

*Air Force Research Laboratory
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio*

Environmental,
Safety and
Occupational Health
(ESOH) Newsletter



March 2004

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COMMANDER'S SAFETY POLICY

The goal of the Air Force and the Air Force Research Laboratory is to reduce the number of occupational injuries and illness to zero. To achieve this goal, we must all take a proactive approach toward safety to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all people. At every level of operation within AFRL, we must comply with higher authority policy directives including Federal statutory and regulatory requirements.



Every manager, supervisor and individual is vested with the responsibility to ensure operations are conducted safely. In these times of ever shrinking budgets it seems we are continually being asked to do more with less manpower and resources. It is for this very reason that all of us must adhere to sound risk management techniques and not cut corners or deviate from accepted practices in the interest of time or money.

There is no research requirement or operational task within AFRL that warrants placing our people or resources at unnecessary risk. The safety and health of all personnel will not be compromised for budget or schedule purposes, and environmental compliance is not negotiable. I expect total compliance with safety, health and environmental instructions and the full support of all personnel.

Paul D. Nielsen
Major General, USAF
Commander

Lawsuit Says Chemical Spill At Ford Plant Caused Man's Fatal Lung Disease

By Connie Leonard

<http://www.wave3.com>

(LOUISVILLE, March 3rd, 2004) -- A man is battling a fatal lung disease and his family claims it's because of a chemical spill at Louisville's Ford assembly plant on Fern Valley Road. Michael Gesler's family says they've watched a husband and father dwindle down to nothing since the incident, and want company officials to admit Ford is at fault. But company attorneys say that won't happen because there was no chemical spill. WAVE 3 Investigator [Connie Leonard](#) reports.

Michael Gesler, who now lives in Illinois, gave his testimony to a Louisville jury by video Tuesday because he has been waiting for a lung transplant and is unable to travel. In July of 1998, Gesler was doing subcontracting work in the paint division of the Ford plant.

Gesler's attorney, Bill Seiller, says that's when another worker with no hazardous materials training was instructed to move a barrel of chemicals. Seiller says that worker "dropped the barrel -- failed to put a lid on it -- he dropped it and spilled the chemicals on the floor.



Seiller says that worker then poured water on the spill, causing fumes. "It is our contention that as result, he (Gesler) developed pulmonary fibrosis.

Ford attorney Todd Thompson said Tuesday there's no way those fumes caused Gesler's terminal illness because the chemicals were diluted. "What he was moving was a barrel that was 95 percent water and five percent acidic acid -- and it's basically the consistency of household vinegar."

"My dad was always a Ford man," said Gesler's daughter Tracy. "It's just amazing to me how things turn around."

Gesler's family maintains he was a happy and healthy man in his 50s until the accident. "I'm very angry," Tracy Gesler said. "They need to find someone who can take responsibility so we can move on with this and get some answers."

Gesler's wife, Carolyn, says the case is "wrenching because, you know, I love the man. He's my whole entire life, and it won't be long until he won't be with me. I'm sorry, I can't say anymore."

Even if he wins in court, Gesler told the jury he's already lost after just being rejected for the lung transplant. "It's like being told you have a chance, then told you don't have a chance."

Another employee who was in the area of the spill was hospitalized but recovered. Ford attorneys say that man just had an anxiety attack. Both sides plan to put several medical experts on the stand this week.

The case is being tried in federal court because Mr. Gesler lives in Illinois. Testimony continues this week.

What Went Wrong?

How to Minimize HAZMAT Spills and Incidents at WPAFB

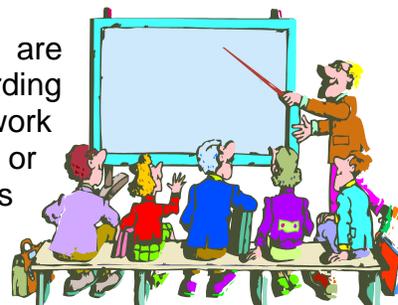
By Mary Shelly
AFRL/MLOF

After reading the above article and assuming the incident happened as described, what are some of the things employees and employers can do to keep something like this from occurring on Base? Here are a few suggestions:

