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INSIGHTS

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MORE THAN JUST SOAP AND A SYSTEM

We would like to share the following excerpt from a customer's letter recently received by one of our Manufacturing Centers.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the assistance you provided a few weeks ago. We had been preparing for an audit for several months. Our ChemStation account representative provided an internal audit earlier and pointed out some key issues.

The result was an audit rating yesterday of 95! This audit is very detailed and our ChemStation representative's observations and suggestions were reflected in that score. You were also a great help in ensuring MSDSs were displayed on our tanks and they were properly secured.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation as a customer and hope that ChemStation will share in the results of this audit score! Congratulations!

Pre-Audit Surveys are one of many ways ChemStation offers plant support for you. We made this customer happy…may we help you? Contact your ChemStation representative for more information. ■



HEARING CONSERVATION



Even after many years of OSHA-regulated efforts to conserve hearing, and despite the ready availability of hearing protection devices, rates of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) continue to rise. Recent surveys show hearing problems among individuals age 45 to 64 up 26 percent over the past 30 years. It is also known as the No. 1 hidden disability and the most common occupational illness in North America.

Part of the reason hearing loss lacks respect as a disability is because it is a silent affliction, causes no pain or trauma, is accompanied by no visible wounds, and is generally not noticed for several years. Once lost, hearing cannot be regained. NIHL is permanent and irreversible.

Compounding the problem is the fact that we live in an increasingly noisy and noise-approving culture. Listening to your favorite song blasting at over 100 dB can cause just as much damage to your hearing as an impact wrench or other noisy machine at work.



Combating complacency involves changing mindsets and behavior. Workers have to be made aware of the problems of hazardous noise and then the message must be repeated forcefully enough to make the association automatic – until reaching for hearing protection becomes second nature, and until the hand that cranks up the stereo reaches back out and turns it down again. ■

KEEP OFFICE SAFE FROM ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

If yours is the type of office where computers, printers, monitors, scanners, lamps, CD players, cell phones, and iPod chargers typically are plugged into one inexpensive, overloaded power strip, the nonprofit Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) cautions that such a practice not only is unsightly, but also dangerous.

According to ESFI, overloaded electrical circuits pose both an electrocution and fire hazard. ESFI recommends these steps to stay safe from electrical hazards:

- If you must use a power strip, use a name-brand product from a reputable retailer.
- Low-quality or counterfeit power strips may contain wiring that isn't adequate to carry the load.
- Do not attempt to plug grounded (three-prong) cords into ungrounded (two-slot) outlets.
- Place power strips where there is plenty of air circulation to disperse heat.
- Do not bind, kink, or knot electrical cords.
- Never run power cords under rugs or where chairs can roll over them.
- Keep cords close to a wall to avoid trip hazards.
- Keep all noncritical electrical items unplugged until you need to use them.
- Consider charging battery-operated devices in another area.
- If your computer screen flickers or fades, or you detect a burning smell, power down and immediately contact the building engineer.
- If you work from home, have a licensed electrician conduct an electrical inspection.

Source: **www.occupationalhazards.com** ■



A LOOK AT SEPTEMBER

There's much to observe in September, starting off with these monthly celebrations: Classical Music Month, National Chicken Month, National Sewing Month, and Reunion Planning Month. A short Popcorn Week is observed the 6th through the 8th. Wash up for National Clean Hands Week September 16-22; which is also National Farm Animals Awareness Week. September 23-29 is National Food Services Workers Week. Bathtub Race Day and Labor Day are celebrated on September 3. September 7 is Google Commemoration Day. Star Trek premiered on television September 8, 1966. We celebrate Wonderful Weirdoes Day on the 9th. On September 10, 1846, the sewing machine was patented. It was September 16, 1620 when the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, carrying the pilgrims to the New World. Avast, me hearties!...don't forget Talk Like a Pirate Day on the 19th. And, please remember to observe Fish Tank Floorshow Night on September 28.



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The Numbers Game

Writing too many memos with too many words? Check out the number of words used in the following ways:

1) Gettysburg Address – **272**
2) Bag of Lay's Potato Chips – **401**
3) IRS Form 1040 EZ – **418**
4) Average USA Today cover story – **1,200**

742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765

How big is **100 billion**:

At a certain point numbers can seem unreal. To count out loud to **100,000,000,000**, you'd spend the next **3,000** years (and then some) speaking nonstop.

289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312

Think you're too old to try something new?

Actor George Burns won his first Oscar at age **80**.

Golda Meir was **71** when she became prime minister of Israel.

Painter Grandma Moses didn't start painting until she was **80** years old. She completed more than **1,500** paintings after that; **25** percent of those were produced when she was past **100**.

Michaelangelo was **71** when he painted the Sistine Chapel.

Albert Schweitzer was still performing operations in his African hospital at **89**. ■



Send your comments to:

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Soapbox

Logic merely enables one to be wrong with authority.

Cuisine: Something like food but the portions are smaller and the prices are higher.

If Columbus had turned back, no one would have blamed him. No one would have remembered him, either.

If at first you don't succeed, look in the trash for the instructions.

A wise man learns from his mistakes. A wiser man learns from others' mistakes.

Life would be so much easier if everyone read the manual.

Most people are willing to meet each other halfway; trouble is, most people are pretty poor judges of distance.

The best way to lose weight is to eat everything you don't like.

Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?

You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.

Virus is a Latin word used by doctors to mean, "Your guess is as good as mine."

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

If it were worth buying, they wouldn't be selling it door to door.

Teenagers need to learn that "No" is a complete sentence.

A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

As a rule, you will find that those who complain about the way the ball bounces are usually the ones who dropped it.

Even at a Mensa convention, someone is the dumbest person in the room.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.