

COVID 19 Impact on EHS Training

Given the current pandemic, it's easy to postpone all but non-essential training; though, there are safe ways to train your employees while staying safe and well.

In the best of times, industrial workplaces can get side-lined by weather events that impact delivery and employee schedules, new regulatory requirements that change business practices or on-the-job accidents, injuries and sickness. Now, another unexpected stimulus is forcing immediate changes with enormous impacts—the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Wary buyers pull back in unsettled economies, work environments morph due to social distancing requirements, shipping and transportation is disrupted and staffing is in flux daily.

Set these contending components, it's easy to take an "it-won't-happen-here" mentality, postpone all but non-essential training, and stay positive. However, on-the-job accidents, injuries and illness fatalities bring human tragedy to your corporate family. Additionally, sick or injured employees can mean a loss of workforce, missed deadlines and an unreliable reputation.

By requisite, there may always be a hazard and risk in industrial workplaces. What can change is how companies prepare their employees for these risks. Employees who know what to do when there is an injury in the workplace, when a colleague collapses due to cardiac arrest or when they are on the scene of a transport accident, can make the difference between life and death on the job. The challenge now becomes how to find safe ways to continue training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Roadmap – EHS Training during Hard Times

EHS Alliance lays out a roadmap for how his organization, and others, is enabling training during this time. Of greatest importance, follow public health guidance. Ruminant ways you can eliminate contact and minimize class sizes. If you typically train in groups of 12, you may have to now train in groups of six in order to follow six feet of social distancing as well as restrictions on sharing equipment. Gloves and masks are mandatory, and skills practice has been modified to comply with social distancing requirements.

Voluminous organizations send out screening guidelines ahead of time via email, telephone and text. The communications should always include a reminder of the potential signs of the novel coronavirus and instruct students with health concerns to reschedule. As an additional precaution, many organizations are taking temperatures before participants enter the facility.

Next, consider which employees need in-person training and which might be able with an online alternative. In fact, this might be something to approach your counterparts in the Human Resources and see if they have any "desk" employees who may be interested in taking an online, non-certification course. The succeeding stage in the roadmap is cybernetic (virtual) training and testing. The Red Cross, National Safety Council of India and the other reputed training facilities are all allowing the skills testing to be conducted virtually.

HANDLING ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING DURING AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

Thinking Ahead

While training during this time has been reduced to maintain the overall safety and well-being of employees, and only those who absolutely need it are training, workplaces will eventually open again. Public health guidelines are the starting point, but it's up to the trainers to find and implement the most effective processes for teaching the material safely.

One training method that seems to be gaining traction in this time of distance learning is blended learning. In addition to being available anywhere and anytime users have access to a computer, tablet or mobile device; blended learning allows learners to repeatedly test knowledge at their own pace and in a variety of scenarios.

Forward-looking training firms like EHS ALLIANCE are already thinking about new approaches to training and how to incorporate methods that have verified efficacy.

It Comes Down to Tailored Adaptation

While some organizations and instructors may not be training during this time, a large majority feel that teaching lifesaving skills is essential and that they are making a difference. In fact, some instructors would argue that now, more than ever, people need to know what to do in an emergency and need to know how to save a life.

As strong a health concern that COVID-19 presents, it also opens up opportunities and changes the way we think. We believe that this pandemic is forcing an opportunistic disruption among training providers, making them re-think their models and consider new ways to interact with participants. The maximum successful organizations will be those that can shift and adapt their processes during this time, figuring out solutions on how to get—and keep—people trained. Certainly, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that traditional "sit in a classroom for a day" training is not the only option, and it may not be the best option going forward—even after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

On a positive note there are things people can do. But it won't be long until EHS/HSE/SHE Managers state, 'we cannot put off preparing perpetually; we need to think about one of these choices.'



NGT COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDED
CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION OF
LG POLYMERS

INQUIRY COMMITTEE SET
UP BY THE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT)
TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES
BEHIND THE GAS LEAK
FROM THE LG POLYMERS

CONCLUDED THAT CLEAR
CUT NEGLIGENCE OF THE
CHEMICAL COMPANY AND
LACK OF TRAINING LED TO
THE TRAGEDY

NGT ON LG POLYMER: OPERATION WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

By Er. AZAD S, Former Research Associate, C.P.C.B



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 3 June 2020 held LG Polymers absolute liable for the loss of life in the recent gas leak incident at its

Visakhapatnam plant, and directed the Rs 50 crore penalty imposed on it to be used as compensation to the victims and for environment restoration. An estimated 800 tonnes of toxic styrene gas escaped into the surroundings in the LG Polymers gas leak incident of 07.05.2020 in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh, according to a report on 28.05.2020 by an inquiry committee set up by NGT.

The National Green Tribunal also directed that a restoration plan be prepared by a Committee comprising two representatives each of the MoEF&CC and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and three representatives of Andhra Pradesh government.

The bench directed the Andhra Pradesh government to take appropriate action against the people who were responsible for permitting LG Polymer to operate without Environmental Clearances. The company has operated without Environmental Clearance and the State PCB gave 'Consent to Establish' and 'Consent to Operate' without Environmental Clearance.

*"VIZAG GAS TRAGEDY:
TWELVE PEOPLE WERE
KILLED AND 3,000 PEOPLE
WERE EXPOSED TO TOXIC
STYRENE GAS ON
MAY 7."*





INSTALL RETROFITTED DEVICE IN DG SETS TO REDUCE POLLUTION

Under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) the Government of India said DG sets are used in large scale in Industries, establishment and construction projects. The Government has also asked metro rail corporations to shift to gas-based generators either by retrofitting existing generators for partial usage of gas (a mixture of diesel and gas) or buying new gas-based generators.

All the industries and establishment operating DG sets of capacity 125 KVA and above within state of Tamilnadu are directed to: Retrofit all operational DG sets with an Emission control device/ Equipment having a minimum specified particulate matter capturing efficiency of at least 70 % in 5 modes D2 cycle. The emission control device must be tested over

Shifting to gas based generators by employing new gas based generators or retrofitting the existing DG sets for partial gas usage. The order is to be complied with in a period of 120 days from 10/6/2020 of issuance order.

In a recent communication to ministry, Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air, IIT Delhi also mentioned there is a huge scope to reduce the adverse impact of pollution through installation of retrofitted

Automotive Research Association of India, Pune (Maharashtra).

International Centre for Automotive Technology, Manesar (Hry.).

Indian Oil corporation, R&D Centre, Faridabad (Hry.).

Indian Institute of Petroleum, dehradun (Uttarakhand).

Vehicle research Development Establishment, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra).

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EHS Trainings

Communicating the technical details of environmental, health, and safety (EHS) information is a critical step in achieving employee understanding and meeting compliance requirements. EHS training serves two roles: providing a way to standardize operations and meet mandatory training requirements. Companies that combine the two are able to increase productivity, reduce waste, increase efficiency, and improve employee morale--all while meeting their regulatory requirements.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **Webinar on Environment Legislative Framework in India.**
- ✓ **Ergonomics for WFH (Work from home) Training (Virtual Classroom)**
- ✓ **Awareness on Occupational Health at Workplace. (online Training)**
- ✓ **Review on Draft EIA Notification 2020**
- ✓ **PPE Online Training Programme by (Mobile App)**



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