CONTRACTOR INTERFACE – This employee was a sub-contractor. There are many contractors on Base and the line of responsibilities often gets blurred. Who is responsible for providing safety training to whom? It is important to make sure all employees, including contractors working on Base are informed of hazards specific to their worksite. Training is a responsibility of both the contractor's employer (HAZCOM that covers the hazards of the work they will be performing) and the government office they are working for to include any known hazards or safety procedures/precautions specific to that worksite. All employees, including contractors must follow the WPAFB Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Management Plans (check with your Unit Environmental Coordinator) as well as all OSHA and EPA laws. If you're not sure of your responsibilities, check with your supervisor, Unit Safety Rep, or contracting representative. A good class to start with on Base is the ESOH Awareness Training listed at the end of this newsletter.



EMPLOYEE HAZCOM TRAINING – Employers are responsible for providing training to their employees regarding the hazards employees may be exposed to during their work shift. For example, if working with hazardous materials or waste, this should include the specific hazards of chemicals used, safe storage and handling procedures, hazardous waste disposal and paperwork requirements, signs of exposure, location and review of MSDS, any personal protective equipment required, spill response procedures including location of eyewash and emergency shower, spill plan, where to go for medical help, etc. The Base Public Health Office provides HAZCOM Train-the-Trainer courses at Bldg 675 (also listed at



the end of this newsletter). Supervisors, make sure to document all ESOH training provided to employees.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES – When it comes to working safely, all of use bear responsibility. If you are asked to perform a task but do not feel adequately prepared to do it, ask for training. If you see an unsafe condition or are asked to perform a task you perceive to be unsafe, report or challenge it. Review the Operating Instructions, Material Safety Data Sheets, and perform on-the-fly Operational Risk Management prior to initiating the task. Ask yourself, “What could go wrong, how dangerous would that be, and what could I do to decrease that risk?” Employers are required to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards and must provide training and protection to ensure their employees’ safety but employees must be responsible too. Report hazards. Use your PPE. Pay attention at Safety Training classes. “Common sense” is not a term that should be applied to safety because we cannot assume everyone has the same level of knowledge and training about a given task or working environment. This is especially true with new employees or summer students – make sure they are adequately trained prior to performing any hazardous operations at your facility.

IMMEDIATELY REPORT SPILLS TO YOUR SUPERVISOR. FOR MAJOR SPILLS CONTACT 911 AND EVACUATE THE AREA. Clean up small spills only if you know the hazards and proper spill cleanup procedures. You should already be familiar with your Site-Specific Spill Plan. Reference it and review the MSDS of the spilled material first. Use appropriate PPE, and get a co-worker to help you. For large spills or other incidents causing a major evacuation, call 911 from a safe location. Know where your assembly point is and report there so your supervisor can take a head count and account for all personnel.



REPORT ALL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND SUSPECTED CHEMICAL EXPOSURES TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Bldg 675). If you are injured in an on-duty mishap, notify your supervisor as soon as possible. Report to Occupational Medicine services, Bldg 675, for minor first aid type injuries. For serious injuries go to the Base Medical Center Bldg 830 Area-C. (Contractors, refer to your company procedures.) At either place an AFMC Form 12 will be completed, and the appropriate copies will be given to the injured worker to take back to their supervisor. Civilians may elect to see a private physician, but must report to Bldg. 675 to complete the AFMC 12 before returning to work.

The Safety Bulletin Boards posted at your facility should contain all the information for reporting hazards or workplace injuries. Failure to report a workplace injury in a timely manner could jeopardize worker compensation benefits. For questions, contact your Unit Environmental Coordinator, Unit Safety Rep, or the Ground Safety Office at 43391.

What ideas do you have to improve workplace safety and health?

Email them to Mary Shelly and they will be added to next month’s issue of the ESOH newsletter. mary.shelly@wpafb.af.mil

Safety Quiz

Test your Occupational Health and Safety knowledge

Thanks to Gavin Spencer from AFRL/PR for the following safety quiz.

