ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON · SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Martin Cohen, ScD, CIH, CSP

I am a senior lecturer, director of the Field Research and Consultation Group (FRCG), and the Department's assistant chair for stakeholder engagement. These roles allow me to help improve the working environment of employees in Washington state and train students in skills they will need to become health and safety professionals and researchers.

SERVICE

- The Field Research and Consultation Group works with a number of companies to conduct on-site health and safety assessments and identify appropriate hazard controls. In the past, we have worked with sawmills, metal fabricators, foundries, construction companies, among other industries. Learn more: http://deohs.washington.edu/frcg.
- I help students get internships in occupational health and exposure sciences. Internships have been with a number of private companies and local, state, and federal agencies. Students that have done these internships have had an easier time finding a job after they graduate.

TEACHING

- Recognition of Health and Safety Problems in Industry (ENVH 564) – Students visit five different facilities and learn about the production processes and perform a safety and health walkthrough evaluation. Recent sites have included a foundry, commercial laundry, cabinet manufacturer, lead acid battery manufacturer and a steel mill.

RESEARCH

- I specialize in evaluating novel exposure control methods, which can reduce worker exposure to toxic compounds and workplace hazards.
- Some of the work I have done can be used to help workers see the importance of using a properly fit-tested respirator, such as this educational video: http://tinyurl.com/zjrhcd3.

Find out more: http://deohs.washington.edu/faculty/cohen_martin

STUDENTS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH ME

- Melvin Torres (MS, 2014) studied exposure to lead in a firing range. Lead can build up in the body and can cause a wide range of health effects. Melvin investigated firearms instructors' lead exposures and the range's ventilation system, which is responsible for removing lead dust from the air. He found that the system adequately protected the health of firing range users.
- Nazila Shakibaei (MS, 2014) studied local exhaust ventilation systems for use by nail salon workers. These workers can be exposed to a variety of potentially toxic chemicals found in the products they use throughout the day. Nazila set up a mock nail salon in the lab and measured acetone exposure during removal of the nail polish and fake nails. Explore the creative exposure setup that she designed and her conclusions: http://tinyurl.com/hfl3jr7

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

The use of video exposure monitoring in a training video to motivate fit-testing and the appropriate use of healthcare N95 respirators. American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference and Expo, May 22, 2013, Montreal, Canada.

Hexavalent chromium exposure controls: Best practices for welders. BC Yukon American Industrial Hygiene Association, March 13, 2014, Vancouver, Canada.

Silica in construction. Washington Division of Occupational Safety and Health Symposium, May 20, 2014, Wenatchee, WA.

Reducing workers' exposures to chemicals and dust in nail salons using local exhaust ventilation systems. Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association – Northwest Occupational Health Conference, Oct 16, 2014, Richland, WA.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Students have gone on to work for the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, the US Coast Guard, and a private consulting firm. Job titles include safety and environmental health officer, industrial hygiene compliance officer, and safety and health specialist.

LEARN MORE

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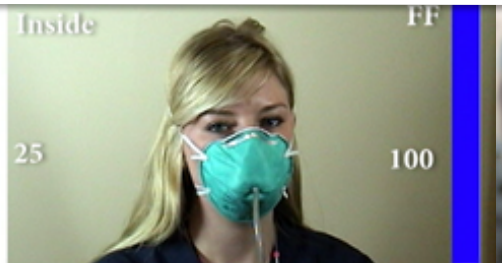

Photos, from left: Worker at a recycling facility (credit: Marty Cohen); Still image from video demonstrating the importance of respirator fit (credit: Marty Cohen); Students touring construction site (credit: Katherine Turner).