

# The Cold Facts

Summer 2005



*The Smith Dairy Plant Expansion, including site improvements, is well underway and will be fully operational in the near future. Stay tuned for pictures of the finished project.*

## Another Successful OSHA Compliance Seminar

**W**e are delighted to report that the recent OSHA compliance seminar we held here in Columbus was a rousing success—the largest turnout ever for this OSHA-mandated training! The seminar began with the information necessary to meet the 8-hour annual refresher, as dictated by OSHA, then continued for two additional days, adding to the basic information all the data needed to satisfy the 24 hour qualification. As you know, this 24-hour training is required for certification as a Hazardous Materials Responder.

Everyone in attendance let us know that the seminar was very useful and provided important information for the safe operation of their plants.

### *What Is The Difference?*

## HAZCOMM vs. HAZMAT vs. HAZARDOUS WASTE

At last report, there were 213,000 chemicals and chemical compounds being used in this country. And each year, thousands of new chemical compounds are produced, and become part of our lives at home and at work. Nearly 1.5 billion tons of hazardous materials are transported annually in the U.S., over the road or by rail, aircraft or vessel. Many of these products improve our lives, but many are harmful to our health and to the environment. The trouble is, these substances become so common to us, we are in danger of using them casually.

A hazardous material is defined as: "A substance (gas, liquid or solid) capable of creating harm to people, the environment and property." Examples are: solvents, paints, gasoline, adhesives and lubricants. They include materials as common as Drano and as toxic as nuclear fuel. Many people have suffered serious health problems from exposure to hazardous materials. Many areas of our environment have been critically damaged by accidental chemical releases. Trying to understand all the government agencies that regulate these matters is mind-boggling. But, we must all understand the potential harm in these materials, and how to use them and dispose of them properly.

### **Definitions**

- The term **HAZCOM** refers to the Hazard Communication Standard, which requires that employees receive training about the chemicals they use in their work. This is sometimes called the "Workers' Right To Know" program. OSHA requires all employers to implement this program.



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- The term **HAZMAT** is often used when discussing the transport or clean up of hazardous materials, but it actually can mean any aspect of hazardous materials production, transport, use, disposal, cleanup or emergency response. OSHA and the EPA are major agencies of concern.
- **HAZARDOUS WASTE** is a contaminated chemical or byproduct of a production process that no longer serves its purpose and needs to be disposed of in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency. This could include small amounts of chemicals such as parts washing solvents in a machine shop, or large amounts of construction byproducts.
- **HAZWOPER** refers to training that deals with hazardous waste operations and emergency response to chemical spills or releases.

## A Few Things To Remember About Hazardous Materials:

- Manufacturers must provide a Material Safety Data Sheet with all hazardous products they sell.
- Materials in transport must be properly labeled, e.g., flammable, explosive, radioactive, etc.
- The MSDS must be available to any employee who works with or transports such products.
- The MSDS explains the physical and health effects of hazardous substances and how to avoid harm
- The MSDS explains procedures for spills, leaks and disposal.
- Hazardous materials or byproducts such as gases cannot always be seen or smelled.
- Internal or external harm from exposure does not always appear immediately.
- Every employee who works with or near large quantities of hazardous materials must know the steps to take and who to contact in the event of a spill.

As you can see, there is much to know and much to do. Our world has gotten so much better in so many ways, but...with this progress comes increased responsibility and it requires greater diligence on everyone's part. There are some items on this list with which RSC can help.

Take care with chemicals. They can make your life and work easier, but they can take a life, too!

## Another Regulatory Item Do You Comply?

Do you know the amount of ammonia in your plant? The current law states that plants with more than 10,000 pounds of ammonia must meet the Process Safety Management (PSM) requirements. We find that frequently this analysis has not been done in sometime. We may have had 6,000 pounds sometime in the past, but then we added that new room or process.

The relatively small cost to obtain this information might help you avoid a problem. If we can help, please contact us.

## Welcome!

We are delighted to announce that George Ferguson has joined RSC as Vice President-Sales. George and his wife, Jo, will be relocating from eastern Pennsylvania to the Cleveland area. George is a mechanical engineer and brings many years of experience in the industrial food distribution, food production, and chemical/petrochemical industries. Please join us in welcoming George and Jo to the RSC family.

## The RSC Family Tree

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