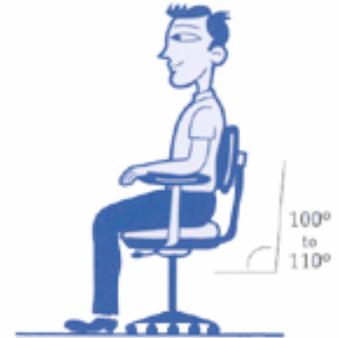
- 1. What is the first leading cause of death in the workplace for women, and the 2nd cause of death for men.**
 - a. Falls
 - b. Homicides
 - c. Vehicle accidents
 - d. Stress
- 2. Extension Cords are prohibited under all circumstances at work.**
 - a. True.
 - b. False
- 3. The following policy is in place in order to protect employees from unexpected release of energy while work is being done on, in, or around equipment during maintenance.**
 - a. Hazard Communication
 - b. Circuit Breaker Security
 - c. Lockout/Tagout
 - d. Switch Safety
- 4. Bloodborne pathogen means any pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause diseases in humans.**
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
- 5. MSDS stands for:**
 - a. Master Security Document System
 - b. Material Safety Data Sheet
 - c. Military Safety Data Service
 - d. Mechanical System Data Safety
- 6. What type of ladders should be used around electricity?**
 - a. Wood with metal side braces
 - b. Fiberglass
 - c. Aluminum
- 7. Which of the following are good lifting practices?**
 - a. Keep a loose grip in case you need to reposition the load.
 - b. Wear tennis shoes so your feet are comfortable.
 - c. Lift with your back, keeping strain off of your knees.
 - d. Ask for help in lifting heavy objects.
- 8. Why are confined spaces dangerous to work in?**
 - a. There may be too much oxygen present.
 - b. Toxic gases and vapors can accumulate.
 - c. They may have very low humidity.



9. Which of the following is a correct statement about personal protective equipment (PPE):
- a. PPE is required and employees are required to supply their own PPE for hazardous job tasks.
 - b. Wearing PPE at work is optional and Employees should only wear what they feel they need.
 - c. Cotton balls are a reasonable substitute for earplugs.
 - d. PPE is required at work and must be appropriate for the hazard.

10. Ergonomics is a discipline that is concerned with:

- a. Economic impacts of safety legislation.
- b. The study of seating and the design of car controls and instruments.
- c. The application of scientific information concerning humans to the design of objects, systems and environment for human use.
- d. The study and use of carpal tunnel syndrome to control lifting hazards.



How did you do?

Answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-c, 4-a, 5-b, 6-b, 7-d, 8-b, 9-d, 10-c

If you did well, congratulations!! If you're a little rusty you may want to look into taking some of the ESOH training listed at the end of this newsletter.



CAP
Computer Accommodations Program



Invites YOU to an
**ERGONOMICS
SEMINAR**

Hosted by the
Computer Accommodations Program (CAP) Office
at Wright-Patterson AFB

When: **Thursday, April 1, 2004, 9:00am**

Where: **AFIT/CE Auditorium**
Bldg. 643, Rm 120- 1st floor by elevator

Goal: Prevent or reduce injuries in the workplace that will reduce costs and increase productive workers.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerome J. Congleton, PhD, PE, CPE,
Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health, Texas
A&M University.

Door Prizes

RSVP by 30 March 2004

Contact the CAP Office at:
msgcapoffice@wpafb.af.mil or
(937) 257-1505.



**CAP looks forward to contributing our services to aide in your
ergonomic solutions!**



Blood Drive Locations at AFRL:

AFRL/HE

For information on the HE blood drives, contact:

Steve Stokes 255-8907

Capt Kevin Krueger 255-8883

AFRL/VA

24 Mar, 0900-1200 Myers Hall Bldg 45

19 May, 0900-1200 Foulois Hall Bldg 146

For more information on the VA blood drives, contact Scott Sherer, AFRL/VA Unit
Blood Drive Coordinator at 904-4028

AFRL/SN

30 Mar, 8 Jun 04

For more information, contact Lt Dillenburger 51115 x4031

AFRL/PR

13 Apr, 22 Jun, Bldg 18 0900-1400

For more information, contact Bob Behdadnia 54171

AFRL/ML

4 May 0900-1400

AFRL/ML (Bldg 653) Cafetorium

Click here to see if you are **eligible to donate**:

http://tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/donor_info/deferral.htm

