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INSIGHTS

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Cell Phones & Safe Driving



With the popularity of cellular phones rising (nearly 90 million phones in use in the United States), more and more drivers are using their commute time to conduct business and personal affairs on their cell phones. While you may think this is a great use of the time, there is a dark side. Paying attention to dialing, discussing and doing deals all affect your ability to properly respond to typical road hazards. Using a little common sense can help.

- Get to know your phone and its features. Memorize the keypad so you can use the speed dial function without taking your attention off the road.
- Use hands-free devices when available.
- Keep the phone within easy reach.
- Don't use cell phones during hazardous driving conditions or situations.
- Pay attention to the road.
- Don't engage in distracting conversations.

Telephones in automobiles are a fact of life. They can be a lifesaver when emergencies arise and can be a life-enhancing tool if operated in a proper and sensible manner. ■

Boosting Morale

Increasing retention and satisfaction among employees does not have to cost much. Here are some examples of low-cost ways to make your work force happier:



At Xerox, one customer service center turned decisions about work schedules over to the employees. With employee work teams in charge of scheduling, the company reported higher morale, better customer service and a 30 percent reduction in absenteeism.

AT&T has a program called "Resource Link" that lets employees from diverse backgrounds and with varied skills "sell" their abilities to different departments for short-term assignments. It has greatly increased retention and employee satisfaction.

At Johnson & Johnson, absenteeism among workers who made use of flexible work options and family leave policies averaged 50 percent less than for the work force in general. ■

Source: Bob Nelson's "Rewarding Employees"

"Fish HACCP" Flops

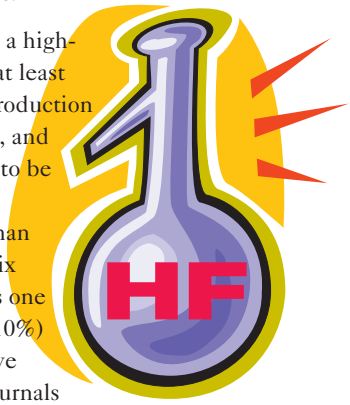
While FDA has made progress in improving the safety of seafood since a voluntary HACCP program began four years ago, there's a long way to go. According to an investigation by the congressional General Accounting Office (GAO), volunteer "fish HACCP" has been a big flop! Over half of FDA inspections of domestic seafood processors found serious violations, yet the government didn't move quickly enough to make those companies shape up, GAO investigators found. A major problem is that a lot of seafood companies haven't even bothered to implement this voluntary HACCP program! ■

Source: AAMP Capitol Line-Up



Keeping It Clean... And Safe!

In our efforts to help you "keep it clean," ChemStation is also concerned about you keeping it clean in the safest possible manner. And, that means avoiding the use of dangerous chemicals in our products.

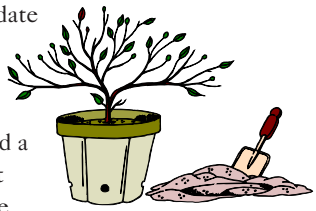


Hydrofluoric acid (HF) is a high-volume chemical used in at least eight industries. It had a production rate of 375,000 tons in 1998, and its US demand is estimated to be 400,000 tons in 2002. HF is considered more hazardous than most chemicals in five out of six ranking systems; and it is ranked as one of the most hazardous compounds (worst 10%) to human health. For several months, we've been reading articles published in trade journals and other news sources describing accidents with HF that have caused loss of life and limb. And, it looks as though the insurance companies are about to seek out Worker's Compensation claims associated with the use of hydrofluoric acid.

ChemStation's professional team of chemists has developed a safer alternative to be used in our custom-blended formulations. If you're looking for a safer solution to your industrial cleaning problems, give your local ChemStation representative a call. ■

Celebrate Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care, founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872.



Today the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north. ■

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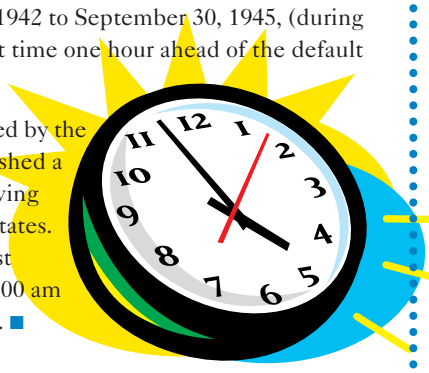
Waste of Daylight?

Advancing our clocks to artificially expand the daylight hours (commonly known as Daylight Saving Time) was mentioned by Benjamin Franklin in a humorous essay in 1784, but the real credit is given to a London builder, William Willett (1865-1915). His pamphlet "The Waste of Daylight" began a campaign that led to the introduction of British Summer Time in an Act of Parliament in 1916.

In his pamphlet, Willett wrote..."Everyone appreciates the long, light evenings. Everyone laments their shortage as Autumn approaches; and everyone has given utterance to regret that the clear, bright light of an early morning during Spring and Summer months is so seldom seen or used."

During WWI, Daylight Saving Time was adopted by several countries to save fuel that would be necessary to produce light in the late hours of the day. From February 9, 1942 to September 30, 1945, (during WWII) the United States kept time one hour ahead of the default standard time.

The Uniform Time Act, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1966, established a system of uniform daylight saving time throughout the United States. It begins at 2:00 am on the first Sunday of April and ends at 2:00 am on the last Sunday of October. ■





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Soapbox

In 1929 Americans spent 23.9% of their disposable income on food. By 1997 the figure was 10.7%.
Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1999

The number of bankruptcy filings by big companies last year was more than double that of any year since 1980.
Financial Times

New cell phone owners use their units for business calls 48% of the time.
NHTSA Study

Administrative Professionals Week (formerly National Secretaries Week) is now the largest workplace observance outside of birthdays and major holidays. The observance began in 1952 as an effort to honor administrative staff for their efforts and attract more people to office and administrative careers.
International Association of Administrative Professionals

"Each generation takes the Earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."
J. Sterling Morton

Unrestricted airline fares can cost six times as much as advanced-purchase discount fares. Example: A discount round-trip fare between New York and San Francisco costs $398 on several airlines. The unrestricted coach fare was $2,386 on the same carriers. Golden rule of air travel: Always book tickets as far in advance as possible.
InsideFlyer

Happy Easter!

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