

Alliance Quarterly Review

An OSHA Alliance Program Participants' Information Service

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Brick Industry Alliance Focuses on Outreach to Combat Silicosis *Manual and Best Practices Seminars Share Expertise*

By Joe Casper

RESTON, VA—The **OSHA and Brick Industry Association (BIA) Alliance**, signed in March 2006, has evolved into a collaborative partnership that provides Association members with vital safety and health information such as how to prevent exposure to crystalline silica and how to address ergonomic issues for the brick industry. BIA represents 40 manufacturers in nearly 150 plants that produce more than 85 percent of bricks in the United States and Canada.

The Alliance, which was renewed March 27, 2008, continues to concentrate on safety and health issues of importance to the brick industry. Through the Alliance, BIA developed the **“Occupational Health Program for Exposure to Crystalline Silica in the Brick Industry”** manual. The manual provides employers in the brick industry with a monitoring and medical surveillance program to control occupational exposures and associated respiratory health effects of respirable crystalline silica. BIA provided each of its members a copy of the manual; it

also makes it available to the public by posting it on the **BIA and OSHA Alliance** Web page. Through the Alliance, BIA is developing a fact sheet focusing on silica dust results calculations and what they mean. Future plans call for BIA to develop, through the Alliance, an ergonomics fact sheet for the brick industry.

In addition, in February 2008 speakers from the OSHA Directorate of Standards and Guidance; the OSHA Region IV Columbia, South Carolina Area Office; and the South Carolina On-site Consultation Program appeared

See BIA page 6

Drug-Free Work Week is October 20-26, 2008

Unions, Federal Government Agencies and Non-profits Join in the Effort

By Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The annual October **Drug-Free Work Week** event is a national public awareness campaign that highlights the importance of being drug free to maintaining workplace safety and health and encourages employees with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. Sponsored by the Department of Labor’s (DOL) **Working Partners for an Alcohol- and Drug-Free Work place** Program, Drug-Free Work Week is supported by the **Drug-Free Workplace Alliance** and many other Alliance Program participants, who publicize the event by including information about it in their publications and Web pages as well as in presentations at conferences and company safety meetings. Through the



Drug-Free Work Week is supported by many Alliance Program participants including Lamar, whose billboards appear throughout the United States.

OSHA and Drug-Free Work Place Alliance, Working Partners developed the first Drug-Free Work Week in 2006.

Jamie Becker of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, a participant in the **Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners Alliance** said, “Participating in Drug-Free Work Week is another way the Laborers’ demonstrates a commitment to the health and safety of our members. We distribute Drug-Free Work Week materials around the country and provide our members and management with information on the dangers and health effects of working

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The *Alliance Quarterly Review* (AQR) is a communications tool as represented in the Directive establishing the Office of Outreach Services and Alliances in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs.

The AQR informs OSHA's Alliance Program participants about Alliance products, activities and successes. The AQR also highlights occupational safety and health best practices, shares information on OSHA's compliance assistance activities and highlights OSHA's cooperative programs' benefits and activities to Alliance Program participants and OSHA staff. For more information about AQR, contact the editor at 202-693-2340 or send email to becker.kate@dol.gov.

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www.osha.gov

Alliance Program Participants Contribute to New OSHA eTools

By Barney Lawrence

WASHINGTON—Safe forklift operation, sonography ergonomic work practices, and laser surgery safety are topics of new and updated **OSHA eTools** recently developed in a collaborative effort by the Agency and its Alliance Program participants.

The fact that OSHA's powered industrial truck standard is one of the most frequently cited standards in OSHA inspections was a factor leading to development of the **Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklift) eTool**. The standard is also a frequent topic of queries to OSHA's 800 number and e-correspondence system.

The **Industrial Truck Association**, an Alliance Program participant since January 2004, provided industry expertise during the development of the eTool and also supplied photographs that help illustrate proper forklift operating techniques. Said Stan Simpson, ITA President, "ITA is very pleased to have worked with OSHA to develop the powered industrial truck eTool. It is our hope that the eTool, along with the OSHA compliance officer training seminars, also produced by the OSHA and ITA Alliance, will result in a safer work environment for employees who operate industrial trucks."

