



Message to National STEPS Leadership, March 25, 2016

Dear Friends,

This week has been one of those tough ones. While we labor so hard to help ensure safe and healthy workplaces for our brothers and sisters of our industry go home without harm to their families, others in the world are intent on taking the lives of innocent citizens for their very selfish reasons. Instead of discussing problems and negotiating like normal human beings, they take the most despicable and cowardly actions imaginable. The events in Brussels and the EU this week brings the point home for me of how precious life is and well worth protecting it. In this Easter season, prayers for all victims of senseless crimes and workplace incidents alike. We can't fix all the evil in the world, but we can definitely help to make our worksites safer, together.

Commodity prices continue to falter bringing uncertainty and layoffs of some extremely talented and hard working friends who have fought the good fight. Thank you to all of those friends and best wishes. We have a lot to be proud of as a National STEPS Network team. We have helped to transform our industry segment. SafelandUSA continues to add students, now nearing nine hundred and fifteen thousand students since January of 2010. That by itself is an amazing example of what we can and have done as an industry. STEPS Networks, although hit hard by low prices, is still moving forward. Just like in the beginning, we are doing the right thing, continuing to meet and share best practices, because we know it is the right thing to do, even when it is easier to give up. My hat is off to each of you for continuing with meetings and sharing ideas and best practices.

As always, I want to share a few updates from the national group. All of these activities are Alliance products.

- STEP UP for SAFETY is now underway through the end of June. I encourage you to browse through the materials and find resources that fit your needs. www.oshastanddown.org
 - We categorized the materials by major hazard or subject based on incident data and major hazards.
 - We have materials for transportation, working at heights, struck by and dropped objects, fire and explosion, tank gauging and silica hazards, behavior based safety, and inspections checklists with OSHA references.
 - Drs. Howard and Michaels from NIOSH and OSHA have provided an excellent video intro.
 - Warren Hubler and H&P has developed a series of videos which I strongly encourage you to review.
 - We worked hard to make the database is quick and easy to use, and we hope you will enter your data. CU's and CEU's are also available. To participate, you do not necessarily have to use the tools provided. Log your training and inspections. You don't even have to enter your company name.
- We are in final planning for the next Emerging Issues Focus Group to be held in Houston on May 12. Invitations will be sent soon. The meeting will be in two parts.
 - The morning session will be Silica Hazards, and will include an update from OSHA on the new Silica rule which was issued yesterday, as well as an overview of current IH monitoring practices. We will also review updated engineering controls and will discuss developing a refreshed message to the industry.
 - The afternoon session will be centered around tank gauging, produced fluids and the limitations of atmospheric monitors. We will have several guest speakers including Allison Faist with BHP Billiton, one of our members who took this issue and went to work on a solution, winning a major award from her company for her initiative and potentially life-saving engineering controls. See the project at: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/society/ourcontribution/reducing-inhalation-risk>. We will also hear from OSHA, NIOSH, API and BLM in Washington. This work team is also working on developing two new hazard alerts on the same subject matter.



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The 2016 OSHA Safety and Health Conference is November 29th and 30th at the Hilton downtown in Houston.

Details are available at: www.oshasafetyconference.org Please visit the site soon and take advantage of the earlybird registration deals. We are currently calling for abstracts for our 49 breakout sessions. In addition, we will be renewing our National STEPS Network Alliance on the early morning of November 29, and will have a National STEPS Network meeting on that evening.

Speakers include Dr. John Howard, Dr. David Michaels, Dedorah Hersman with the National Safety Council, Dr. Krista Geller, Brad Livingston and his daughter Kayla, Warren Hubler, and Astronaut Jim Wetherbee, who just completed his new book "Controlling Risk". Other guest speakers will be announced at a later date. Sponsorships are still available and any level will be appreciated.

The planning team is working hard to keep attendance costs low, and we are pleased with the response so far. We are limiting the size of the conference this year, so I would ask that you register earlier than later as the conference usually sells out by late summer. Vendor spaces have already sold out, but the planning team is working to consider additional space.

One last item: The National OSHA Office is looking for some small businesses (1,000 employees or less) in O&G that might be interested in participating in the Small Business Panel review of the possible proposed changes to the Process Safety Management rule. They are considering including oil and gas production and drilling under the PSM standard, so it would be really nice if we could find companies to participate on this panel. We definitely want the industry to have a voice at the table on this extremely important issue.

I will end just as I began. Thank you for all you do. Yes, these are challenging times, but we will get through them. Lets keep our heads up, keep moving forward as best we can, and keep thinking about possible ways to protect workers and become more efficient.

May our efforts continue to be blessed, and for those who celebrate it, happy Easter

Rick L. Ingram, on behalf of the National STEPS Network Executive Committee

Cell: 361.816.7217



Brad and Kayla joint
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