SIBA/SICAP HAS HAND SANITIZER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

SIBA/SICAP has obtained an order of small hand sanitizers to make them more readily available to the membership. The bottles are 2 ounces, perfect for people to carry with them. The sanitizer is made and filled in the U.S.A. with 62% ethyl alcohol content to meet FDA requirements. Cost per bottle will be $1.50 each and if you want them mailed, a shipping charge will be added. For questions or to reserve your bottles contact SIBA at (618)-624-9055 or email ceo@siba-agc.org with the quantity and if you will pick them up or want them mailed.

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF HOUSE CALL FOR OSHA TO ISSUE EMERGENCY STANDARD ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A group led by Representative David McKinley of West Virginia sent a letter to House Minority leader Kevin McCarthy of California urging him to push for an Emergency Temporary Standard instead of the “suggested and not enforceable” guidance that has been issued thus far by OSHA. The Republican lawmakers claim that by getting an Emergency Temporary Standard out it would potentially protect the health and safety of millions of American workers as businesses re-open, by reducing the size of the second wave of infections. It was also noted that by having a standard in place it would reduce the uncertainty for employers as they are relying on state and local guidance, as well as the Center for Disease Control.

Information taken from :”COVID-19 pandemic: Republican House members call for OSHA emergency standard” article July 15, 2020 www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com

SUMMER HEAT AND HUMIDITY CAN CAUSE ISSUES WHEN WEARING A FACE MASK

While the benefits of the prevention of potential spread of COVID-19 from wearing a mask have been explained over the last few months, now that the hot weather has arrived there are things that we may have to consider for employees required to wear them. Will wearing a mask in a hot environment for a prolonged time create a potential hazard? The answer of course would be yes in many cases, especially for those who already may have breathing difficulties or other medical conditions. There are things that can be done to potentially minimize the impact of the heat. Social distancing in place of the mask requirement is the best method of prevention of virus transmission, but if it is not an option, it is possible that a face shield in lieu of a face mask should be considered. This will have less impact on the wearers breathing and still provide some protection from the potential spread of respiratory droplets from wearer to those in their work areas or vicinity. Using a thinner material mask is also an option that could help to keep the wearer from having difficulty or getting too hot. The CDC recommends tightly woven cotton materials for thinner masks, although they may not offer as much protection as a layered mask.
COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES INVOLVE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING WITH CHEMICALS: ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES PROPERLY TRAINED?

With the CDC recommendations calling for cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces as well as personal desk areas frequently many employees may be using chemical cleaners at work for the first time. Using strong chemical cleaners, often in confined areas in an office can be hazardous if proper precautions are not taken. Workers who may be using these harmful chemicals in the process of cleaning and disinfecting should be trained on proper usage and storage and the health and physical hazards that can occur from improper use. This is covered under OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard. Areas where information on a chemical product might be found include the label of the container or a Safety Data Sheet for that product. Any worker using the product has a right to access the information on the hazards and proper use of the product. Workers need to know the dangers that can occur from mixing incompatible substances, for instance mixing bleach and ammonia produces a toxic chloramine gas, which is an irritant to the eyes, nose and throat and in a heavier exposure can lead to death.