The eTool, posted on OSHA's Web site in September 2008, provides guidance on the basic types of forklifts, requirements and recommended practices for operating forklifts, workplace conditions that may impact safe forklift operation, and operator training. Said Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, "This new eTool is an important resource to help employers comply with the standard and show employees how to avoid forklift-related injuries and fatalities on the job."

Alliance Program participants **Altec Industries, Inc.**; **ADSC: International Association of Foundation Drilling**; **American Foundry Society**; **American Forest & Paper Association and Pulp and Paper Safety Association**; **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**; **Integrated Waste Services Association**; and **Precision Metalforming Association** also provided input to the development of the eTool.

In addition, several Alliance Program participants were key players in the September 2008 updates to OSHA's **Hospital eTool**, which includes a new Sonography module and an updated Surgical module. The **Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography** provided the source material for the

See eTools, page 7

State Plan Web Site Adds Interlinked Pages, New Format

By Jaclyn Schede

WASHINGTON—Consistent Web page layout and a new interlinked information system provide improved access to information about the OSHA State Plans' policies, programs and documentation.

OSHA collaborated with the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA) to develop

standardized format and content for all **State Plan Web pages** on the OSHA Web site. Now, users will find information for topics such as jurisdiction, regulations and standards, and cooperative programs presented in the same manner on **Alaska's page** as it is on **Wyoming's page**.

OSHA and OSHSPA also jointly developed the **Interlinked**

Information on State Plan Standards and Policies/Directives page, which provides details on State Plans' responses to Federal OSHA standards and directives issued since June 2006. If a State adopts a different standard, policy, or procedure, the table provides a link to the State Plan's document on

See State Plan, page 7

VPP Hits 2,000 as OSHA Recognizes Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

By Judith Weinberg

PEARL RIVER, NY—On July 21, 2008, Wyeth Pearl River Pharmaceuticals of Hudson Valley, New York, became the 2,000th VPP member and the eighth Wyeth facility in the United States to earn the VPP Star status.

When OSHA created the **Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP)** in 1982, the Agency envisioned a program that would bring together organizational managers, employees, union representatives, and OSHA in a proactive, cooperative effort to implement and model outstanding safety and health management systems.

Twenty-six years later, VPP is the most prestigious workplace safety and

health recognition program in the United States. Representatives from other nations travel here to see how VPP works. The Department of Defense has determined that qualifying for VPP is the most effective way to reduce injuries and illnesses at its domestic bases.

"Achieving VPP takes dedication, planning and commitment," said Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA during the award ceremony attended by Wyeth employees and local elected officials. "It is not an easy road to travel as you develop and learn to manage a detailed, comprehensive and effective safety and health management system that is unique to the needs of your

worksite . . . By your selection as VPP's 2,000th active participant, Wyeth proclaims both its individual success and the longstanding and growing success of VPP."

On the way to achieving VPP Star approval, Wyeth attained an unprecedented level of management and employee commitment and buy-in to integrating workplace safety and health into every aspect of planning and operations. "This achievement is the result of a 2.5-year effort to make workplace safety the responsibility of every employee on site," said Mike McDermott, Vice President, Site Operations for Wyeth in Pearl River. "Safety has always been a top priority in Pearl River; when we applied for

See VPP, page 8

Alliance Program Participant Developed Products

By Staff Writer

OSHA's Alliance Program participants develop compliance assistance tools and resources that provide safety and health information to employers and employees and focus on specific industries and hazards addressed by the Alliances. Some examples of recent products developed by Alliance Program participants through the Alliance Program include:

- **American Biological Safety Association** developed **Select Agent Diseases Fact Sheet**.
- **Safe Tank Alliance** participants and **Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association** developed "**Safe Tank Entry: When Entering Aboveground Storage Tanks.**"

- **Tree Care Industry Association, Inc.** developed **Quick Card: Chipper Winches**.
- **Shipbuilders Council of America, National Shipbuilding Research Program, American Shipbuilding Association, American Industrial Hygiene Association, and American Society of Safety Engineers** developed "**Safety Alert: Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout/Tagout (LO/TO) Procedures in Shipyard Employment.**"

Visit OSHA's **Alliance Program Participants Developed Products Web page** for a complete list and links to all of the products developed by Alliance Program participants through the Alliance Program.

