

# Agriculture and Natural Resources Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Office Activities July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

## Overview

The ANR EH&S program continued to develop during the past year. Significant accomplishments included statewide training for Safety Coordinators in Cooperative Extension, Research & Extension Centers and Statewide Programs. EH&S also implemented a project to develop specific safety materials for the California 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP). A major overhaul of the EH&S website was completed, with several new documents added to assist ANR staff.

## Safety Notes

EH&S received an "Award of Recognition" for a Unique and Innovative Program from the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) for the Safety Notes program.

Twelve new Safety Notes were developed during the past year to bring the total number of Safety Notes posted on the EH&S web site to 122. New Safety Notes were developed at the request of Research and Extension Centers and Cooperative Extension offices. Examples of the types of topics requested for Safety Notes included high-pressure irrigation safety, working safely with cattle, portable power drill safety, basic



pesticide exposure awareness, laboratory burner safety, and preventing unintentional needlesticks.

## ANR Safety Coordinator Training

EH&S staff conducted Safety Coordinator training at eight locations, reaching 75 ANR employees representing 48 counties. The training included an introduction to safety regulations and policies, followed by a review of plans, forms, training tools and support that is available from EH&S. A variety of employees attended Safety Coordinator training including REC Superintendents, County Directors, 4-H Program Representatives, Farm and Sea Grant Advisors, Administrative Assistants, and Management Services Officers. After the training, Safety Coordinators reviewed and updated the Injury & Illness Prevention Programs for their locations.

## Site Visits, Program Reviews and Inspections

During the past year, EH&S made visits to eight Cooperative Extension county offices, all nine RECs, Elkus Youth Ranch, Hansen Agricultural Center, and several statewide programs and administrative offices. The purpose of these visits was to provide training,

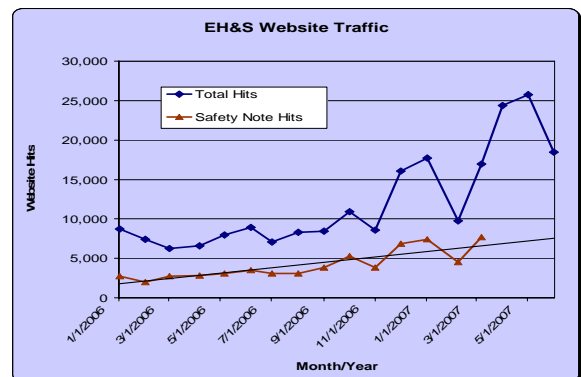
conduct ergonomic evaluations, provide assistance with safety issues and evaluate health & safety programs and general conditions. In most cases, issues such as ergonomic concerns could be resolved with training and adjustments to existing equipment (chairs, desks, etc.). Program Reviews were performed at thirteen of these locations. Results of the program reviews identified a total of 128 deficiencies with 87 (or 70%) labeled "moderate" and 41 (or 30%) labeled "serious" deficiencies. No "imminent" hazards were identified. All deficiencies were corrected within their assigned timeframes.

Excerpt of Program Review report at a CE location.

During 2006 – 2007 four RECs were inspected by two county Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs), a county Environmental Health Agency, and a county Fire Department. To date, no violations or fines have been issued as a result of these inspections.

## EH&S Website

Improvements to the EH&S Website continued this year. The website was totally revised and a new easier-to-remember address was implemented (<http://safety.ucanr.org>). Several new pages were added, including pages for Safety Training Resources and 4-H Resources. New training information included links to online quizzes, other online training programs and Powerpoint slideshows on several training topics. Use of the website continued to grow, increasing from about 9,000 "hits" per month in June 2006 to over 18,000 "hits" per month in June 2007. The trend of

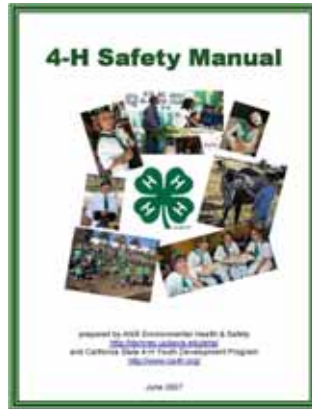


website usage has been steadily upward over the past 2 years. In addition to use by ANR Safety Coordinators and other staff, the EH&S website receives hits from all 50 states and over 70 countries. Safety Notes are the most popular feature on the website, accounting for about 20% of the total traffic.

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## 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP)

This year, the EH&S office began providing health and safety support to 4-H YDP. Working with input and review from the 4-H Policy Advisory Committee, EH&S developed materials that can be used to train 4-H members and volunteers to carry out their activities in a safe manner and prevent injuries.



Safety materials included 32 "Clover Safe" notes and 27 attendant activity sheets, a 4-H Safety Training Record, policies for operating petting zoos, water safety, and use of trailers, 4-H Water Safety Guideline, and a 4-H Safety Manual. The EH&S web site was expanded to include a new page entitled "4-H Resources" where the above-listed materials and other safety tips were posted.

## EH&S Training

EH&S Office staff have continued to provide training at ANR facilities and offices, including respirator fit testing and training and presentations on general EH&S, safe driving practices, and IIPPs. Over 150 persons were trained by ANR EH&S staff, including REC employees, UC departmental staff and students, USDA personnel, and Cooperative Extension employees. Review of written evaluations of EH&S training and presentations indicated attendees have an overall favorable approval rating of 96%.

## REC Guidelines

A new REC Administrative Guideline was developed for the Disposal of Non-Regulated Waste. The document provides information about recycling and proper disposal of non-regulated waste such as crop, pruning, and landscaping residue, construction and demolition refuse, animal carcasses, manure, and trash.



Disposal of Non-Regulated Waste flowchart

## EH&S Plans, Forms, and Templates

A variety of checklists were derived and posted under Plans, Forms, and Templates on the EH&S web site. The checklists were developed to provide guidance on performing required inspections and self audits of work spaces and various types of equipment. Moreover, the checklists were formatted to allow online compilation followed by downloading into a user's directory on their personal computer. The suite of checklists included Forklift Daily Inspection, Tractor Daily Inspection, Eyewash/Safety Shower Monthly Inspection, Fire Extinguisher Monthly inspection, Vehicle/Trailer Inspection, Worksite Inspection, and Program Reviews.

## Drinking Water System Compliance

The EH&S drinking water system compliance program continued to provide site-specific water sampling and analyses schedules, spreadsheets for recording required data, quarterly and annual water system reports, and Consumer Confidence Reports for regulated REC water systems. Disinfection byproducts continued to be identified in drinking water at Desert REC and as a result, the regulatory agency directed that further testing take place to develop a plan for resolving this issue. EH&S staff will coordinate the testing program and develop the mitigation plan during the forthcoming year. As required by regulation, a five year update of the Elkus Youth Ranch Watershed Sanitary Survey was completed by EH&S staff.



Elkus Youth Ranch Watershed

## Professional Presentations

EH&S Office personnel made a presentation entitled "Providing EH&S Services to University Volunteer Groups" at the national CHEMA annual conference. This presentation described our work with the Statewide 4-H office to develop policies, guidance documents and training materials to support 4-H volunteers and members to conduct their work in a safe, healthy and environmentally responsible manner. It showed examples of materials developed for 4-H program needs, discussed occupational safety information that has been adapted for the 4-H program, and reviewed how information from EH&S has been received by the 4-H staff and volunteers. Since many other programs within colleges and universities rely on volunteers to conduct or support their operations, the information provided in this presentation can assist other university programs with addressing the issue of volunteer safety on their campuses.