Visit the **Armed Services Blood Program website** for
more info on donating blood: <http://tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/>

Or call the Donor Center at 70580/ 71038

or contact Mary Shelly at 255-9000



ESOH Training



2004 RCRA Hazardous Waste Training: Mandatory for all employees who generate hazardous waste. Issue Point (IP) Managers, Hazwaste generators, primary and alternate Initial Accumulation Point (IAP) managers, Unit Environmental Coordinators (UECs), and supervisors of all these individuals must take annual RCRA training.

ALL RCRA HAZARDOUS WASTE TRAINING CAN NOW BE SCHEDULED ON-LINE VIA 88 ABW/EM's Home Page: [Click here to SCHEDULE RCRA TRAINING](#)

Initial Training: 18 Mar, 20 May, 15 Jul, 16 Sep, 18 Nov 04

Annual Refresher Training - Organizations other than AFRL
15 Apr, 17 Jun, 19 Aug, 21 Oct, 16 Dec 04

Annual Refresher Training - AFRL Only
24 Mar, 26 May, 21 Jul, 22 Sep, 16 Nov 04

For questions contact 88 ABW/ EM at 257-7454
or Mary Shelly, AFRL/MLOF at 255-9000

Environmental Compliance, Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) Training (ENV020)

Satellite Offerings: 17-20 May, 26-29 Jul 04

Please contact Karen Thompson at 75899 if you are interested in taking one of these classes so she can get an estimate and determine if a satellite downlink is needed.

For class description or to sign up, go to AFIT's website: <http://cess.afit.af.mil/>
Click on Courses > Environmental Engineering > WENV020. Info for contractor enrollment is also on the website.

This course is designed to give students knowledge to successfully plan and execute an internal or external compliance assessment (such as ECAMP), prepare required reports, and direct the follow-up actions.

For more information or if you would like to be on an ECAMP team contact Karen Thompson, 88 ABW/EMO at 75899.



Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Awareness Training

18 Aug 04 - Bldg 50, Area B
12 May and 17 Nov – hospital auditorium
classes run from 0800-1200
Sign up with 88 ABW/ EM, Treva Bashore, 76391

This course covers a broad range of ESOH topics that apply to all of us at Wright-Patterson, including mandatory training requirements. This course is highly recommended for all employees on Base, including contractors. Supervisors are highly encouraged to attend.

Unit Environmental Coordinator (UEC) Training

Satellite Offerings:

24-28 May 03 (closeout date 29 Apr)

13-17 Sep 03 (closeout date 19 Aug)

Sign up through AFIT's website at <http://cess.afit.af.mil/>

Click on Environmental Engineering, then WENV220

Info for contractors to enroll is also on the website.

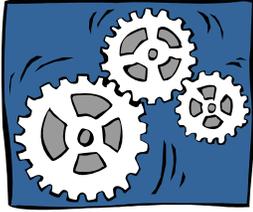
This course equips the unit environmental coordinator (UEC) to improve and maintain environmental compliance within their organization, recognize and address problems when they occur, and act as base-wide point of contact for environmental issues concerning their organization. For more info on the class:
http://cess.afit.af.mil/course_des.cfm?p=WENV%20220



CPR Training

Required for electrical and confined space workers per 29 CFR 1910.151. The American Heart Association recommends CPR refresher training every two years and the American Red Cross recommends CPR refresher training every year. CPR training (per the American Heart Association) is taught at the Base Hospital every Tuesday provided that there are enough students.

**Contact Marcia Wilson at 79347 or Karen Turner
Phone: 48384 (Bldg 675 Area B)**



Operational Risk Management (ORM)

To sign up, contact Chuck Swankhaus at 43390

ORM is a tool anyone can use to help with planning and decision-making in order to reduce or eliminate potential risks and increase efficiency. The Safety Office (ASC/SEG) has made two ORM briefings available over the Internet. Click on the following links to learn more about ORM:

Awareness Level ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/exec_training.ppt

Level II ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/orm_level_ii_training.ppt

2004 Public Health Training

To sign up for training or schedule a class at your organization, please contact Public Health at 255-2515.

Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM)

22 Apr, 22 Jul, 29 Oct 04



This course is a Train-the-Trainer course that provides mandatory HAZCOM training to supervisors and safety reps responsible for their organization's HAZCOM program. Must have previously had general Hazcom training. Per 29 CFR 1910.1200, Hazcom training is required for all employees who use, handle, or may be exposed to hazardous materials upon initial assignment to that job (if not already receiving Chemical Hygiene Training per 29 CFR 1910.1450). HAZCOM refresher training is required whenever a new

chemical or hazardous process is introduced into the work area or it is evident an employee needs refresher training. Otherwise, there is no "annual" requirement for HAZCOM training.

Asbestos Awareness

25 Mar, 24 Jun, 23 Sep, 9 Dec 04

Hearing Conservation

8 Mar, 6 May, 16 Jul, 16 Sep, 11 Nov 04

Hearing Conservation - Supervisor

15 Apr, 24 Jun, 30 Sep 04

Other PUBLIC HEALTH Training Available Upon Request:

Benzene	Cadmium
Carbon monoxide	Chemical Hygiene
Cold Stress	Ergonomics
Formaldehyde	Heat Stress
Laser Hazard	Lead
Personal Protective Equipment	Reproductive Hazards in the
Respiratory Protection	Workplace
Universal Precautions/ Bloodborne Pathogens	



Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) Traveling Show Hits the Road

Looking for an informative presentation for your next commander's call, off-site, or training session? Let the Health and Wellness Center take the pressure off your scheduling worries! The HAWC has a variety of programs and classes to make your next event a hit. To schedule a presentation, all you need is at least 15 participants and the necessary audiovisual equipment, and the HAWC will come to you. At least three weeks' advance notice is requested.

Here are some Public Health training topics:

Stress Management

dealing with difficult people, surviving change, surviving the holidays, resolutions....

Tobacco Cessation

tobacco use and options for quitting

Nutrition

fad diets, winning at losing, healthy eating for a healthy heart, eating on the run...

Fitness

exercise after 40, starting an exercise program, hypertension and exercise, cholesterol and exercise...

To get the latest schedule of classes or schedule a presentation please call 904-WELL.

WPAFB ESOH Phone Numbers and Websites:

(all area codes are 937)

ESOH GATEWAY – <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/esoh/index.htm> *This website contains links to all the ESOH websites on Base and more. It is still being designed so if you have any suggestions, please send them to mary.shelly@wpafb.af.mil*

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: 257-5627 <http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/>
The Office of Environmental Management (88 ABW/EM) has changed their phone numbers. For a complete listing, please see their website:
https://wrigem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/staff/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&obj_id=93

SAFETY: 904-3391 <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/index.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH: 255-2515/255-4089 <https://wpmc3.wpafb.af.mil/amds/ph/index.htm>

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING: 255-6815 <https://www.bio.wpafb.af.mil/>

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER (HAWC): 904-9355
<http://wpmc1.wpafb.af.mil/pages/hawc/>

CAP OFFICE: 257-1505 <http://www.afmc-pub.wpafb.af.mil/ESC/MM/CAP/>
You may also contact CAP via email at: msgcapoffice@wpafb.af.mil with ergonomic or other issues regarding workplace accommodations

Helping Agencies

* Family Advocacy	257-6429
* Family Support Center	257-3592
* Life Skills Support Center	257-6876/77
* Alcohol and Drug Awareness	257-4121
* American Red Cross	257-9875
* Chapel	257-7427
* Health and Wellness Center	904-9355
* Family Member Programs	257-2644
* Employee Assistance Program	904-5828



Please contact Mary Shelly 255-9000 for any additions/changes to this listing

Unit Safety Reps: please post this ESOH newsletter on your safety bulletin boards.

If you have any suggestions for this newsletter or if you would like to be added / removed from the distribution list, please contact **Mary Shelly** via email or at **255-9000**.