



Illinois Chapter

MERIT UPDATE

AUGUST 3, 2009

AS HEALTH CARE REFORM PROGRESSES, ABC HELPS MEMBERS TAKE ACTION

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AS HEALTH CARE REFORM PROGRESSES, ABC HELPS MEMBERS TAKE ACTION AS PROPOSALS TO REFORM OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH CONGRESS, ABC IS REACHING OUT TO ITS MEMBER COMPANIES TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE IMPACT THESE MEASURES COULD HAVE ON THEIR EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESSES. IN ADDITION, ABC IS OFFERING MEMBERS AN ONLINE TOOLKIT THAT WILL PROVIDE THE MATERIALS NECESSARY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE IS CONSIDERING "AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT OF 2009" (H.R. 3200), THE SAME BILL THAT WAS FAVORABLY REPORTED OUT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR JULY 15 AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS JULY 17. THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS (HELP) JULY 15 PASSED A SIMILAR BILL, WHILE YET ANOTHER VERSION IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

DESPITE THE APPARENT MOMENTUM ON THIS FRONT, CONGRESS IS STILL SCHEDULED TO BREAK FOR THEIR AUGUST RECESS WITHOUT PASSING A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE MEASURE. DURING THAT UPCOMING FOUR WEEK PERIOD, ABC IS ENCOURAGING ALL MEMBERS TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD ON THE NEED TO FOCUS ON PRACTICAL AND AFFORDABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. THESE SOLUTIONS INCLUDE MAKING SURE BENEFITS ARE PORTABLE, ALLOWING FOR CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES TO MOVE FREELY BETWEEN JOBS AND ACROSS STATE LINES, AND ELIMINATING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE "PAY OR PLAY" MANDATES THAT WOULD FORCE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE OR PAY A FINE.

CALLS, EMAILS AND FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHODS OF COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE TOOLKIT CONTAINS A TELEPHONE SCRIPT; SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISONS OF PROPOSED HEALTH CARE PLANS; AN EXPLANATORY FACT SHEET; ABC'S POSITION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM; AND LINKS TO SEND EMAIL DIRECTLY TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, THE TOOLKIT CONTAINS UPDATES ON THE PROGRESS ON THE HILL, THE LATEST RELEVANT NEWS ARTICLES, AND A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE TEMPLATE.

IN A LETTER SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE HELP COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THEIR VOTE, ABC STATED ITS POSITION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM, COMMENDING THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, BUT EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PRACTICAL OR AFFORDABLE SOLUTIONS.

"WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR REFORM, WE FEEL AS THOUGH IT SHOULD BE DONE RESPONSIBLY," ABC STATED IN THE LETTER. "TRUE REFORM MUST PROVIDE GREATER CHOICE AND AFFORDABILITY AND SHOULD ALLOW PRIVATE INSURERS TO COMPETE FOR BUSINESS."

TO ACCESS THE TOOLKIT, VISIT WWW.ABC.ORG/HEALTHCARE.

SOURCE: ABC NEWSLINE

SAVE THE DATE!

EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

EIC PACKETS WILL BE MAILED ON AUGUST 17, 2009 AND ALL PROJECT ENTRIES WILL BE DUE OCTOBER 19, 2009. SHOWCASE YOUR BEST WORK TO ALL OF ABCIL!

EIC PROJECT WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE ANNUAL DINNER AT VENUTI'S BANQUETS IN ADDISON, IL ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009.

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SAFETY TIP : FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

I ONCE HEARD OF A WORKMAN WHO USED A FLAMMABLE SOLVENT FOR CLEANING AND SPILLED SOME OF IT ON HIS CLOTHING. AFTER HE FINISHED THE JOB, HE PAUSED TO SMOKE. THE INSTANT HE STRUCK THE MATCH TO LIGHT HIS CIGARETTE, HE BECAME A HUMAN TORCH. I'VE HEARD OF OTHER CASES WHERE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS FIRES, WHICH RESULTED IN A GREAT LOSS OF LIFE AND TREMENDOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE. WE USE MANY KINDS OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS EVERY DAY ON THIS JOB: GASOLINE, CLEANING FLUIDS, PAINTS, AND THINNERS, TO NAME JUST A FEW. THE DANGER OF THESE MATERIALS CAN BE CONTROLLED.

SOME FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS THEMSELVES WILL NOT BURN, AS MANY PEOPLE THINK. BUT AS THE LIQUID EVAPORATES IT GIVES OFF VAPORS THAT MIX WITH THE AIR TO FORM DANGEROUS GASES THAT CAN BE SET OFF BY THE SMALLEST SPARK. TAKE GASOLINE, FOR EXAMPLE. GASOLINE EVAPORATES AT TEMPERATURES AS LOW AS 45⁰F BELOW ZERO. AS THE TEMPERATURE RISES, THE RATE OF EVAPORATION INCREASES AND MORE AND MORE VAPORS ARE GIVEN OFF. THIS ALSO IS TRUE FOR OTHER FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, EXCEPT THAT THE TEMPERATURE AT WHICH THEY GIVE OFF VAPORS VARIES WITH THE KIND OF LIQUID.

