



SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference - September 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all! As the gavel is passed I wish to thank Barbara Allerton for serving so capably as the Susquehanna Conference President for the last 2 years. Fortunately, she remains on the board serving as past president and is continuing to make significant contributions to the educational programming and direction of the Susquehanna Conference. I also wish to recognize all of the dedicated members of our conference board serving faithfully and tirelessly to assure Susquehanna Conference remains a vital part of CASA. I look forward to serving with these true professionals committed to bringing the best resources available to advance the CASA mission. I think it worthy to note that several of the board members are taking personal leave to fulfill their roles on the board. Not to be overlooked by any means, I extend my thanks to you as members for making this conference into what I believe is the best of the best. This was evident in my mind at the 2009 Annual Training Meeting as Susquehanna received the largest incentive awards for membership and activities. Well done!

For most of us, 2009 has not been business as usual. Budget cuts, furloughs, layoffs and bumping have impacted the staff of the regulator and industry sectors alike. Flexibility and adaptability have been the keys to survival professionally these days. Understandably, employers are less enthusiastic about granting participation in educational and training opportunities. Yet it remains that education is the most important tool of any profession.

The good news is that the Susquehanna Conference can offer you education, training, up-to-date information, networking and professional camaraderie at a price anyone can afford. Maybe you can't purchase that top-of-the-line thermocouple data logger with built-in GPS and HD satellite reception, but you can definitely afford a Susquehanna training meeting. Your next opportunity is September 30 - October 1 at Sysco in Harrisburg. I'll see you there!

Tentative dates for 2010 training sessions – Mark your calendar

- **2/11/10 – Mechanicsburg area**
- **4/08/10 – Lehigh Valley**
- **7/22/10 – Hamburg area**
- **9/29-9/30/10 – SYSCO's - Harrisburg**
- **12/9/10 – Dauphin County area**

Vaccines Approved for H1N1 Influenza Virus

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved four vaccines for use against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

The vaccines—made by CSL Limited, MedImmune LLC, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Limited, and sanofi pasteur Inc.—will be distributed nationally after the initial lots become available. This is expected to occur within the next four weeks.

Vaccines against three seasonal virus strains are already available and should be used. However, they do not protect against the 2009 H1N1 virus.

What have studies of the H1N1 vaccines shown?

Based on preliminary data, the approved vaccines induce a robust immune response in most healthy adults eight to 10 days after a single dose, as occurs with the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Clinical studies under way will provide more information about the optimal dose in children. Recommendations for dosing will be updated if indicated by findings from those studies. The findings are expected in the near future.

What are the warnings and potential side effects?

In the ongoing clinical studies, the 2009 H1N1 vaccines have been well tolerated. However, consumers need to be aware of the following:

- People with severe or life-threatening allergies to chicken eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine, should not be vaccinated.
- Potential side effects of the H1N1 vaccines are expected to be similar to those of seasonal flu vaccines. For the injected vaccine, the most common side effect is soreness at the injection site. Other side effects may include mild fever, body aches, and fatigue for a few days after the inoculation. For the nasal spray vaccine, the most common side effects include runny nose or nasal congestion for all ages, sore throats in adults, and—in children 2 to 6 years old—fever. (Also see seasonal flu information in the "For More Information" section below.)
- As with any medical product, unexpected or rare serious adverse events may occur.

FDA is working closely with other agencies to enhance adverse-event monitoring, information sharing, and analysis during and after the 2009 H1N1 vaccination program. In the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, these agencies include the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

This article appears on [FDA's Consumer Updates page](#), which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.

Date Posted: September 16, 2009

INSPECTING HOME HEATING OIL TANKS CAN SAVE MONEY, ENERGY

DEP Offering Oil Tank Inspection Tips, Free Fact Sheet

WILKES-BARRE -- With winter approaching, the Department of Environmental protection urges homeowners to act now to save money and energy by inspecting indoor and outdoor home heating oil tanks for potential problems prior to re-filling.

“A quick, 10-minute visual inspection of the tank is important to identify potentially serious problems before they occur,” Environmental Protection Northeast Regional Director Michael Bedrin said.

Tank owners should check the tank and all structural supports for signs of rusting. The tank’s fill line and the feed line to the furnace should be examined for leaks. Wet spots or odors near the tank may signal a problem.

