



**ALLEN
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Occupational Health



TAKING CARE OF
your
BUSINESS

October 2009

Fall Harvest Brings More Slow-Moving Vehicles on Iowa Roads

All over Iowa golden corn and soybeans are nearly ready to harvest. With harvest season comes increased traffic from farm vehicles on roadways.

Statistics for 2008 show a total of 202 crashes involving farm equipment. As a result of these crashes, seven people were killed and 15 major injuries and 47 minor injuries were reported. Of the total crashes, 113 resulted only in property damage.

Iowa Department of Transportation recommends the following tips for those traveling during this season.

Post these tips for your mobile employees during this season:

- Be alert and always watch for slow-moving vehicles, especially during the fall harvest season.
- Be patient and do not assume the farmer can move aside to let you pass. The shoulder may be unable to support a heavy farm vehicle
- Be particularly cautious as you approach curves and hills along the roadways.
- Slow down as soon as you see the triangular-shaped, red and fluorescent orange, slow-moving vehicle emblem.

Source: <http://www.iowadot.gov/>

Sign Up Today for OSHA 10 Hour Training Course (SPACE IS LIMITED)

Nov. 4 & 5, 8:30am - 2:00pm

Registration: 8:00 - 8:30am

FEE: \$40.00 (Includes Breakfast, Lunch and Handouts Both Days)

This course is ideal for supervisors with safety and health responsibilities, and for employee safety and health awareness. Students will be introduced to OSHA policies, procedures and standards as well as general industry safety and health principles covered in OSHA Act Part 1910. Special emphasis will be placed on areas most hazardous using OSHA standards as a guide.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive an OSHA general industry 10 hour course completion card from the Department of Labor.

Visit www.allenocchealth.com for more information and/or to register for this event..

Upcoming Events

OSHA 10 Hour Training

- Wed. & Thurs, November 4 & 5, 2009
8:30 - 2:00 p.m.
\$40.00/person
(fee includes breakfast, lunch and handouts for both days)

Class held in McBride Auditorium,
Allen College, Gerard Hall

(Visit www.allenocchealth.com for more information and/or to register for this event.)

Training Certification for Drug-Free Workplaces

2 hr. Initial Training - \$34 per person

- Oct 15, 8-10 a.m.
- Nov 12, 8-10 a.m.
- 1 hr. Annual Training - \$22 per person
- Oct 16, 8-9 a.m. Nov 13, 8-9 a.m.

All Classes held in the Medical Staff
Classroom, Gerard Hall, Allen College

(Visit www.allenocchealth.com for more information and/or to register for this event.)

First Aid & CPR Training

- Friday, November 20, 2009
8 a.m. - 10 a.m. CPR
(\$26.50/person)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. First Aid & CPR
(\$52.50/person)

Classes held in the Medical Staff
Classroom, Gerard Hall, Allen College

(Visit www.allenocchealth.com for more information and/or to register for this event.)

Pandemic Planning — or simply “preparedness”?

Fall is officially here, and we may be seeing an end to the allergy sniffles and the beginning of the real flu season any day. Reports have verified that H1N1 is here, and we won't see seasonal flu for a few months yet. Some of us may have already had employees out with “ILI” (influenza like illness), and we've already had to adjust schedules and production/services to accommodate longer absences based on the CDC and Department of Public Health guidelines. Stay current on recommended guidelines posted by CDC and Iowa Department of Health for employee absences related to such absences.

Some businesses can refer to a manual that clearly outlines a step-by-step process that will be followed in the event of a pandemic or other disaster or emergency situation - a Business Continuity Plan. Other companies are in the midst of preparing a plan to implement if needed.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and not certain where to start, I suggest you start with the following website: www.shrm.org (Society of Human Resource Management) and click on the HR Disciplines tab at the top. There you will find a link to **“SHRM's H1N1 Pandemic Checklist for HR Professionals.”** This is a simple, step-by-step guide for businesses. It ensures that the numerous issues are addressed and policy/procedure modifications are considered and incorporated into a “Plan” that would be initiated should a “trigger” occur.

Throughout the review and preparation process, disaster/pandemic planning should be conducted with the understanding that a “trigger” will initiate the plan. Until then, generally it is business as usual. Policies remain in effect. That allows for consistency. However, flexibility is critical, so there should be ongoing monitoring of the events to determine when it is appropriate to initiate the Plan based on the dynamics of the circumstances and how they impact your business.

Not every element of the checklist will apply to your business, and some may require more intense consideration. Perhaps outside consultation from consultants and legal experts will be needed. No matter the size of your business, any proactive measures taken to mitigate the impact of a business disruption will result in cost savings.

Flu Vaccine Update

As with many local health care organizations, Allen Occupational Health is experiencing a shortage of seasonal flu vaccine. Our supplier has indicated our full supply will be received by the end of November, and we anticipate future shipments to be partial.

If supply does not allow us to provide you with a flu vaccine clinic at the pre-scheduled date/time, we will notify you in advance of the need to reschedule.

We are also working with the Iowa Department of Public Health to provide H1N1 vaccine in accordance with the recommended guidelines. The highest risk category is pregnant women, and they should seek the vaccine from their primary care provider or personal health care provider. Details on availability are not yet available.

To schedule a flu shot clinic at your business,
please visit www.allenocchealth.com for a registration form.