

## **Asbestos, Contaminants and Other Indoor Environmental Quality Issues**

### Workshop description:

*H&S Committees and on-site labor and management networks must be prepared to deal with IAQ issues quickly and effectively. In an office setting IAQ complaints are more often caused by a combination of conditions rather than solely due to a specific chemical contaminant. Fear surrounds any hint of asbestos exposure. Ventilation, temperature, off-gassing of office materials, noise, and stress may impact workers health, resulting in symptoms such as headaches, irritated eyes or fatigue. The training program will cover the essentials of preventative measures, remediation practices, and building operations necessary to eliminate or reduce the possibility for exposure to indoor environmental contaminants including asbestos, common chemicals such as cleaning agents, paints or renovation materials, and others. Participants will design an indoor air quality action plan for preventing negative health effects related to indoor environmental contaminants, and focus on using H&S Committees and local L/M representatives to effectively address these issues.*

### **Tentative Agenda:**

#### **Module I: Introduction to IEQ**

Overview of IEQ Issues

Health Effects of IEQ Contaminants (Irritant, Acute and Long-term)

Role of the Occupational Health Clinics

#### **Module II: IEQ and the Larger Scheme of Things**

How common is it in the office environment?

Indoor Air Quality Standards and Ventilation– what do they mean?

Specific contaminants found in indoor environments

#### **Module III: Asbestos**

How common is it in the office environment?

When/how does it pose a problem?

Health Effects

Code Rule 56

#### **Module IV: Indoor Environmental Quality Inspections**

How to conduct a walkthrough: how, where and what to look for

Tools for IEQ Inspections

Common Materials/Chemicals Used and how to use MSDS

Interpreting Results

#### **Module IV: Remediation Practices**

What Should Happen, When, Where, How and by Whom?

Initial planning for IEQ and remediation projects

Methods of Control/Abatement

#### **Module V: Communications and the Role of the H&S Committees**

How to use the H&S Committee to address/resolve issues

Role of OGS in leased and state owned buildings/ relations with landlords/ construction site managers

Communicating to Employees

Action Planning

#### **Module VI: Resources**

Within the agencies

Unions

Occupational Health Clinics

NYS Resources (DOH, OGS, DEC)

PESH & ACB

Federal Resources (EPA, NIOSH)

Web Resources