.edu).



## President's Message (continued from Page 1)

and focus. Local members' specialties have assisted the state with this ranking by combining workplace management with safe and healthy workers. The local section meeting in August is a great opportunity to discuss how our job focus continues to change with the integration of green building systems and energy management.

Additionally, this is a

great time to take on a hint of entrepreneurship of your own by becoming a local section officer. The time commitment is not what you think it is (roughly an hour a week), the people are outstanding and you get the opportunity to work among the true elite of our profession. Submit your nominations to Wes Barfield ([Thomas.Barfield.ctr@Robins.af.mil](mailto:Thomas.Barfield.ctr@Robins.af.mil)).

It has been a wonderful year as

president, and I thank all of the members that have made this job so enjoyable. I especially want to thank Hilarie Schubert for all of her hard work, keeping us to task, on time and on budget in everything we have done. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her and with all of you.

—Margaret D. Buckalew, MPH

## Upcoming Conferences (click on conference title for more information)

- [3rd International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health](#) in Taipei, Taiwan on August 29-September 1, 2007. NIOSH is a cosponsor of the conference.
- [WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health Symposium](#). The Symposium will be held by NIOSH and partner agencies and organizations September 10-11, in Bethesda, Maryland.
- [International Roofing Expo 2008](#) will be held February 21-23, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



## Hexavalent Chromium Update

Ms. Christine Corrigan, CIH presented an overview of OSHA's hexavalent standard at the GLS Spring 2007 Conference. Christine works for Federal OSHA and also is the AIHA Board Coordinator for the GLS. Please email Peter Kowalski (pek2@cdc.gov) if you want to obtain a copy of Christine's slides.

In May 2007, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), along with other parties, reached a settlement with OSHA on its hexavalent chromium standard. According to the NAM press release "...employers will be provided an upfront presumption that engineering and work practice

controls may not be feasible to meet the permissible exposure limit ("PEL") when employees are welding on stainless steel in enclosed or confined spaces. Previously, under the Final Rule, engineering and work practice controls had to be used exclusively to achieve compliance with the PEL unless those controls proved infeasible." The settlement also clarifies how employers dispose of large materials containing hexavalent chromium.

OSHA has issued a letter of interpretation addressing specific questions NAM and SSINA presented to OSHA regarding the new hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) standard.

## Call for PDCs for AIHce 2008

Distinguish yourself as a leader in your field and submit your Professional Development Course proposal. This is your opportunity to share your expertise at AIHce 2008 Educational Weekend Program in Minneapolis. Presentation dates are May 31 and June 1, 2008. Submit your proposal electronically by **August 15, 2007**.

For more information, contact Bruce Hermitat at (703) 846-0752.



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## First-Time EPA Oversight of Some Work Sites (continued from Page 1)

-- a move that could prompt extensive remediation and widespread litigation, sources say. Under the draft guidance, EPA is suggesting it can impose its own environmental exposure standards at sites in which workers are exposed to chemicals not used in the workplace, or when workers are exposed to chemicals used in a nearby workplace, sources say. Such a situation could occur in a mixed-use office park, a medical facility or a manufacturing center. The guidance comes despite the fact that, historically, OSHA

authorities have set cleanup standards at occupational sites. OSHA standards are typically less stringent than EPA risk-based standards, often by several orders of magnitude. Vapor intrusion results when chemical vapors emerge from polluted soil or groundwater and contaminate indoor air. The contamination can be caused by spilled oil and industrial chemicals and has become an emerging concern nationwide, with toxic vapors being found in residences, office buildings and industrial sites.

ASTM, a standards organization, is developing a vapor intrusion standard that will likely be considered an industry standard in lieu of EPA regulations. A legal appendix to the standard will address the issue of when OSHA standards should be followed at vapor intrusion sites. Agency officials sit on the ASTM vapor intrusion committee, which is expected to release the standard by the end of 2007.

—Margaret D. Buckalew, MPH  
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## Call for Nominations

The Executive Board for GLS needs your help. We need interested members to run for office. Please let us know who among your colleagues is ready and willing to serve the profession at the Association leadership level. Send an email message indicating the nominee's name and for which office you are nominating each individual. Please feel free to nominate yourself as well.

### Positions Available:

President-Elect  
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1<sup>st</sup> Year Director

Send your nominations in by 1 August  
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