MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE MARCH 1 EPCRA/COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW REPORTING
By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

The annual reporting of the use, storage, production, and release of hazardous chemicals to the public and emergency responders in each community is due on March 1, 2014. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act was passed in 1986 and requires reporting so that local communities can prepare a plan to respond to hazardous materials incidents and so that citizens in each community can know what chemicals are being used or stored at each facility.

As always, complete filing packages are due March 1 for the previous inventory calendar year. Companies can file either in hard copy or by using U.S. EPA’s “Tier 2 Submit” software. A complete report includes (1) the Facility Identification form(s), (2) Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory form(s), (3) a Facility Map, and (4) Filing Fees for a calendar year. These must be submitted on or before March 1 of the following year (for example, the report for calendar year 2013 must be submitted on or before March 1, 2014).

Companies that have previously reported and have no change in inventory submission have the option of an abbreviated submission. In addition, new on the EPCRA horizon are “short forms” for Ohio oil and gas producers who just submitted their annual filing for 2012 in December 2013. For more information on abbreviated filing, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell of Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. at: 330-244-2864 or jcdaldwell@kwgd.com.

NOTE: This general summary of the law should not be used to solve individual problems since slight changes in the fact situation may require a material variance in the applicable legal advice.

February Spotlight Company:

February 13, 2014

“I’m Ready, Are You?”
Chris Moffitt & Bob Thompson
Training Specifics, Inc. (TSI)

Learn proactive, survival strategies in violent intruder or active shooter situations from Bob Thompson and Chris Moffitt, Training Specifics, Inc., career Law Enforcement officers and certified ALICE trainers.

The ALICE program is designed to give participants insight and response options that are vital to survivability when encountering a violent, life threatening situation.

ALICE—Alert, Lockdown, Information, Counter and Evacuation is a highly effective and “common sense” training has been readily adopted by many educational law enforcement institutions in Ohio and throughout the United States.

Since 1996, Integrity Technical Services, Inc. located in the greater Akron, Ohio area has been a premier supplier of information technology, engineering, and technical personnel throughout Ohio. With a team of professional recruiters and a sales staff containing over 85 years of combined experience, Integrity Technical Services is deeply committed to establishing long-term relationships with our clients and job seekers. We have the unwavering goal of providing excellence and integrity. Our associates have the dedication and background needed to recognize and understand both clients’ and job seekers’ needs.

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Stark County Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.
Q. Does the new Hazard Communication 2012 standard require piping systems within the company to be labeled?

A: No. However, they must make provisions in the written program as to how they will inform the employees of the hazards associated with the chemicals contained in the unlabeled pipes in their work areas.

(e) Written hazard communication program.

(e)(1) Employers shall develop, implement, and maintain at each workplace, a written hazard communication program which at least describes how the criteria specified in paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of this section for labels and other forms of warning, safety data sheets, and employee information and training will be met, and which also includes the following:
(i) A list of the hazardous chemicals known to be present using a product identifier that is referenced on the appropriate safety data sheet (the list may be compiled for the workplace as a whole or for individual work areas); and,
(ii) The methods the employer will use to inform employees of the hazards of non-routine tasks (for example, the cleaning of reactor vessels), and the hazards associated with chemicals contained in unlabeled pipes in their work areas.
I am often asked, “how do you make sure that a worksite is safe?” My typical answer is to plan ahead for safety and compliance needs. In today’s world, it is not always possible to get safety equipment and supplies overnight. Thus, planning ahead not only helps ensure proper items are on hand when needed, but also lowers costs (next day freight is expensive).

To start with the basics (Yes...these even apply to office environments!):
You need to provide first response for injuries/illnesses that occur. This means basic first aid supplies and personnel trained in first aid and CPR are required. A means to notify emergency responders must also be available. Don't assume someone will always have a personal cell phone.....
Fire extinguishers must be available and current on annual and monthly inspections. This is especially important in area where hot-work is in progress. Proper labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be on site for all hazardous chemicals, fuels, etc.. Consider secondary containment & storage needs for any flammable / hazardous liquids.

Will there be powered equipment in use?
If so, pre-operation inspections are required for each shift of operation. This includes forklifts, aerial lifts, scissors lifts, etc. Also, make sure all operators are properly trained/qualified.

Are there going to be excavations or open trenches?
If so, soil conditions and other factors need assessed to determine if trench boxes/shoring will be required and also how to deal with spoil piles, etc.

Are workers going to be working at heights above 4' for general industry, or 6' in construction?
If so, you will need to plan for fall prevention, or fall arrest systems. In addition, you need to have a rescue plan. If someone does fall, that is not the time to try and figure out what to do. You have about 15 minutes before suspension trauma effects start. Please also be aware that not every fire department is trained and equipped for these types of specialty rescue. CHECK AHEAD OF TIME! Equipment is required to be inspected by the user daily and also periodically by a competent person.

Are workers going to be entering confined spaces?
If so, you will need to determine if these are permit required. Also, just like elevated work, pre-planning is critical. Consider things like: ventilation, lighting, escape/rescue planning,

This is not a complete list of all items, by any stretch. But hopefully, it covers common item that many face daily. Think Ahead, Plan for the unexpected, Work Safely. If you are unsure.......ASK....Consult your safety professional or a qualified consultant.