What’s new, what’s hot, what’s timely? If you don’t have time to search the Internet for the latest developments that might impact your work environment, you just might find some of this information in this “Capsule” column. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to ekrisiunas@aol.com or to the Chief Editor, Barbara Johnson, at barbara_johnson@verizon.net.

NIOSH Publication: NIOSH Alert

This document is a prepublication version of the Alert from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) entitled Preventing Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings. This Alert was developed with input from the NIOSH Working Group on Hazardous Drugs. Two earlier drafts of the document were reviewed by external experts in healthcare, academia, government, labor, and industry. Their comments have been incorporated as appropriate.

This Alert supersedes the previous prepublication version that was placed on the NIOSH web site on March 25, 2004. This Alert was modified slightly based on public comments received since this date. The Alert is currently being edited and prepared for publication. Final publication may be available by late 2004.


Voluntary Guidance Issued for Workplace Use of Anthrax-Spore Detection Systems

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including participation by NIOSH, issued voluntary guidelines on June 4, 2004 for employers using autonomous detection systems (ADS) to detect, in approximate real-time, the release of airborne Bacillus anthracis spores in their workplaces. The guidelines provide recommendations to help employers work with local public health and responder agencies in planning strategic response efforts for protecting employees if the anthrax-causing spores are detected in air samples during ADS monitoring. The guidance was published in “Responding to Detection of Aerosolized Bacillus anthracis by Autonomous Detection Systems in the Workplace” in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Recommendations and Reports, 53(RR07), 1-12.

The voluntary guidance is part of CDC’s ongoing effort to help strengthen emergency preparedness.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5307a1.htm