Regional Alliances—Highlights and Successes

Region II

Alliance Trains Thousands of Students in Western New York

BUFFALO, NY—More than 8,000 students in western New York have been trained in construction safety and health as the result of the Alliance between OSHA's Region II Buffalo, New York Area Office and Lehigh Construction Group. "OSHA and Lehigh remain committed to cooperative and proactive efforts to improve safety and health in the construction industry in western New York," said Arthur Dube, the Area Director of the Buffalo Area Office. "Providing the newest construction employees with a strong foundation in safety and health will pay off in fewer injuries, greater productivity, and safer workplaces." For more information, visit the [Region II Alliance Program Success Stories page](#).

Region II

Over 2,500 Attend Hispanic Family Health & Safety Fair

BUFFALO, NY—To help protect the safety and health of Hispanic employees, the OSHA Region II Buffalo, New York Area Office participated in a Hispanic Family Health and Safety Fair on June 21, 2008 in Buffalo, New York. OSHA staff delivered 21 safety awareness training sessions in Spanish to more than 700 people. Topics included electrical safety, trenching/excavations, and fall hazards. Safety awareness training sessions focusing on safety and health topics in the landscaping and restaurant industries were also offered for young employees. OSHA staff maintained an exhibit booth, distributed copies of the Agency's Spanish-language safety and



Fair attendees participate in a safety awareness training sessions focusing on trenching and excavations.

health outreach materials, and answered questions. For more information, visit the [Region II Regional Showcase Stories page](#).

Region IV

Alliance Provides Safety and Health Training for Alabama Youth

MOBILE, AL—OSHA's Region IV's Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama Area Offices signed the Alabama Youth Alliance on October 25, 2006, with the Alabama Department of Education and other organizations to provide workplace safety and health train-the-trainer training to vocational and technical school teachers across Alabama. Through the Alliance, 68 teachers have completed the OSHA train-the-trainer courses for general industry or construction. These teachers have issued over 300 OSHA 10-hour cards to their students. For more information, visit the [Region IV Alliance Success Stories page](#).

Case Study on Safety at Petrochemical Plant

By Kate Becker

WASHINGTON—The OSHA and **The Dow Chemical Corporation Alliance** produced a case study about the **Texas Operations Contractor Alliance for Safety (TOCAS)**, describing safety-related processes that improved the safety and health performance of contractors at Dow's Texas Operations in Freeport. The study publicizes the effect of safety and health management systems on the bottom line in the petrochemical industry.

All contractors providing labor services to Texas Operations are eligible to join TOCAS. The basic elements of TOCAS are similar to the elements of an effective safety and health management system—management commitment and employee involvement; worksite analysis; hazard prevention and control; training for employees, supervisors and managers.

Texas Operations and its contractors founded the Contractors' Safety Council (CSC) to train contractor employees. The CSC program begins with basic courses and continues with site-specific computer-based training classes. In addition, TOCAS trains contractor employees in the two-part Safe Behavior Process that involves the identification and control of hazards.

Dan Donovan, of Dow's Personal Safety Expertise Center says the TOCAS Alliance has proven beneficial for Dow and the contractors. "Regular and structured communication about safety issues and effective improvement techniques have produced safety innovations that have been leveraged across the facility and in some cases more broadly across Dow. This has systematically reduced risk and steadily improved safety performance, making Texas Operations one of the safest facilities with Dow." For more information, visit the [OSHA Success Stories and Case Study page](#) on the OSHA Web site.

Kate Becker is the Editor of the Alliance Quarterly Review.

Sharing Alliance Program and Compliance Assistance information resources through

Speeches, Presentations, Expositions

OSHA uses conference presentations, speeches and exhibits to share Alliance Program and compliance assistance information. During FY 08, OSHA representatives participated in 75 conferences; nearly 140 OSHA speakers reached out to more than 15,000 attendees through presentations ranging from OSHA's cooperative programs to specific safety issues (such as, chemical hazards, ergonomics). OSHA and its Alliance Program participants coordinated to produce 51 exhibits. Subject matter experts staffed Alliance Program exhibit booths, distributed publications, shared OSHA safety and health information, and responded to workplace safety and health questions from nearly 5,200 booth visitors.



Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA gave an OSHA Alliance Program and compliance assistance activities update to participants of the American Society of Safety Engineers Annual Conference in June 2008.



The Precision Metalforming Association's Alliance Program exhibit at its annual conference shows how effective an exhibit can be branding the Alliance and displaying information available to event participants.



Society for Chemical Hazard Communications' officers discussed OSHA/SCHC Alliance issues at the Alliance Program exhibit that was part of SCHC's 2007 Annual conference in Crystal City, VA.

The 2008 Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign attracted a national audience with an information segment on The TODAY Show with (from left) Al Roker, and Elaine L. Chao, US Secretary of Labor and SkillsUSA representatives. The event featured exhibits and workplace safety demonstrations performed at Rockefeller Center in New York City.



BIA, from page 1

at BIA's Best Practices Seminar on Silicosis Prevention. OSHA speakers delivered practical information on silicosis prevention and guided hands-on demonstrations of sophisticated equipment used to monitor silica exposures. Other topics included respiratory medical surveillance, various controls successful in addressing silica exposures, and an introduction to OSHA cooperative programs. Fifty-five BIA members were trained through the two Seminars held in February 2007 and 2008.

BIA advances the Alliance's goals by distributing OSHA safety and health information at events such as the 2007 and 2008 Brick Show conventions. Articles, such as "**Hispanic Outreach: OSHA Can Help**" and "**OSHA's Comprehensive Ergonomics Plan Features Targeted Guidelines and Tough Enforcement**" were included

in BIA's monthly newsletter, *Brick News Online*.

BIA members serve on the editorial boards for the OSHA **Confined Spaces, Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout), Heat Stress, Machine Guarding, and Silica, Crystalline** Safety and Health Topics pages. BIA extended its Alliance involvement by joining other Alliance Program participants supporting the **2008 NAOSH Week** in May, which demonstrated how "Safety is Good Business."

BIA included information on its Web site and conducted special safety training events to highlight the importance of being safety conscious in the workplace. Said Barry Miller of Redland Brick, "The brick industry's Alliance with OSHA has acquainted us, here at Redland Brick, with more useful safety and health information for our employees. It has been very helpful."



Reviewing a column of green brick as it departs the extruder

Today, through the distribution of information products developed through the OSHA and BIA Alliance, by sharing of information on OSHA and BIA Web pages, and at conferences and Best Practices Seminars, Association members receive guidance about the various ways OSHA can help them address compliance issues and ensure that employees are working in safe and healthful environments.

Joe Casper is Vice President, Environmental Health & Safety, BIA

Drug-Free Work Week, from page 1

under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We believe in this message during Drug-Free Work Week as well as year round."

The Week is implemented by Working Partners in collaboration with a number of national planning partners, including not only members of the Drug-Free Workplace Alliance, but also several unions, Federal government agencies and non-profit associations focused on alcohol- and drug-abuse prevention and workplace safety and health.

Elena Carr, director of the Working Partners program and DOL's Drug Policy Coordinator in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, said that the 2008 Drug-Free Work Week activities include reaching out to the media and distributing educational products developed through the Drug-Free Workplace Alliance. "This year, we're amplifying the outreach surrounding Drug-Free Work Week by taking a grass roots approach," said Carr. "Our Web site features a new **tool box** full of resources that organizations can download and customize for their own use. As a result, anyone can help us highlight the benefits that drug-free workplace programs bring to employers, workers and communities"

To learn how your organization can participate in the campaign, visit DOL's Drug-Free Work Week Web page.

The following Alliance Program participants are supporting the 2008 Drug-Free Work Week.

- **Abbott**
- **American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.**
- **American Biological Safety Association**
- **American Forest & Paper Association and Pulp and Paper Safety Association**
- **American Heart Association**
- **American Pipeline Contractors Association**
- **American Red Cross**
- **American Society of Safety Engineers**
- **Association of Occupational Health Professionals**
- **Association of periOperative Registered Nurses**
- **Board of Certified Safety Professionals, Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists, American Board of Industrial Hygiene**
- **Club Managers Association of America**
- **The Dow Chemical Company**
- **Drug Free Workplace Alliance**
- **Forging Industry Association**
- **Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.**
- **Lamar Outdoor Advertising**
- **Laser Institute of America**
- **Process Safety Alliance**
- **The Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners**
- **SkillsUSA**

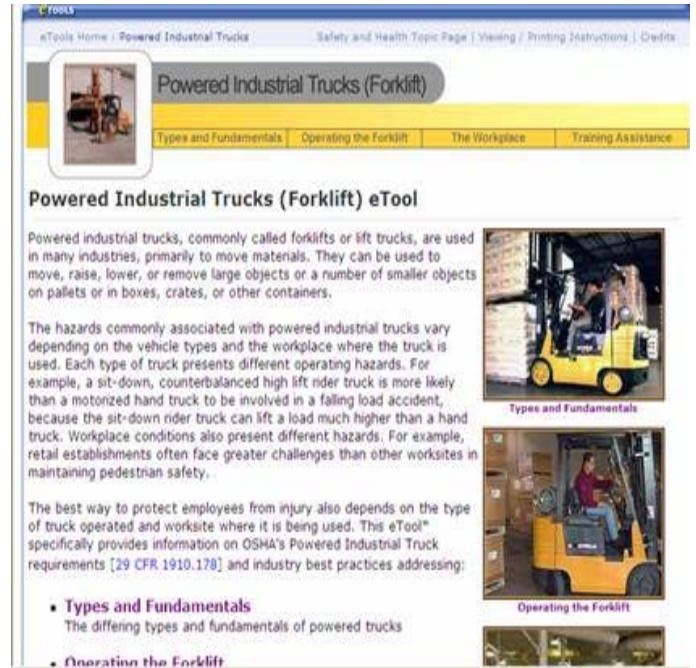
eTools, from page 2

Sonography module; the **Association of Occupational Health Professionals (AOHP)** and **American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)** reviewed the module and provided comments. This module provides guidance for how sonographers, who use high frequency ultrasound equipment to create diagnostic images, can reduce their risk of musculoskeletal disorders.

The **Laser Institute of America** provided the source material used to update the laser safety information in the Surgical module of the Hospital eTool. The **American Biological Safety Association, Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, AOHP, AAOHN,** and the **Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources** also reviewed and provided comments on this module during its development. In addition to the updated laser safety information, the Surgical module also features updated information on bloodborne pathogens, waste anesthetic gases, and other topics.

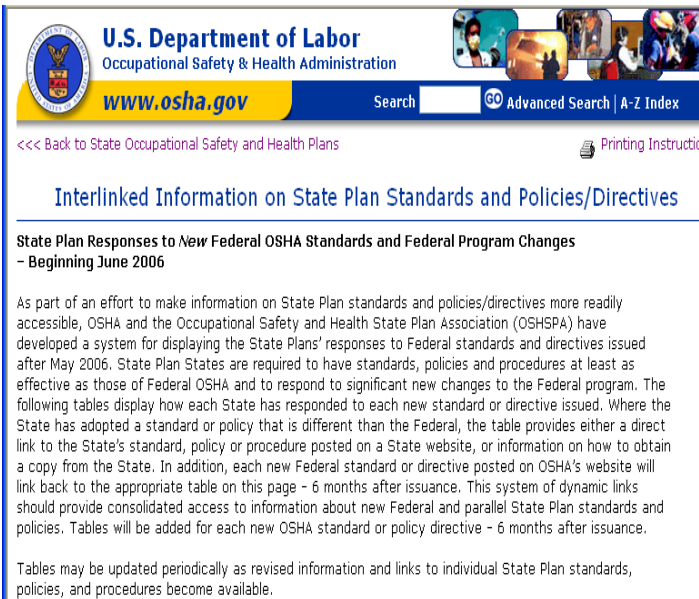
These eTools are examples of how OSHA works with Alliance Program participants to develop Alliance Program resources.

Barney Lawrence is the Compliance Assistance Coordinator in the Office of Outreach Services and Alliances.



Screen capture from the Powered Industrial Trucks eTool Web page

State Plans, from page 3



Screen capture from the new State Plan Integrated Web site

its Web site or a contact for information on how to obtain a copy. In addition, each new Federal standard or directive links back to the specific State response table.

