

TO: ADDRESSEES
(As Listed Below)

FROM: Institutional Environmental Health Program Manager
IHS Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE IEH OFFICER'S CONFERENCE CALL
October 9, 2001

DATE: October 16, 2001

ADDRESSEES:

ABERDEEN AREA – Curt Smelley – (absent)
ALASKA AREA NATIVE HEALTH CONSORTIUM – Mark Kelty, Bob Berger, (absent) Steve Breithaupt, (absent) Rick Orlando, Keith Cook
ALBUQUERQUE AREA – Mike Lewis (absent)
BEMIDJI AREA - Bruce Etchison
BILLINGS AREA - John Holland
CALIFORNIA AREA – Geoff Langer (absent)
NASHVILLE AREA – Kit Grosch
NAVAJO AREA - David Mosier, (absent) John Smart, Len Courtois, (absent) Gary Gefroh
OKLAHOMA AREA – Richard Turner
PHOENIX AREA –Greg Heck, (absent) Dave McMahon, (absent) Chris Kates, (absent) Alex Hardin (absent)
PORTLAND AREA - Al Knapp, (absent) Linda Tiokasin
TUCSON AREA – Quanah, Nail (absent)
EHSC, ALBUQUERQUE – Jeff Morris, Institutional Environmental Health Consultant

AGENDA ITEMS:

IEH Annual Workshop (Merritt Lake)
Merritt announced that the dates for the Annual IEH Workshop would be February 18 thru the 22nd in San Diego, California at the Holiday Inn on the Bay.

Ergonomics Workgroup (John Holland)
John announced the DOD Ergonomic Conference to be held in Chantilly, Va (outside of Dulles) in November has been rescheduled for April 29 & 30th, because of the September Terrorist attack and DOD's reprioritizing their schedules.

John summarized the group's recent efforts, which included conference calls and attending national meetings. John stated the four Primary goals of the workgroup efforts at developing a policy were:

1. Patient Handling
2. Office Ergonomics and VDT's
3. Education and Training
4. Dental Ergonomics

WEBCident Software Development Update (Darren Buchanan, John Smart, Richard Turner)
John reviewed VA's software programs: SPOT, WCMIST and ASISTS. They all use the MUMPS language and are scheduled to be revamped into a WEB Based format within 2 to 5 years. The VA programs may have some items that would be of interest to us. A meeting is scheduled with VA in DC on October 18 with Merritt and Darren in attendance.

Professional Development Workgroup Update (Jeff Morris)

Jeff reported that this Workgroup has made much progress and a “White paper” would be ready for review by mid December outlining the components of the Safety Fellowship Program. It appears that it will be a two-year program. Mark Kelty wanted to know if there would be any reciprocity between the Alaska Safety Program and the IHS Fellowship. Merritt said that every consideration would be given to this issue. The Alaska Safety Program would not be ready for another year but would also be based on a two-year format. Admission prerequisites have not been established for the IHS Safety Fellowship at this time.

NEHA Conference (Merritt Lake)

Merritt has been re-appointed as Chair for the IEH section at NEHA’s Annual Conference to be held in Minneapolis this June. A request was made for papers to be presented at this meeting from all interested officers. Last year’s conference had a good showing (five) of IHS Officers who presented at this section. Merritt asked for volunteers to present at the Minneapolis Conference in June 2002.

OPEN DISCUSSION & AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aberdeen (Curt Smelley): no report

Alaska. (Mark Kelty): nothing to report

Albuquerque (Mike Lewis): no report

Bemidji (Bruce Etchison): HFAV Lead decision (to opt for an updated Lead Guideline instead of a Policy) was not what the EH Workgroup expected. Merritt added that EHS would push for the Policy approach which would stand more favorably with the compliance agencies (OSHA & JCAHO) as far as good management practices go. Self-determination may also be a consideration when it comes to adopting a Guideline as opposed to a Policy. The Policy would stand a better chance of being complied with.

