



LET'S KEEP IT GREEN

FEBRUARY 2009 EDITION

Radon On the Radar You can't see it, smell it or taste it, however radon is a very real, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment, particularly in some geographic regions. Formed by the disintegration of radium (a decay product of uranium), the gas can move freely through the soil enabling it to escape to the atmosphere or seep into buildings. People can be exposed to radon in homes, workplaces, schools, and other places. In open air, radon gets diluted to very low concentrations and poses a negligible threat. When released into a building through cracks in the walls and floors, or through gaps around pipes and cables, however, it can accumulate to high levels. Basements and crawl spaces tend to have the highest concentrations of radon because these areas are closest to the source and tend to be poorly ventilated. Therefore, people who spend much of their time in basement rooms at home or at work could have a greater risk for exposure. In high enough concentrations or with prolonged exposure, radon can cause lung cancer. It is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the U.S., radon claims about 20,000 lives in the U.S. each year. The Canadian Medical Association Journal says radon is estimated to cause about 10% of lung cancers, or more than 2,000 cases each year in Canada.

British Columbia - A shop teacher was using a parts washer to clean a lawn mower part. The parts washer, designed for a water-based cleaning solution, was filled with a petroleum-based combustible solvent instead. A plugged drain in the washer resulted in a low level of solvent in the reservoir, which allowed the immersion heating element to become exposed. The solvent overheated and burst into flames, causing an explosion. The teacher fought the fire with a chemical extinguisher, but his shirt caught fire. He wasn't wearing any personal protective equipment and sustained first-degree burns.

Be Careful with Electric Heaters -The colder winter temperatures can also create a cooler indoor environment. Some people will bring portable electric heaters to work and place them under their desks for additional warmth. The safety concerns associated with using portable heaters include worn electrical cords, overloading electrical circuits and power bars, or using extension cords that don't have the proper power rating. There is the risk of materials catching fire that are too close to the heater, as well as the risk of burning yourself on an uncovered or unprotected heating element.

AIR TRAINING COURSES TIMMINS
BASIC AIR – MARCH 23, 24,25.
REFRESHER AIR MARCH 26

DO YOU HANDLE INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES? - IATA has issued a new guidance document on the transport of infectious substances to take account of changes in the packaging requirements that took effect at the start of the year. The document offers assistance on the classification, packaging and response procedures for Division 6.2 substances and can be downloaded from the IATA website at www.iata.org.

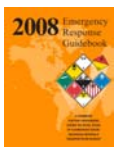
DO YOU SHIP DANGEROUS GOODS? If you are planning on shipping any items that are classified as Dangerous Goods, please be advised that you need to have successfully completed a course in the Transport of Dangerous Goods and hold valid certification. ONLY a certified person can ship dangerous goods. Most shipments of dangerous goods MUST have proper documentation and paperwork. Failure to provide necessary documentation may result in fines or penalties.

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