This system provides consolidated information on State adoption of Federal standards and policies or procedures, which can be used to help employers comply with State-specific requirements and determine whether the State requirements are different from the Federal. The system also helps make employees aware of other on-line resources that are available to them. For more information about State Plans, visit: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/index.html>.

Jaclyn Schede is a Program Analyst in the Office of State Programs.

Alliance Signings, Renewals, Conclusions

New National Office Alliances

American Supply Association

signed 09/16/08

American Fire Sprinkler Association

signed 09/24/08

Concluded National Office Alliances

Industrial Minerals Association - North America

signed 04/26/07

concluded 09/12/08

Renewed National Office Alliances

American Dental Association

signed 04/12/04

renewed 05/18/06

renewed 09/04/08

American Red Cross

signed 05/19/05

renewed 08/06/08

Coordinating Committee for Automotive Repair

signed 02/17/04

renewed 09/12/06

renewed 08/04/08

National Maritime Safety Association

signed 06/23/06

renewed 09/04/08

VPP, from page 3

VPP, we set our sights on being the best in the industry. We worked aggressively to make improvements in our safety programs, communication and training, and we are delighted to be recognized as a VPP Star worksite, Wyeth's eighth Star." For the **full story of the 2,000th VPP** celebration and more information about OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs, visit www.osha.gov/desp/vpp.

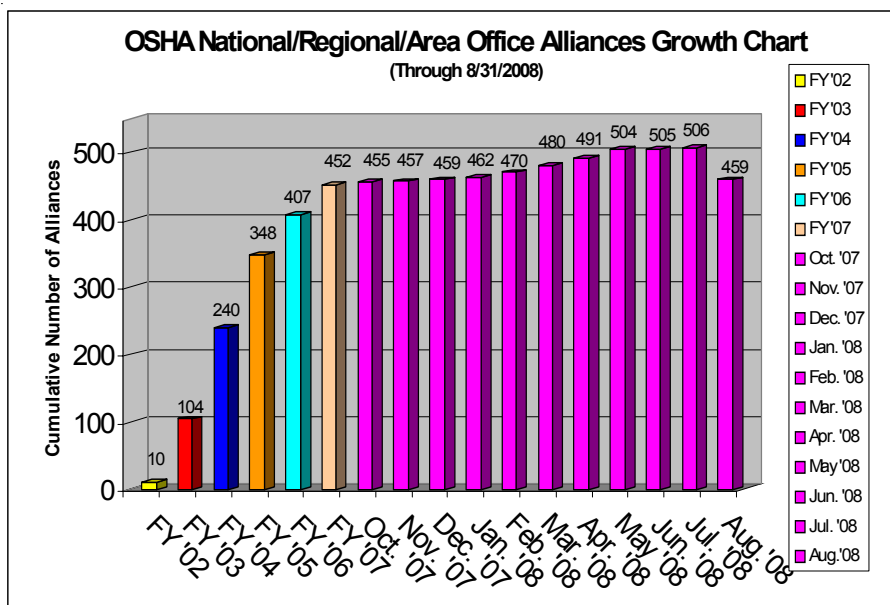
Judith Weinberg is a Program Analyst in the Office of Partnerships and Recognition.



OSHA Alliance Program Growth Chart

As of August 31, 2008, there are 459 National, Regional and Area Office Alliances. Employers and employees are the beneficiaries of OSHA's and the Alliances' production of electronic and print information products and safety and health training programs.

For examples of Alliance Program participants' activities and products, visit the [Alliance Milestones and Successes](#) and [Regional and State Plan State Success Stories](#) Web pages.



Graph by Les Painter, Program Analyst, in the Office of Outreach Services and Alliances

New OSHA Compliance Assistance Products and Resources

- **Floods and Tornadoes: Keeping Disaster Site Workers Safe During Cleanup and Recovery Operations.** Web Page (June 2008)
- **Hazards of Auger Drilling.** Safety and Health Information Bulletin (Apr. 2008)
- **Hazards of Wood Chippers.** Safety and Health Information Bulletin (Apr. 2008)
- **Guidance for the Identification and Control of Safety and Health Hazards in Scrap Metal Recycling** (Sept. 2008)
- **Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.** (updated Aug. 2008)
- **Shipfitting.** Safety and Health Injury Prevention Sheets (SHIPS) (Aug. 2008)