If a resident cannot be home when fuel oil is delivered, clearly mark the fill pipe with a red flag or marker and inform the oil company of that location. Make certain that any disconnected fill pipes that remain above ground are permanently sealed and cannot be opened.

In addition, tanks should never be tipped over or emptied on the ground. Any maintenance or alterations to a heating oil tank system should be done by a professional, and consumers should always assume the tank contains oil.

“Many environmental problems can result from a leaking tank or line. This is especially true if the tank suddenly ruptures and collapses,” Bedrin said. “Homeowners also should be sensitive to the increased cost of losing heating oil beyond the serious environmental consequences of a leak or spill. Proper maintenance helps to save money.”

Leaking heating oil could cause indoor air problems and potential contamination of groundwater and private drinking water wells. A spill cleanup can cost several thousand dollars, and, with the higher costs of heating oil, residents would not want to lose fuel needlessly.

Residents who think their oil tank may have a problem should immediately contact their oil company for help.

Residents also can obtain a free DEP fact sheet, “Tips for Residential Heating Oil

Tank Owners,” by calling DEP’s regional underground storage tank section at 570-826-2511 or by visiting www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: “Storage Tanks.”

Warning on Stolen Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution and Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution

On September 17, 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised consumers not to use certain respiratory medications purchased after Sept. 8, 2009 and manufactured by Dey L.P., a subsidiary of Mylan Inc., because the medications might have been part of a shipment being transported on a tractor-trailer stolen in Tampa, Fla., on Sept. 8, 2009.

The respiratory medications, Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution, 0.02%, and Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution, 0.083%, unit-dose vials, have not been recovered and may be dangerous to use because the drugs may not have been stored and handled properly.

Dey issued an advisory on Sept. 11, 2009 regarding the theft. Although FDA is not aware of any reports of adverse events, the agency is advising patients who use these respiratory medications to check to see if products received or purchased after Sept. 8, 2009 are from one of the following lots:

Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution (892,000 doses; all lots contain 3.0 ml vials and display the brand name "Dey")

Lot number 9G04, NDC # 49502-697-29

Lot number 9FD8, NDC # 49502-697-61

Lot number 9FD9, NDC # 49502-697-61

Lot number 9FE1, NDC # 49502-697-61

Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution (432,000 doses; all lots contain 2.5 ml vials and display the brand name "Dey")

Lot number F09089, NDC # 49502-685-31

Lot number C09119, NDC # 49502-685-62

Lot number C09120, NDC # 49502-685-62

Advice for Consumers

- Do not use Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution or Ipratropium Bromide Inhalation Solution if it is from one of these lots above and was purchased or received after Sept. 8, 2009. Replace it with the same product from another lot.
- Notify your health care professional of any adverse effects you may have experienced as a result of taking these medications.
- Bring products from these lots back to the pharmacy where you received the medicine to exchange for products from a different lot or call Dey customer service at 800-527-4278. Contact your health care professional if you must switch to another product for any reason for possible dose adjustments.
- Report any information regarding the stolen Dey products to FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) by calling 800-551-3989 or by visiting the OCI Web site (<http://www.fda.gov/OCI>).

This article appears on [FDA's Consumer Updates page](#), which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products. *Date Posted: September 18, 2009*

DELINQUENT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2009 -- Renewal drive is now underway. Please go to www.casafdo.org for renewal form. Forms can be mailed to above address or brought to the training program. If you haven't renewed for 2009, please do it NOW!!

MINUTES FROM SUSQUEHANNA BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2009

Attendees: Barbara Allerton, Ted Veresink, Lynn Roche, Gary Ritter, Ken Hohe, Russell Dorm, Melissa Vaccaro, and Sue Yeager.

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Ritter.

