

The Assessment Survey- Key elements

Lecture 2

Slides originally developed
by Dr. Myers, C.I.H.

Goals of the assessment survey

- 1° know and control all exposures
 - Be sure that all hazardous exposures are known and controlled to a tolerable level
- 2° continuous improvement
 - Establish priorities for remedial action based on air sample data and OELs
 - Keep priority list current
 - Use priority list to allocate control resources

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Determine the purpose and scope i.e. what you want or need to know

- Inventory of exposure agents
- Personal exposures
- Process emissions
- Non routine activity exposures
- Assess exposures for groups of workers
- Developing worst case scenarios
- Etc, etc, etc,

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Characterize the workplace, worker exposure(s) and the exposure agent(s)

- Plant layout
- Process description
- Chemical agents and their exposure risk – examples:

- Number of workers
- Duration of shifts

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Determine the level of survey effort needed to provide information

- Walk through or initial survey
- Basic survey
- Field survey

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Comprehensive occupational hygiene survey

- Primary objective is to create and maintain a database describing the exposure of individual and populations of workers over time.

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Comprehensive occupational hygiene survey

- Regular, periodic exposure measurements
- Done on workers representative of a similar exposure group or population

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Comprehensive occupational hygiene survey

- Done on selected agents
- Done over extended periods of time – up the working life of the worker or the plant
- Serve multiple purposes

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Specific – Limited survey

- Deals with unusual exposures or non-routine exposures or emergency exposures
- May typically deal with maintenance type activities.

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Compliance survey

- Done to satisfy legal obligations imposed most commonly by OSHA or MSHA
- Done to document compliance or non-compliance with a standard
- Typically done on the “worst case “ individual or work situation
- May overlook significant exposure of other individuals or work areas

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Response to specific complaint

- Important because they may be real and evaluation may reduce anxiety and improve trust and confidence of the OHS department and personnel
- Can be common with “smelly” substances or part of group hysteria – indoor air for example

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Medical/Epidemiological Interface

- Retrospective evaluations of cause and effect or dose response relationships

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Evaluation of controls

- Done to evaluate exposure levels before and after a control has been implemented
- Done to document exposure control accomplished by the control

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Develop an appropriate sampling strategy for the assessment

- The strategy should address:

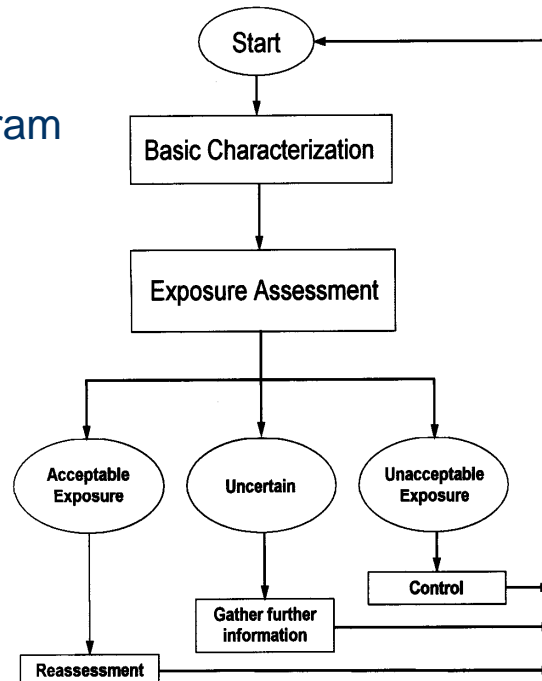
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Determine what resources you'll need to conduct the survey

- What budget do you have vs. what you'll need for your level of survey effort
- Do you have time
- Do you have sufficient technical help
- Do you have proper PPE for your survey team
- Etc, etc, etc,.....

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Process Diagram



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Final Thoughts

- Developing an assessment survey is an iterative process between the key elements
- Many steps and issues must be addressed in each of the key elements to accomplish that element
- We're going to look at those steps and issues over the next weeks

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The End

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