



The CHESS Tournament

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Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services, Inc.

Complete Health Environmental & Safety Services, Inc. Newsletter

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Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week April 17-21, 2017

Floods, tornadoes, extreme heat, lightning, and hail. Sounds like plagues. Add road construction and you have spring and summer in Minnesota. Are you ready?

Severe weather awareness week will be April 17 through April 21 this year. It is a great time to review your emergency procedures, make sure your severe weather shelters are clearly marked and everyone knows where they are, and have a severe weather drill. The statewide tornado drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 20 at 1:45 pm and 6:45 pm (catching most people both at home and at work). Use the opportunity to do the annual drill at your company.

Some other considerations:

- Are you signed up for weather alerts? If not, sign up at <https://www.weather.gov/subscribe>.
- Do you have a NOAA weather radio? Make sure it works.
- Are your emergency contact names and numbers up to date? Now is a good time to review them.
- Who is responsible for telling employees everything is clear and they can leave the shelter areas? How will you know to make that call?
- Do you have employees who work in the field or make deliveries? Make sure they know what to do.

Along with severe weather comes road construction...

Road construction projects can be frustrating, but they're better than potholes and crumbling cement. They're also dangerous. In 2015, about 700 people in the US, including 130 workers, were killed in crashes at roadway work sites. [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#) was April 3-7 this year. But we should always be reminding co-workers, family, and friends about the importance of driving safely.

If you are working on or adjacent to a roadway or traffic, stay alert to traffic, wear your high visibility vest, and use the correct work zone layout. It may be a nuisance to set out cones for a job that only takes 30 minutes, but your life is worth the time.

Workers' Memorial Day is Friday, April 28, in honor of workers who have died on the job.

While there are no organized events planned for Minnesota, it is a good time to re-commit to the health and safety of all employees.

OSHA Update: On Hold

It isn't our update that's on hold. Instead, most of OSHA's new standards are on hold.

- Silica Standard: scheduled to be enforced as of June 23, 2017, Federal OSHA has pushed the enforcement date back to September 23, 2017. But we work in Minnesota, which has a state-run program. Minnesota adopted the final rule in September. So, does it still go into effect in Minnesota in June for construction? No. Minnesota just published that they will also delay enforcement until September. Watch our website blog for additional updates.
- Recordkeeping (online reporting), increase in penalties, beryllium exposure, the new walking and working surfaces and fall protection standards: None has been adopted by Minnesota yet. Minnesota OSHA says you have to keep your employees safe, but none of these rules will be enforced.

MPCA Update

The MPCA is working on air quality rules that will allow smaller facilities (which covers most of our clients) to be conditionally exempt from permit requirements. What does that mean? They are working on something that makes sense and is less onerous for businesses. Yeah, the MPCA is doing that. And, Janet and Jake have been working with them on this, including setting up a time for them to actually go out and see some small businesses. Sometimes things seem to work the way they should. Timeline: Oh, a year or two, but at least progress is being made.

Buying, Selling or Moving Your Business

It is always exciting to see clients grow their businesses and transition to new phases. If you are buying a new facility, moving your business, expanding or selling, don't forget to remember environmental permitting requirements. If you hold any of these permits, you may need to transfer them, close them down, or start them up:

- Stormwater permits (including no exposure exclusion)
- Hazardous waste permits
- Minneapolis hazardous materials permits
- Air quality permits

If you are making a major change (selling, buying, moving), we can assist you with the environmental permitting. But please - let us know early in the process, to ensure everything is done in a timely manner. For air quality permits, for instance, you cannot begin construction until the permit is in place. So if you tell us three days before you want to start operations, we have a problem.

Discounts to switch away from solvent based parts washers

The MPCA has teamed with Safety-Kleen to offset the initial cost of switching to an aqueous parts washer by 25% for businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Additionally any small businesses in Minneapolis will get an additional 20% discount supported by the city (45% reduction total). For more information, please go to the MPCA.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/discounts-available-switch-out-solvent-based-parts-washers>

CHESS is hiring!

If you or someone you know is interested in being a safety consultant with CHESS, the job description is available on our website (chess-safety.com) under news & resources, or click here: http://chess-safety.com/images/stories/2017-03_chess_safety_consultant_posting.pdf.

As always, if you have questions or need assistance with any of the information provided, or you just want to talk with our wonderful staff, call us at 651-481-9787.