FOLLOW THESE COMMON SENSE RULES

IF WE REMEMBER A FEW SIMPLE COMMON SENSE RULES WHEN STORING, HANDLING, AND USING FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, WE CAN HELP PREVENT THIS JOB, OR ANY OF US, FROM GOING UP IN FLAMES. KEEP FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AWAY FROM OPEN FLAME AND SPARKS. THIS MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER SMOKE AROUND THEM. ALWAYS USE APPROVED METAL SAFETY CANS OR THE ORIGINAL MANUFACTURER'S CONTAINER TO STORE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS. KEEP THESE CONTAINERS CLOSED WHEN NOT IN USE, AND NEVER STORE THEM NEAR EXITS OR PASSAGEWAYS. PRACTICE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING IN FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE AREAS. CLEAN UP SPILLS IMMEDIATELY AND THEN PLACE THE RAGS YOU USED TO DO THE JOB IN A TIGHTLY CLOSED METAL CONTAINER. BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET A FLAMMABLE LIQUID ON YOU. IT NOT ONLY COULD BURN YOU IF IT CATCHES FIRE, BUT IT COULD CAUSE PAINFUL SKIN IRRITATION THAT COULD EASILY BECOME INFECTED. IF YOU GET IT ON YOU, WASH IT OFF AS SOON AS YOU CAN. NEVER TRY TO BOOST A FIRE WITH A FLAMMABLE LIQUID. YOU ARE IN FOR TROUBLE IF THE FIRE FLARES UP.

DON'T TRUST YOUR NOSE - VENTILATE

DON'T TRUST YOUR NOSE TO TELL YOU WHETHER AN AREA OR CONTAINER IS VAPOR FREE. NOT ALL DANGEROUS LIQUIDS GIVE OFF VAPORS THAT YOU CAN SMELL. SOME VAPORS ARE POISONOUS AS WELL AS FLAMMABLE. USE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS ONLY WHERE THERE IS PLENTY OF VENTILATION. VAPORS GIVEN OFF BY FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS ARE USUALLY HEAVIER THAN AIR AND COLLECT IN THE LOWEST AREA THEY CAN REACH. WITHOUT GOOD VENTILATION TO DISSIPATE THEM, YOU HAVE A POTENTIAL DISASTER AWAITING THAT ONE SMALL SPARK TO SET IT OFF.

READ THE LABEL

CAREFULLY READ THE MANUFACTURER'S LABEL ON THE CONTAINER OF ANY FLAMMABLE LIQUID BEFORE USING IT.

FRIEND OR FOE - IT'S UP TO YOU

LIKE MANY OTHER SUBSTANCES, FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS CAN MAKE A GOOD FRIEND OR A BAD ENEMY, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU USE THEM. WHETHER AT HOME OR ON THE JOB, TREAT FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS WITH RESPECT AND USE THEM FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE MADE.

SOURCE: WWW.TOOLBOXTOPICS.COM

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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AUGUST 6, 2009

MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR YOU

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS IS EXCITED ABOUT ANNOUNCING THE NEWEST EXPANSION OF OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFERING. WORKING WITH ONE OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS, DECISION SYSTEMS PLUS, INC (DSP), WE'RE BRINGING AN ENTIRELY NEW SET OF CLASSES THAT WE FEEL WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR BUSINESS AND WITH YOUR CLIENTS. WE'VE LISTENED TO YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT FROM US. FOR ALL CURRENT MEMBERS, HERE IT IS: **MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR YOU: HOW TO INCREASE YOUR PROFITABILITY, GIVE YOU A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE & PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS.** WE ALL KNOW HOW CRITICAL IT IS TO GET THIS RIGHT, YET WHERE DO YOU GO TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD AND HAVE IT PRESENTED IN CLEAR, EASY TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO TAKE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES, WHICH WERE CUSTOMIZED FOR ABC MEMBERS:

PROTECT YOUR NETWORK. HOW TO KEEP YOUR COMPUTER NETWORK SAFE FROM CRIPPLING POP-UPS, VIRUSES, SPYWARE, HACKERS, AND SPAM; WHILE AVOIDING EXPENSIVE COMPUTER REPAIR BILLS.

YOUR PHONE SYSTEM CAN MAKE OR LOSE YOU MONEY. THINGS YOUR PHONE SYSTEM CAN DO TO MAKE YOU MONEY, IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE AND PRODUCTIVITY, AND GIVE YOU HAPPIER CUSTOMERS

AVOID COMPUTER AND PHONE PROBLEMS PUTTING YOU OUT OF BUSINESS. STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO KEEP YOUR BUSINESS FUNCTIONING AND SERVING YOUR CUSTOMERS WHEN YOU HAVE A DISASTER – AND YOU WILL ALL HAVE ONE!

OFFICE RELOCATION. 12 IMPORTANT ISSUES TO AVOID MAKING COSTLY MISTAKES. (THIS WILL HELP YOUR CLIENTS TOO)

CONTROL TECHNOLOGY EXPENSE. HOW YOU CAN MAKE TECHNOLOGY NOT ONLY WORK BETTER FOR YOU BUT BE A PREDICTABLE COST AND AVOID THE UPGRADE TREADMILL.

IF YOU HAVE SOME OTHER TOPICS YOU'D LIKE COVERED, THE THINGS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY THAT KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT, LET US KNOW SO WE CAN ADDRESS THEM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI SELK AT KARI@ABCIL.ORG

AUGUST 7, 2009

GETTING PAID IN A DOWN ECONOMY WEBINAR

THIS WEBINAR WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009 BY CHAPTER ATTORNEY JEFF RISCH. THE WEBINAR WILL BE FROM 7:30 AM TO 9:00 AM AND IS FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT KARI@ABCIL.ORG

AUGUST 12, 2009

STUDENT BARBEQUE

THE STAFF AT ABCIL WILL BE PROVIDING BURGERS, HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SODA AND WATER. YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS AS WELL AS THE STAFF AT ABCIL. THIS EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 5:00 PM AT THE ABCIL TRAINING FACILITY 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT STEVE FOLTIN AT FOLTIN@ABCIL.ORG