

Like You Needed More to Do...

On May 11, US OSHA issued a final rule to require electronic submission of injury data.

Under the new rule, establishments with 250 or more employees must electronically submit to OSHA the injury / illness information from OSHA 300, 300A, and 301. Form 300A only is due by July 1, 2017, and all forms by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019, the information is due by March 2.

Establishments with 20 - 249 employees in certain industries will submit OSHA Form 300A only. By "certain industries" OSHA means NAICS codes 11 (agriculture), 22 (utilities), 23 (construction), 31-33 (a plethora of manufacturing), 42 (wholesale), and a smattering from 4413 (automotive parts and tire) to 8123 (dry cleaning services). The initial 300A submission is by July 1, 2017, and again July 1, 2018. In 2019, the information is by March 2.

These requirements take effect August 10, 2016. No details are available yet, but OSHA claims they will "provide a secure website for the electronic submission of information."

Let us all hope it is more secure than the FAA's "drone registration" site.

Your Cell Phone Won't Kill You

Do cell phones cause cancer? A 2015 EU study says no; 2015 US study says maybe.*

Ionizing radiation (gamma, x-rays) can cause genetic damage, and cancer, if the dose is high. You are also exposed to gamma constantly from nature. Cell phones do not produce ionizing radiation.

Magnetic radiation is like the earth's magnetic field. Intense magnetic fields - such as a dynamo - can cause a rare brain cancer: astrocytoma. The earth's magnetic field (450 milliGauss average) dwarfs magnetic fields produced in the voice-coil of a cell phone's speaker.

Electric radiation is fields encountered in power lines, thunderstorms, and nerve conduction in the body. Exposure to a cell phone's electric field is insignificant compared to that within one's own body.

Microwave radiation (RF, radio frequency) is used by cell phones to communicate. Exposure to high levels of RF radiation produce "thermal effects" only (e.g. cooking food in a microwave). This is at levels way, way above RF from a cell phone antenna.

*US study says "...has not been an increase [in brain cancer] since the 1990s, when cellphones started to be used."

Great AIHce Conference

For those fortunate enough to travel to Baltimore for the *American Industrial Hygiene Association* conference, it was a great time. And Max's took the unofficial award for best beer bar.

A-EHS taught a half-day course on "*Smart Device and the EHS Professional*" - a crash introduction to all the ways you can take the 20th century way of doing something (or 14th), and do it like the 21st. The class can be given at local *AIHA* conferences, too.

In the Podium Session "*IH Data: Tools for Exposure Assessment and Epidemiology*" we presented on "*Development of an Explosive Dust Screening App*." This proprietary screening tool helps clients identify risks and prioritize limited resources as it relates to potential dust explosion risks.

And speaking of Apps, the *AIHA Computer Applications Committee* released an App, which you can't fully use unless a CAC member. However, **anyone can access the list of Apps** (>200) that those in the IH/EHS profession might find useful. **AIHA CAC** is in *iTunes* and *Google Play*.

If you see an App you think should be listed, just drop a note to AIHACAC@Gmail.com

