

California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) December 2011 Update

CIHC Conference, December 5 - 7, 2011, *Driving Positive EHS Change in a Challenging Environment*, San Francisco, the Hotel Nikko —The 21st Annual CIHC Conference was a success! With approximately 200 attendees and 17 sponsors, it was one of the best attended CIHC conferences in recent years. Topics covered were:

- * Emerging Issues in Sustainability and Nanotechnology
- * Environmental Drivers and Global Energy Issues
- * Non-Traditional IH Practice
- * Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Two of the featured speakers on Day One included the new chief of Cal/OSHA, Ellen Widess, and Dr. John Howard, Director NIOSH, gave the Keynote Luncheon address.



Ellen Widess, Cal/OSHA Chief, addressing the CIHC Attendees



Dr. John Howard, Director NIOSH, delivering the Keynote luncheon address

For more details on the conference, and to view/download speaker presentations, visit www.cihconline.com. The CIHC conference will head to southern California in 2012, so keep an eye out in the next few months for those save-the-date emails.

In addition to the superb technical content, this year a subcommittee of current and former CIHC board members conducted a survey in November to gauge how CIHC is meeting the needs and expectations of the IH Community in California (1,506 surveys sent, 195 respondents, 12.9% response rate). At the end of Day One, the survey results were communicated and an open forum on how best the CIHC can serve the Industrial Hygiene community was conducted. The feedback was quite positive overall and the general consensus (over 90% of survey respondents with comments in support during the forum) was that CIHC provides a valuable service. One key area the CIHC Board will review and work harder on in 2012 is improving our communication to all CIHC members. CIHC membership is comprised of all Local Section members in California's five local sections. As CIHC is an extension of each California Local Section, the Board generally relies on Local Section channels for communication. Several good

ideas were provided to enhance our communications on the numerous activities that CIHC is involved with and will attempt to implement many as we begin our 2012 activities.

CIHC's next meeting is scheduled for March, 2012 (specific date TBD) to review the next Congressional Session bills that affect California EHS. Local section members are invited to attend. Minutes from all meetings, as well as legislative reports and all of CIHC activities, are available on our website at www.cihconline.com. Feel free to contact us—we need your input and insights!

As the busy year winds down, we wish you all a very Happy Holiday and New Year!

Patty Beach, CIH
NCS-AIHA Representative to CIHC

Chris Laszcz-Davis, CIH
NCS-AIHA Representative to CIHC