

## Risk Control

### Risk Control Issues NewsBrief – May 2011

#### Find Hurricane Resources on the IBHS Website

In anticipation of the start of hurricane season June 1, the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has produced a package of resources and materials for member companies to use with policyholders, agents, employees, media and other key audiences. The [hurricane preparedness materials](#) include a sample news release, online content for websites and/or Intranet sites, and sample social media posts. The Hurricane section of [DisasterSafety.org](#) also has more consumer resources.

For more information about hurricane preparedness, log in to the Risk Control Customer Portal and search “hurricane” in the keyword search.

#### June is National Safety Month

The [National Safety Council](#) (NSC) has announced its schedule for National Safety Month 2011. As with past years, each week has its own theme, focusing on one critical safety issue. This year the theme for Safety Month is “Journey to Safety Excellence” and it features two weeks dedicated to driving safety, one week to slips, trips and falls, and a week to overexertion. The [NSC website](#) has materials to help you promote safety this June.

#### USFA Releases Restaurant Building Fires Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report examining the characteristics of restaurant building fires. The report, *Restaurant Building Fires*, was developed by the USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System. According to the report, an estimated 5,900 restaurant building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 75 injuries and \$172 million in property loss. Access the full report through the USFA website at [usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2011releases/041211.shtm](http://usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2011releases/041211.shtm)

To view more Risk Control information about restaurant safety, log in to the Risk Control Customer Portal, click on Risk Management Resources, Industry TravSources® and then choose “Restaurants” from the drop down.

#### OSHA and NIOSH Announce New Documents on Respiratory Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have developed two guidance documents describing the use of spirometry testing to help reduce and prevent worker exposure to respiratory hazards. One of the documents is aimed at workers, and one is for employers. Spirometry is a common pulmonary function test that measures how well a person moves air in and out of the lungs. Workers who inhale some types of dusts, gases, or other air contaminants can, over time, experience lung damage, according to OSHA. The spirometry test may detect breathing problems or significant changes in lung function at an early stage. OSHA also recommends spirometry testing for workers exposed to diacetyl and diacetyl substitutes. The new documents will assist employers with identifying and eliminating exposures in order to prevent

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workers from developing lung disease. The publications are titled OSHA-NIOSH-produced Infosheet and OSHA-NIOSH Worker Info. Both are available at the agency website at [osha.gov](http://osha.gov). Type "spirometry" into the search box.

## OSHA Issues Hazard Alert to Salon Owners

OSHA is issuing a hazard alert to hair salon owners and workers about potential formaldehyde exposure from working with some hair smoothing and straightening products. The [hazard alert](#) provides information about OSHA's investigations, the health hazards of formaldehyde and how to protect people who are working with hair smoothing and straightening products.

Federal OSHA has found formaldehyde in the air when stylists used hair smoothing products, some of which do not have formaldehyde listed on their labels or in material safety data sheets as required by law. During one investigation, the agency's air tests showed formaldehyde at levels greater than OSHA's limits for a salon, even though the product tested was labeled as formaldehyde-free. California's Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently issued violations to an importer and distributor of smoothing products labeled formaldehyde-free for failing to list formaldehyde as a hazardous ingredient on the company's product labels and in the material safety data sheets.

OSHA requires manufacturers, importers and distributors of products that contain formaldehyde as a gas or in solution, or that can release formaldehyde during use, to include information about formaldehyde and its hazards on product labels and in the material safety data sheets that are sent to employers. [Read more](#).

## Learn More about Pool and Spa Safety with the Pool Safely Campaign

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that each year nearly 300 children younger than five drown in swimming pools and spas and more than 3,200 children that age go to hospital emergency rooms due to submersion injuries in pools and spas.

The *Pool Safely* campaign aims to reduce the number of childhood drownings, near-drownings and entrapments in and around pools and spas. The campaign aims to provide the American public, mainly parents, children, consumers, and industry professionals with easy and actionable water safety steps that can save a life.

The CPSC encourages industry professionals to use the resources available on the [Pool Safely](#) website to ensure that the facilities you manage and service are in compliance with the *P&SS Act* and to learn more about pool and spa safety.

View our Swimming Pool Topic TravSources for more information about swimming pool safety. Log in to the Risk Control Customer Portal, click on Risk Management Resources and then Topic TravSources.



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