

SCHC Posters – Background and “How-To”

What are technical poster sessions and abstracts?

The Spring technical poster session is an informal forum for the exchange of ideas, usually held at the same time and location as the Tuesday night Reception. While the Fall session focuses on commercial products, the Spring poster session is for non-commercial products or topics. Ideas are presented as “posters” in a relaxed atmosphere where authors and attendees can mingle and exchange ideas. Typically the posters are displayed on portable, free standing bulletin boards, easels, or something similar.

Why should you take the time to present of poster at the Technical Poster Session?

It is an excellent opportunity to present ideas to and receive feedback from other HazCom professionals. A number of plenary session presentations have originated as posters. It’s a way to convey information on a topic without having to do a plenary session. It’s an opportunity to gain professional recognition. It’s an easy way to become more active in SCHC.

What topics are appropriate for the SCHC Technical Poster Session?

Any topic related to chemical hazard communication, in its broadest sense, may be presented at the poster session. It could be a problem that you resolved; a project done by you, or someone you know; a proposed improvement to a previously presented solution; a topic related to one of the professional development courses being offered or one of the plenary session presentations; or an update of a poster done previously, just to name a few ideas.

Abstracts

Authors are asked to submit a brief (paragraph or two) summary of the idea being presented in their poster(s) to the Poster Subcommittee. Each abstract should clearly describe how the topic is related to chemical hazard communication. Abstracts intended to market a specific product or service are not considered appropriate for the poster session. The Poster Subcommittee reviews submitted abstracts for quality, applicability, and appropriateness. Very few, if any, poster ideas are turned away. Authors are then notified of the review results. These abstracts are then compiled, printed, and distributed at the Spring SCHC meeting.

Who may submit an abstract?

Any SCHC member may submit an abstract and present at the Technical Poster Session. This can be done individually or jointly with co-authors. Abstracts from non-members will be accepted, but an SCHC member must sponsor these abstracts.

But I’m not an artist or a graphics expert!

All we ask is that posters be neat, legible, informative, and hopefully interesting. They do not have to be professionally produced. The idea here is to convey information, not compete for a graphics award. While we do offer an award for “best poster” the emphasis is on the content, not the professionalism of the graphics.

In the past, posters have been any of the following:

- multiple 8 ½ x 11 regular sheets of paper with black text arranged on a bulletin board
- combinations of sheets of paper and photos or graphics arranged on a bulletin board -

sometimes printed in color, sometimes only in black and white

- text from a legal sized sheet of paper blown up to about a 2 x 3 foot piece of paper (Kinko's, or most printers, can do this for you very cheaply) - with or without graphics or color
- International Safety Cards, or other similar physical objects, attached to a board
- text printed on foam board, etc.

While SCHC generally tries to obtain large (about 3x5 feet), rolling, single or double-sided cork display boards for the poster session, we're not always successful and sometimes end up with just regular, 3 legged easels or flip chart stands. Generally we try to find out early enough so that you can consider the available display options when designing your poster, but that doesn't always happen. It's wise to think it terms of something that will work on either type of display board.

How to participate?

1. Formulate an idea for a poster.
2. Summarize the idea in a short abstract.
3. Submit the abstract for review to the Poster Subcommittee.
4. Once the abstract is accepted, prepare a poster for presentation at the Spring meeting
5. After the meeting, if feasible, send in an electronic version of your poster for posting on the SCHC website.

Call for Abstracts

Generally in January or February there will be a Call for Abstracts sheet mailed out (or posted on the web) along with other materials for the upcoming Spring meeting. This sheet has some of the information covered in this document, along with the due date for abstracts, and the contact information for submitting the abstracts. There is usually a follow up reminder about a month later.

A Sampling of Posters Done Previously:

- MSDS's and their Role in the Proper Selection of Hand Protection
- A Comparison of Hazard-Based versus Risk-Based Approaches to Labeling
- Compliance Optimization
- A Comparison of the OSHA Hazard Classification Scheme and the OECD Harmonized System
- Governance of a Certifying Organization for Chemical Hazard Communicators
- HazCom Info Sheets: A Process Specific Data Sheet
- Use of Hazard Determination and Communication in Evaluation of a Product for Life Cycle Assessment under ISO 14000
- Alternatives to Animal Testing
- A History of Hazard Communication in the United States
- The Role of Endocrine Disruption in a "Scientifically Defensible" Hazard Determination
- Factors which Influence the Success of the Implementation of MSDS Authoring Software Systems
- The Effect of Graphic Design on Chemical Hazard Communication
- Hazard Communications Resources Available to You
- Comparing Current ANSI MSDS to GHS MSDS

- Considerations in the Labeling of Cat Litter
- How to Determine Japanese Chemical Inventory Status (ENCS-METI)
- Mandates for Hazard Assessment and Communication
- A Global Look at a Chronic Hazard Cancer
- Information Management Practices Impact MSDS Quality
- MSDS Templates for Small Companies
- The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
- When is an Irritant not an Irritant?
- Optimizing the Communication of Hazards
- A Timeline of the Evolution of U.S. Chemical Hazard Communication: Activities by Various Government and Industry Organizations
- Searching the Chinese Chemical Inventory List
- Using Technology to Manage Chemical Data for GHS & REACH
- From HCS to GHS: A Review of the Literature for Safety Data Sheets
- Development of a Structure Activity Relationship Process to Characterize Acute Toxicity for GHS Classification