- Review of the training session held on July 23, 2009 at the Susquehanna Township Municipal Building in the Harrisburg area -- critiques were very positive.
- Discussion on the September 30-October 1, 2009 training planning – September 30 – Tom Kennedy, Delaware Valley College, will speak the afternoon from 1-3:30pm; Tara Paster will be contacted by Melissa Vaccaro regarding speaking/obtaining speaker/speakers for the morning session – perhaps the McDonald’s speaker that will be at the Annual Education & Training Seminar in May; Luke LaBorg, PSU, will provide speakers for the October 1st program. (Kennedy & LaBorg speakers' topics deal with “Farm to Table” issues.) Melissa Vaccaro will finalize all speakers as soon as possible.
- Discussion on the December 10, 2009 training – Barb Allerton is coordinating: Speakers/topics suggested include Laura Werner with the ATSDR/Polycythemia vera cluster of cases in Schuylkill County; Dr. Keith Burkhart with FDA/Sentinel Drug Program; Kim Warren with PA Dep’t of Health/Swine Flu; Dave Malloy/Boil Water Advisory Regulation; speaker on Chinese drywall contamination with VOC’s or other environmental topic; potential “Open Mike” for meeting participants; Safe Quality Food (SQF) for food processors. Sue Yeager will contact Greg Lux re: use of Giant meeting space in Camp Hill.
- **Tentative dates for 2010 trainings:**
 - **2/11/10 – Mechanicsburg area**
 - **4/08/10 – Lehigh Valley**
 - **7/22/10 – Hamburg area**
 - **9/29-9/30/10 – SYSCO’s - Harrisburg**
 - **12/9/10 – Dauphin County area**
- Melissa Vaccaro provided information on the CASA Executive Board planning session for the 2010 Education and Training Seminar: Dates for seminar are May 17-20, 2010. Location is Hauppauge, Long Island, NY. The agenda is being finalized.
- Melissa Vaccaro provided information on the CASA Executive Board meeting:
 - There was a discussion on utilizing more industry representatives since state/county/local agency representation is currently limited.
 - CASA website will be updated.
 - Megan Lauff will fill the vacant Treasurer position. This position will be voted upon at the May E&T Seminar.
 - The annual seminar lost a small amount of money, but did well considering the current travel/attendance restrictions. The Drug Seminar was successful.
 - Registration for 2010 training will be \$225, which will include 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and 3 breakfasts.
 - The meetings of the CASA Executive Board alone and with the Local Conference Officers at the 2010 E&T Seminar will be held during lunches.
 - Membership and attendance issues were discussed.
 - New CASA Associate Member initiatives were discussed – want to reach out to possible new members.
- Ted Veresink, Ken Hohe, and Sue Yeager are working on the membership list to contact those who have not renewed. Letters will be emailed to all PDA and PA DOH members who have not

renewed. Since PDA no longer pays membership dues for their employees and is requiring that they take leave to attend, there is a concern that former PDA members may not renew.

- It was decided to put the highlights of our local Executive Board meetings in the newsletter. Sue Yeager will send this to Ann Marie Karnick.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10am on Thursday, October 22, 2009, at the Susquehanna Township Building. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Yeager, Sec

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“EMPLOYEE HEALTH & PERSONAL HYGIENE HANDBOOK” IS AVAILABLE

CFSAN is making a publication available to industry and government regulators regarding guidance on how to evaluate employee health issues. **There is no charge.**

Ask for publication: RFS 04

Use the following email address: CFSANPublicationRe@fda.hhs.gov

For further information contact: Laurie Williams @ 301 436-2938 or Laurie.Williams@fda.hhs.gov

Statewide Food Safety Certification Training

The Penn State Cooperative Extension, Division of Continuing Education, has scheduled a number of Food Safety Certification training courses for September-November 2009. The locations, dates, contact persons, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Penn State Hgb. (Chinese Lanugage Class)	09-3, 4	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Bethlehem	10/26; 11/2	Lois Killcoyne	610 746-1970	ljk10@psu.edu
Carlisle	09-28; 10-14	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Chambersburg	10-19;11-03	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	jev114@psu.edu
Gettysburg	11-09, 23	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	jev114@psu.edu
Lancaster	09-15, 29	Debbie Rubin	717-299-7667	dpr5@psu.edu
“ “	10-06,15,27	“ “	“ “ “	“ “ “
“ “	10-28; 11-11	“ “	“ “ “	“ “ “
Lebanon	11-10, 11-24	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Middletown	10-12, 10-26	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu

New Bloomfield 10-19: 11-02 Karen Karnes 717-948-6536 ksk1@psu.edu

**Schuylkill 10-09, 10-10 ShannonWabby 570-385-6112 smw29@psu.edu
Haven**

York 10-07, 10-21 Annie Haines 717-771-4197 azh2@psu.edu

“ 11-18; 12-02 “ “ “ “ “ “ “