

Central New York
Occupational Health Clinical Center

Industrial Hygiene



Industrial Hygiene: The key to Occupational Disease Prevention

- Occupational illness costs the citizens of New York State \$600,000,000 a year and results in impaired health, pain and suffering, lost job opportunity, and family disruption.
- Occupational Disease is 100% Preventable.
- Controlling exposures in the workplace is the only way to prevent occupational illness.
- How can the CNYOHCC Industrial Hygiene services help you prevent occupational illness?

Case Examples:

1. A machine shop worker with symptoms of solvent overexposure is evaluated at the CNYOHCC. Recommendations are made by the clinic's physician to remove him from exposure. The industrial hygienist visits the plant to evaluate the exposure. Recommendations are made to prevent skin contact and vapor exposure to the solvent in order for the worker to return to work safely.
2. Welders in an assembly plant can see and taste the welding smoke and fume drifting through their shop. Air sampling results indicate all levels are below OSHA exposure limits but health effects continue to be reported. The workers feel more direct exhaust ventilation is needed. An industrial hygiene evaluation is initiated by the union. An inadequate exhaust ventilation is found to be causing a build-up of welding fumes. Recommendations for direct exhaust ventilation and capture techniques are made.
3. Clerical workers are experiencing painful arms and necks. A training session is conducted to directly involve them in identifying and addressing ergonomic problems in their workplace. The form a health and safety committee to address their concerns.

CNYOHCC Philosophy

- ❑ **CNYOHCC** assists all those involved in the identification and prevention of occupational health hazards.
- ❑ **CNYOHCC** recognizes the need of an educated work force for a participatory approach to the problem solving process.
- ❑ **CNYOHCC** services are consistent with prudent public health policy for disease prevention.
- ❑ **CNYOHCC** uses a comprehensive approach to occupational health which combines the disciplines of occupational medicine and industrial hygiene.

Components

Workplace Hazard Evaluation

Involves the work site visit to determine the potential toxic or hazardous effects of any substances or physical agents in the workplace. Emphasis is placed on the observation of typical work operations to evaluate all possible routes of exposure (inhalation, ingestion, skin) and the controls to prevent these exposures. Air sampling alone cannot adequately evaluate exposure, therefore, a combination of the following methods may be utilized: questionnaires, work practice observation, air sampling, bulk sampling, ventilation assessment, review of personal protective equipment and engineering controls, video exposure imaging.

Training And Education

The success of any workplace safety and health program is directly related to an adequately trained work force. Integrated in to all CNYOHCC industrial hygiene activities is a training and education component which is used to build a workplace infrastructure for health and safety issues. Effective participatory adult training techniques are used to focus on specific workplace operations, utilizing existing employer and employees' knowledge to find solutions to workplace health and safety problems.

CNYOHCC employs a full time board Certified Industrial Hygienist with extensive training and experience in the industrial sector and public health arena.

How healthy is your workplace?

Did You Know ...

- Occupational disease is the fourth leading cause of death in New York State?
- Exposures to asbestos, chemicals, solvents, dust, metals or radiation can cause adverse health effects?
- Hazards can exist in all types of workplaces, from schools and factories to hospitals and offices?
- Repetitive tasks such as typing or assembly work can cause muscular or skeletal pain?
- Work-related symptoms often diminish outside of the workplace such as on weekends and vacations?

Medical Resources

CNYOHCC's occupational medicine specialists provide valuable expertise on the health effects of toxic exposures, accurate diagnosis of work related illness, and appropriate medical screening of risk workers.

What does it cost?

Industrial hygiene and medical services are available on a fee basis. A sliding fee scale is available to all in need of these important services.

For more information about our industrial hygiene services please call:

(315) 432-8899

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday