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INSIGHTS

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Top Seven Hazards

Following is a list of the seven most common terms you will encounter when referencing an MSDS.

Carcinogen: A product that is shown to have caused cancer. The effects of the chemical will not show quickly and the damage is irreversible.

Corrosives: Strong caustic or acidic chemicals that will burn the skin, eyes, lips, or mucus membrane. Effects will occur quickly, in a matter of minutes or hours.

Toxic: A highly toxic chemical is a deadly poison that can kill in minutes. Or, a chemical (with continuous and cumulative contact over time) that can cause death.

Irritants: These chemicals will cause a rash, burning or unusual skin sensations and can cause skin or eyes to become sensitive. Generally common health hazards occur when dealing with these chemicals.

Sensitizers: Over time these chemicals cause allergies that affect the skin, eyes, nose or lungs. Later exposures cause reaction to occur quicker as compared to other coworkers.

Target organs: Contact with a chemical that targets a specific organ; i.e., liver, kidney, reproduction system, etc., that causes irreversible damage.

Physical hazards: A chemical's properties of possible explosiveness or flammability. ■

Containing Spilled Liquids

When the contents of a punctured tote of hazardous materials are rushing across the loading dock, headed for the nearest drain, it's too late to start thinking about possible response methods. Spill plans need to be in place, and spill containment tools need to be stored and maintained in convenient locations to aid in fast spill response.



Creating a physical barrier between a spilled liquid and sensitive areas, such as unprotected storm drains, electrical devices and offices is one effective way to contain a spill, and there are many methods of providing physical barriers without the investment and inherent problems of installing permanent dikes or berms.

For smaller spills, absorbent socks are one fast method of both containing and absorbing spilled liquids. Socks are available in a variety of lengths with various fillers to meet nearly any spill response need.

Sometimes it's not practical to absorb an entire spill; e.g., if a bulk tank leaks, and several hundred gallons spill, a sock that absorbs two gallons may not be the greatest source of help. Other times companies are able to vacuum and recover the spilled liquids for reuse, making an absorbent a less desirable option.

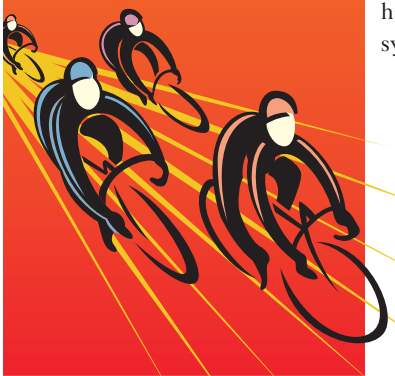
Nonabsorbent polyurethane dikes and drain covers are popular, low maintenance resources for these scenarios. They form a solid seal with smooth surfaces, allowing the user to either divert or contain liquids until they can be properly handled.

Through proper planning, an ideal solution for containing spills can be added to any facility's response plans. Response drills can help determine which method – or methods – truly are the best for the facility. ■

Source: CleanTech

July Events

It was on July 1, 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of $600 - $10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over $10,000. The weeks of July 3-25 are dedicated to the Tour de France, one of the greatest sporting events in the world. This year (on July 4) we celebrate the 228th anniversary of the approval by Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence. On July 6, 1885, Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog. A mere 55 years ago on July 18, 1947, President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession. And, on July 20, 1969, a global audience watched TV as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step on the moon.



ChemStation Odor Control

Summer isn't the only season for odor control, but heat and humidity levels make it seem that way. ChemStation's odor control products aren't just for landfills, rendering plants, wastewater treatment industries or lagoons. Some customers have city trucks carrying our product to use at spill sites while others are adding odor control to their water trucks to spray on city roads to keep towns smelling clean.



And while we are on the subject, with all the festivals, sporting events and outdoor activities, ChemStation manufactures products for use in portable toilets. No matter the industry, if you have problems with malodors, the ChemStation system is your solution. ■

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National Hot Dog Month

July is National Hot Dog Month. This enduring symbol of American culture is unique for several reasons. America has long been called the melting pot…a nation where immigrants from around the world brought their cultures and blended them with others to create a uniquely American culture. Hot dogs are a case in point for this fierce independence.



Sausage makers from Vienna, Austria (where the term "wiener" originates) and Frankfurt, Germany (where the name "frankfurter" was created) are credited with bringing their unique concoctions to the US. But it was Americans who popularized the hot dog on a bun. So, as you and your friends and family gather around the outdoor grills this summer, keep these statistics in mind…

- Attendees at Dodger Stadium consumed 1.51 million hot dogs last year
- New York City is the top hot dog-eating city in America
- Americans consume more than 20 billion hot dogs annually
- Fans in major league ballparks consume more than 24.2 million hot dogs each year
- Mustard is the favorite hot dog topping among Americans

…and enjoy your franks, wieners, furters, dogs, or whatever else you choose to call them! ■



Send your comments to:

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Soapbox

"Be Yourself" is the worst advice you can give to some people. – *Tom Masson*

The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.

Bazookacidal Tendencies, n. The overwhelming desire of most individuals to reach out and pop the gigantic gum bubble billowing from someone's mouth.

Food used for medicinal purposes never count; such as hot chocolate, brandy, toast, and Sara Lee Cheesecake.

It's hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse.

Intellectual, n. A man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows.

Money: if a man runs after it, he's money-mad; if he keeps it, he's a capitalist; if he spends it, he's a playboy; if he doesn't get it, he's a ne'er-do-well; if he doesn't try to get it, he lacks ambition. If he gets it without working for it, he's a parasite; and if he accumulates it after a lifetime of hard work, people call him a fool who never got anything out of life.

Why do psychics have to ask for your name?

Did you know? If you were to spell out numbers, you would reach one thousand before you used the letter "a."

A pun is the lowest form of humor – when you didn't think of it first.

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

Idiot, n. A member of a large and powerful tribe whose influence in human affairs has always been dominant and controlling.

Inflation is cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

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