

# Chem-Bioterrorism, Mold and More to Descend on Dallas May 10-15

FAIRFAX, Va., March 3 /PRNewswire/ -- It is a scene rapidly becoming familiar: HazMat suited workers sifting through debris, cleaning up chemical spills, testing buildings for anthrax or dangerous molds. Industrial hygienists (IHs) around the world are among the first responders to emergencies involving industrial accidents, biological weapons, mold, occupational disease, and other issues. While most Americans have never heard of industrial hygiene, they are becoming familiar with the more dramatic aspects of the profession. IHs also work to protect communities from less visible threats such as environmental hazards, workplace injuries, construction accidents, and ergonomic injuries.

This May, nearly 8,000 IHs will descend on Dallas, Texas, for the 64th annual American Industrial Hygiene conference and exposition (AIHce). Many of the long-studied industrial hygiene topics to be discussed at AIHce are new additions to our national vocabulary: chemical-biological terrorism, mold and indoor environmental quality, workplace safety, occupational disease, and more. AIHce is cosponsored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

Attendees will learn from hundreds of hands-on educational opportunities including forums, platform sessions, case studies, EHS (environmental health and safety) crossover programs, and poster sessions.

The opening general session, 8 a.m. Monday, May 12, will feature the Honorable John L. Henshaw, CIH, ROH, assistant secretary of labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Henshaw will introduce the theme of "Navigating Uncharted Territory" from a government perspective.

On Tuesday, May 13, at 8 a.m., John Howard, MD, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), will address the research and "Navigating Uncharted Territory."

Wednesday, May 14, at 8 a.m. Melinda Ballard, president, Policyholders of America, will focus on breaking new ground in advocacy. Ballard will share her account of the devastation caused by unchecked mold growth. There will be a Q & A panel following her address.

Mold and indoor air quality (IAQ) will be featured as a special week-long educational track, beginning with the Saturday, May 10, symposium "Environmental Mold: State of the Science, State of the Art" and the Sunday, May 11, symposium "Indoor Air Quality Research: New Directions." The symposia will offer information for professionals who deal with mold, whether they approach the subject from the legal, insurance, or construction perspective.

A chemical-biological terrorism learning track will offer lessons learned from the anthrax attacks, an introduction to chemical/biological/radiological warfare and consequence management, and many other topics.

A 600+-booth exposition featuring the health and safety products and services of more than 350 companies will offer demonstrations of gas masks and other protective gear, biological weapon testing and destruction equipment, hearing protection, lab safety equipment, and many other items. Exposition hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on May 12-13 and 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on May 14. Expo- only tickets are available.

Detailed conference information and registration is available at <http://www.aiha.org> . On site registration begins Saturday, May 10, at 7 a.m. For more information, contact AIHA at (703) 849-8888.

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), founded in 1939, is the world's largest association of occupational and environmental health professionals, and its members play an important role on the

front line of worker health and safety. The 12,000 members come from government, labor, industry, academia, and private business. AIHA is the most diverse professional association dedicated to the improvement of the health and well-being of workers, the community, and the environment.