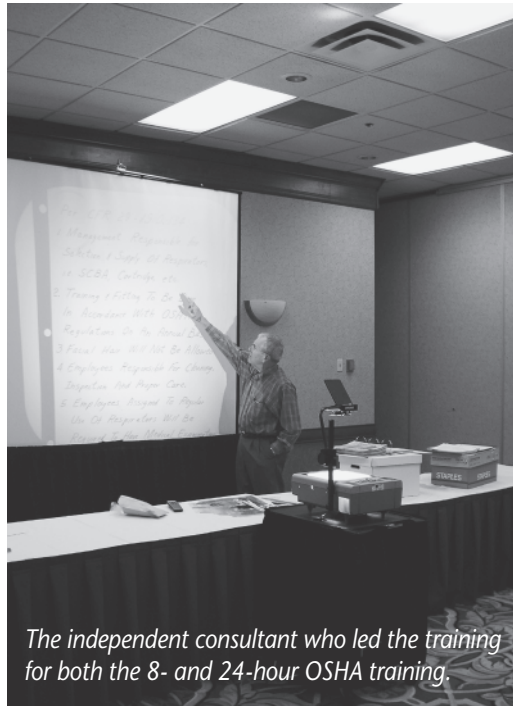


The Cold Facts

Summer 2004



The independent consultant who led the training for both the 8- and 24-hour OSHA training.



Above: Everyone appears intent on learning this vital information. Below: A look at some of the equipment used during training.



RSC's Spring 2004 Mandatory OSHA Training Completed

As you probably already know, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates that plant operators and emergency response members must undergo certain annual training to maintain their preparedness for an emergency.

You may also remember that there are several levels of response, each requiring specific training. In most cases, an 8-hour refresher course is satisfactory. However, there's also a need for a 24-hour refresher course if the individual is to participate in the control or abatement of an emergency.

Unfortunately, there are a limited number of places at which one can get this training. The other option is to hire a consultant to come to your plant to do this training, but as you can imagine, the cost can sometimes be prohibitive. So, RSC has been offering this training annually in the Columbus area as a service to our customers. The format has been this: the 8-hour course is held on Day 1. This Day 1 data is mandatory for both levels. The short course then continues for an additional two days, for a total of 24 hours, to satisfy the more in-depth requirements. Naturally, each participant receives a certificate of completion.

We have heard from some folks that there is interest in holding a second training session. If we can generate enough participation, we will hold another training session in 2004; otherwise our next session will be held next spring. If you have a definite interest in an additional session this year, for either the 8-hour or 24-hour course, please contact us immediately.

Steel or Steal?

Like everyone in the industry, we have recently seen a dramatic increase in steel pricing. If you read the journals, there are many reasons for the startling prices. A red-hot Chinese economy, a worldwide open market for steel, a catastrophic fire at one of the major coke producing plants, and the consolidation/closing of production facilities and subsequent capacity loss in the U.S. are all to blame.

What is the impact for all of us? Obviously, the cost of every project will be affected. And, it will eventually hit consumer products as well. On the plus side, the construction industry has made inroads with the government to highlight the problem and we believe that there may be some stabilization by the third or fourth quarter of the year. The days of 35¢ a pound for steel are gone forever. However, for every negative there's typically a positive. Perhaps, in this case, there will be an on-shore steel manufacturing recovery that leaves us not so dependent on off-shore suppliers. Let's hope!



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Ron Odom Hits a Home Run!

Ron Odom, RSC Director of Engineering, has achieved a goal that every engineer knows is difficult at best—he earned his Professional Engineer (P.E.) Certificate. After being away from school for several years, the challenge of completing the intensive tests required to obtain the PE is sometimes more than one can handle. We know the many, many hours of study he put into the effort and are delighted for him. Many engineers never attain this certification.

Please join us in congratulating Ron on his significant achievement.

Everyone at RSC is very proud of Ron Odom's accomplishment!

RSC Solves Another Troublesome Problem

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 mandates that, in the case of an ammonia leak, anyone entering the affected space **must** know the ammonia level. To enter the area, according to the rule, they must don adequate protective equipment for the atmosphere. If you think about this situation, you'll realize, as we did, how broad and sweeping this rule is. This means: if you think there's a leak, according to the rule, you'd need to put on a full body suit prior to entering the space, check the level, and then, if the level is low enough, you could change to a face mask or lesser protection.

How impractical is that? And, more important, imagine the time wasted going through the highest level of protection, only to find that the area had a low level leak. In the meantime, product may get contaminated or the product packaging and/or cartons may take on an odor rendering them unsaleable. Needless waste!

The RSC solution is a new, reasonably priced independent entry door monitor. Mounted outside an area, in the case of a leak, the unit will indicate and/or alarm and provide basic information about the level. What a useful solution!

As far as we know, there are no other units designed specifically for this purpose. Considering the onerous nature of the rule, we don't understand why. At any rate, for more information and to determine the best locations for these units in your plant, please get in touch with your RSC representative or call us at 614-263-0913. We'll be happy to help you.

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