Billings (John Holland): John cited a lack of clear guidance on the survey format on Headstarts. Bruce expressed the feeling that the old style should be used (cover letter, findings, recommendations) until an electronic form is developed.

California (Geoff Langer): no report

Nashville (Kit Grosch): Enquired as to who held the CIH credential – Gary Gefroh claimed ownership. Kit reported that Mary Walker from FDA reminds us that the Light meters require annual calibration from FDA and to send them in the last Wednesday of the month. Over night loaners are available. Any repairs to equipment can be sent to FDA because they are given IHS \$\$ for this service.

Navajo (Dave Mosier): Gary discussed the need to have a second XRF repaired as a backup and this would entail an outlay of approximately \$10,000 to repair it. Gary asked for some thought on this by the officers who use the instrument.

Oklahoma (Richard Turner): Richard announced that Randy Grinnell of Oklahoma was appointed the new CPO for the Environmental Health Category. Richard also provided some information concerning a useful resource to address Bioterrorism – USAMRIID (U S Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases located at Ft Detrick, Maryland (Frederick, Maryland). [The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases \(USAMRIID\) conducts research to develop strategies, products, information, procedures, and training programs for medical defense against biological warfare threats and infectious diseases. USAMRIID, an organization of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command \(USAMRMC\), is the lead medical research laboratory for the U.S. Biological Defense Research Program. The Institute plays a key role in national defense and in infectious disease research as the largest biological containment laboratory in the Department of Defense \(DOD\) for the study of hazardous diseases. USAMRIID has over 10,000 square feet of Biosafety Level 4 \(BL4\) and 50,000 square feet of Biosafety Level 3 \(BL3\) laboratory space. The Institute also has a fifteen-bed](#)

research ward where clinical trials of vaccines and drugs are conducted according to rigorous DOD and FDA regulations. Their Medical Management of Biological Casualities Handbook is downloadable from their WEB Page <http://usamriid.detrick.army.mil>

Phoenix (Greg Heck): no report

Portland (Linda Tiokasin for Al Knapp): Linda reported that the position for the District Sanitarian billet would be posted very soon. It entails some IEH work and would be located in Spokane, Washington. The Bellingham position may soon be advertised.

Tucson (Quanah Nail): No report

Environmental Health Support Center (Jeff Morris): nothing to report

IEH WORKGROUPS

Environmental Health (Chair: Bruce Etchison – Members: Gary Gefroh, Jeff Langer, Jeff Morris, Mark Pike, Dave Mosier)

Professional Development (Chair: Jeff Morris – Members: Chris Kates, Linda Tiokasin, Mark Pike)

Safety and Security Management (Chair: Greg Heck- Members: Bob Berger, Steve Breithaupt, Ann Parker)

Infection Control and Employee Health (Chair: Richard Turner- Members: Linda Tiokasin, Mike Lewis, Curt Smelley, Carol Bromley, Patti White, Kenda Matthews)

DataBase (Chair: John Smart- Members: Alex Hardin, John Holland, Dave McMahon, Richard Turner)

Ergonomics (Chair: Keith Varvel- Members: John Smart, Kit Grosch, John Holland, Greg Heck)

Radiation(Chair: Curt Smelley- Members: Al Knapp, Keith Cook, Mike Lewis)

Industrial Hygiene (Chair: Gary Gefroh- Members: Rick Orlando, Larry Potter, Merritt Lake)

The call was adjourned at 1:55 p.m., EST. The next conference call will be held at 12:30 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, November 13. Call in instructions are as follows:

November 13 (Tuesday) (November 12-Monday is a Holiday)

December 10 (Monday)

January 14 (Monday)

February 11 (Monday)

March 11 (Monday)

The following information remains the same for all scheduled calls:

Time: **12:30pm (Eastern Time)**

Dial In Number: **1-888-282-5992**

Duration: **One Hour / 25 participants**

* Leader of Call: **Merritt Lake**

* Pass Code: **91101**

/S/

Commander Merritt M. Lake

cc: Acting Director, Division of Environmental Health Services
Area Institutional Environmental Health Officers