

**University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Office Annual Report
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**

conducted jointly with ANR's Risk Services Office. The Risk Services portion of the Program Review included a review of insurance claims, background check procedures, facility use agreements, waivers, and insurance certificates.

Results of the EH&S Program Reviews identified a total of 323 deficiencies with 26 (or 8%) labeled "minor", 223 (or 79%) labeled "moderate" and 74 (or 23%) labeled "serious" deficiencies. No "imminent" hazards were identified. All deficiencies were corrected within their assigned timeframes.

Although there was an increase of 30% in total locations audited in the past year, there was a 7% decrease in the "serious" deficiencies found. This may be attributed to an increase in the awareness of and correction of hazards that have the potential to cause serious injury.

During 2008–2009 11 inspections were performed by 11 different regulatory agencies at five RECs and two CE offices. Inspections were conducted by four county Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs), two Air Pollution Control Districts, one city Fire Department, one county Fire Department, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, one county Planning and Development Agency, and Cal/OSHA. Thirteen violations were issued and corrective actions were taken to abate 12 of the violations within designated timeframes. One fine (\$100) was issued as a result of an inadvertently overlooked permit condition. ANR facilities were reminded to provide copies of permits to EH&S so that the EH&S office can assist in assuring that compliance with all permit conditions is achieved.

EH&S Training

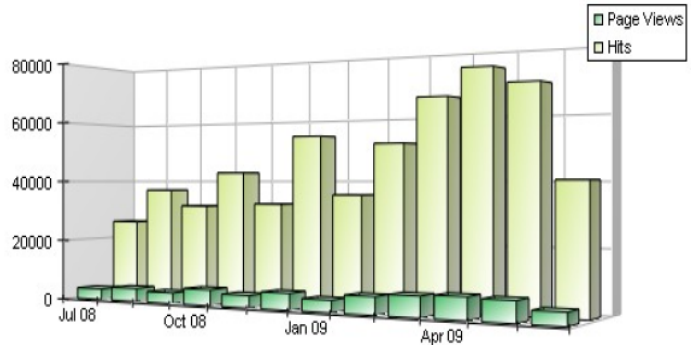
EH&S Office staff have continued to provide training at ANR facilities and offices, including respirator fit testing and training and presentations on safety responsibilities, injury illness prevention program (IIPP), building evacuation, driver safety, use of fire extinguishers, safe lifting practices, workstation ergonomics, and hazard communication. More than 442 persons were trained by ANR EH&S staff this year, including REC employees, UC departmental staff and students, USDA personnel, 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers, and CE employees. Review of written evaluations of EH&S training and presentations indicated attendees have an overall favorable approval rating of 100%.



Shafter Fire Training

EH&S Website (<http://safety.ucanr.org>)

The EH&S website experienced a second successive year where hits per month (hpm) increased three fold. The site went from 25,000 hpm in July '08 to 74,500 hpm in April '09. This increase is attributed to enhanced exposure of the site through in person training, promotional handouts and continued updating of the site



layout. Updating involved having quick link buttons added to the right side of the home page and current topics listed at the top of the panel. This allows site users to have quick access to safety information that is being talked about in the media and among safety professionals.

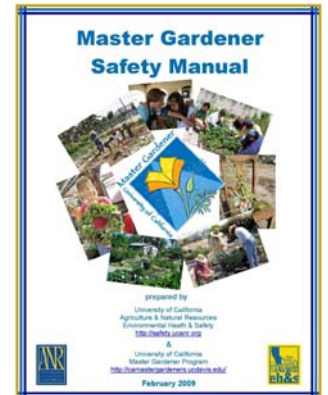
The most popular section of the EH&S website remains the ANR Safety Notes currently featuring 145 notes online. The 4-H and Master Gardener sections included the addition of 18 Clover Safe Notes (now totaling 82), eight Thinking Safe & Green notes, and a Master Gardener Safety Manual; which have resulted in an increase in user hits as well.

EH&S Plans, Forms, and Templates

Several updates were made to existing plans, forms, postings and checklists on the EH&S web site. Updates include; Forklift checklist, Program Review format, and Tractor/Forklift postings. The EH&S office coordinated required five-year reviews of Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plans for five RECs. A Business Travel Insurance Program was implemented, providing an easy link for ANR employees to register for this UC System-wide program.

Master Gardeners

During the past year, the EH&S office continued developing safety resources for the UC Master Gardener Program. Master Gardener is a statewide program with over 3,600 volunteers in 36 counties that extends UC research-based information about home horticulture and pest management to the



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public. To support safety and environmental stewardship within the Master Gardener Program, an additional eight Thinking Safe and Green notes were developed at the request of Master Gardener staff and participants, bringing the total notes to 23. Moreover, the EH&S office developed and published a Master Gardener Safety Manual for use by Master Gardener staff and volunteers.

4-H Youth Development Program (YDP)

The EH&S office continued to provide 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 the development of an additional 18 "Clover Safe" notes and 15 attendant activity sheets. A total of 82 Clover Safe notes and 66 activity sheets are now posted on the EH&S web site. A series of 82 Newsletter Items have been developed for use by 4-H Program Representatives.



4-H Summer Camp Flag Ceremony

Newsletter Items are intended for insertion into local 4-H newsletters and correspond to the detailed Clover Safe notes.

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.

In support of Desert REC, EH&S staff secured regulatory approval for the replacement of outdated components of the drinking water system. A new above-ground drinking water storage tank has been installed as shown in the above picture and a new pre-filter is scheduled for installation during the current fiscal year. In addition, the poorly



Desert REC Drinking Water Storage Tank

performing conventional water treatment system is proposed to be replaced by an automated microfiltration unit. This new treatment system will result in a more reliable operation, with lower maintenance, and provide improved water quality to comply with ever-increasing drinking water quality standards.

Accident/Injury Investigation and Prevention

At the start of this year, the EH&S office started to conduct follow-up calls on all reported ANR injuries. The goal was to identify trends in injury causes and thereby, implement measures to prevent future injuries of similar nature from occurring. During the '08-'09 FY the most frequently reported ANR employee injury was sprains and strains (22 total). Since the cause of most sprain and strain injuries ranged from slips, trips, and falls to car accidents, the only underlying factor that was common in all occurrences was a diminished awareness of the injured person's surroundings. To address this decrease in awareness, in the coming year EH&S staff will search for programs and tools that can assist employees to remain focused and identify potential hazards in their workplaces, whether indoors or in the field.

EH&S Program Goals for 2009-10

Some of the initiatives that EH&S staff will be working on in 2009-10 are listed below:

- Enhance the Safety Coordinator Program, including quarterly Safety Coordinator Update e-mails and an annual Safety Coordinator webinar to share information and get input on how EH&S can help improve safety across ANR.
- Implement more online training options.
- Review and update all EH&S policies and guidelines.
- Development of a camp safety manual for 4-H YDP.

Contact ANR EH&S: <http://ucanr.org/askehs>
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