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FacilityBlog from Today's Facility Manager: The First Facility Management Blog



Thursday, January 04, 2007

Snow Professionals Can Now Access CSP Study Guide

Although parts of the U.S. are experiencing temperatures 10°F to 20°F higher, some facility professionals are still dealing with the precipitation of the season--snow. Consequently, [SIMA](#) is set to unveil a comprehensive study guide for prospective Certified Snow Professionals, giving industry professionals greater access to test materials.

"SIMA is very excited about the upcoming changes in the CSP program in 2007," said Julie Seggi, SIMA training coordinator. "We have worked with volunteer CSPs and an outside consultant to create a complete study guide that will help snow and ice management professionals prepare for the only national certification in the industry."

Six modules make up the new study guide: Business, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Sub-Contractors, Snow and Ice Science, and Snow and Ice Operations and Techniques. SIMA is offering a sale on the modules for a limited time only.

SIMA is a nonprofit trade organization dedicated to ensuring professionalism and safer communities by helping those who manage snow and ice master essential skills and practices. To find out more, call SIMA at 814-835-3577.

posted by HeidiTFM at [10:12 AM](#) | [0 comments](#)

Worksheet Available To Determine Potential Benefits Of Waterless Urinals

Developed by [Waterless Co.](#), makers of Waterless

About FacilityBlog/TFM

FacilityBlog is where people discuss the demands faced by facility



management professionals. Visitors are encouraged to comment; they can also [LINK](#) directly to anything of interest they find here. With daily updates, FacilityBlog is the most widely read Blog about facility management. FacilityBlog began in May 2005.

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No-Flush™ urinals of Vista, CA, the evaluation sheet asks facility managers a series of simple questions. The free evaluation form is designed to help facility managers determine if waterless urinal systems will help them save money, as well as water.

Questions include:

- * How many males populate the facility
- * Number of urinals in the facility
- * Hours of operation
- * Amount of water used per urinal, per flush
- * Local water and sewer rates per 1,000 gallons

Waterless Co. notes that most urinals use between one and three gallons of water, depending on whether they were manufactured before or after 1992. Studies also indicate that each male in a facility uses a urinal about three times per day.

"The facility's total cost of water is on the water bill," says Klaus Reichardt, managing partner of Waterless Co. "This evaluation sheet lets facility managers know approximately how much they are spending just to provide potable water for urinals."

According to Reichardt, the evaluation sheet, which is available in either manual or electronic spreadsheet form, also allows facility managers, who have already installed waterless urinal systems, to compare their maintenance costs to a conventional urinal.

"These costs do not apply to cleaning the urinal," informs Reichardt, "since cleaning a conventional and waterless urinal are very similar. What it compares is the typical annual repair and plumbing costs of a conventional urinal and the annual costs for trap cylinders and other products necessary to maintain a waterless system."

Although some assumptions must be made, Reichardt says most facility managers find the evaluation sheet provides a workable picture of how much money conventional urinals are costing them. "In some facilities, they may find a waterless system will not save them enough money to warrant their installation," he says, "but others may find that waterless systems will save them considerable sums annually."

Facility managers can request an evaluation sheet by e-mailing to watersavings@waterless.com.

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[Snow Professionals Can Now Access CSP Study Guide](#)

[Worksheet Available To](#)

[Determine Potential Benefits Of Waterless Urinals](#)

[Common Workplace Questions](#)

[Department of Homeland Security Releases Report On City Disaster Preparedness](#)

[Five Big Ideas for the Environment in 2007](#)

[CDC Finds U.S. Workplace Safer And Less Deadly Than Ever Before](#)

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Archived Postings

posted by AnneTFM at [9:26 AM](#) | [0 comments](#)

Common Workplace Questions

The Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries receives many queries throughout the year. At the end of 2006, the Bureau reflected on some of the most popular workplace questions.

For example:

"Question: What is 'undue hardship' under the Americans with Disabilities Act?"

Answer: This is a very difficult question to answer because so much depends upon the facts of each individual situation. What is "reasonable" for one employer may be an "undue hardship" in another setting, depending upon such things as the number of employees, resources available to the employer, customer demands and the physical nature of the job. The law also requires that the employer meet with the employee and discuss different accommodation options, so that both can learn from each other about the company's needs and the employee's abilities. This is called the "interactive process," and it can be very effective in a variety of situations."

Other questions included, "What does the law say I should do if I can't find my employee to give him the final paycheck?" and "Why should I have to make my employee take a lunch break if she doesn't want to?"

To find the answers for these questions and more, visit the [Corvallis Gazette Times](#), where this story was originally published on December 24, 2006.

posted by Jillian at [9:17 AM](#) | [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, January 03, 2007

Department of Homeland Security Releases Report On City Disaster Preparedness

Only six of the 75 cities rated have received a top rating in the scorecard to be released today by the Department. Communication capabilities were the focus of the ratings.

Devlin Barrett, Associated Press Writer, wrote:

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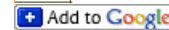
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Washington -- On Sept. 11, 2001, New York fire battalion chief Dennis Devlin issued an urgent plea: His men were in "a state of confusion" and needed more working radios immediately. Yet, more than five years since Devlin and 342 other members of the city's fire department perished at the World Trade Center, the government says only six U.S. cities have fully answered the late fire chief's call by adopting advanced emergency communications systems.

New York is not one of the six, according to the scorecard by the Homeland Security Department that was to be released Wednesday.

A draft portion of the report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press gives the best ratings to the Washington, D.C., area; San Diego; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Columbus, Ohio; Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Laramie County, Wyo.

The lowest scores go to Chicago; Cleveland; Baton Rouge, La.; Mandan, N.D.; and American Samoa. The report includes large and small cities and their suburbs, along with U.S. territories.

In an overview, the report says all 75 areas surveyed have policies in place for helping their emergency workers communicate. But it also finds that "formalized governance (leadership and planning) across regions has lagged."

Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke would not comment on the report, saying only that in releasing it Wednesday, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff will "talk about nationwide assessments for interoperable communications."

Read the rest of the article here and download full DHS report... <http://wid.ap.org>

posted by AnneTFM at [9:33 AM](#) | [0 comments](#)



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