


THE UPDATE

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The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.



MOLD ALERT

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has recently initiated a series of efforts addressing worker protection since it believes that mold has become an important safety, health and environment (SH&E) issue for its member and healthcare professionals. In the absence of a universally accepted standard from a cognizant authority, ASSE has been selected by ANSI to set the basis for the foundation of ANSI Z690, Guidelines for Mold and Fungi Control and Remediation for Worker Protection in Indoor Work Environment which is intended "to establish a framework in which workers can be protected from the potential adverse health effects of mold and in which persons needing to address mold-related issues can evaluate any proposed preventive or remediation measures".



SECURITY CONCERNS THREATEN INTERNET USERS

A potentially serious security issue surfaced recently that could affect large parts of the Internet as well as corporate networks utilizing networking products from Check Point, Cisco Systems, Cray, and Juniper Networks are among those vulnerable to hackers due to protocol flaws according to the UK-based National Infrastructure Security Coordination Centre (NISCC) and the US Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Division. Consult <http://www.uniras.gov.uk/vuls/2004/236929/index.htm> for further information regarding the above referenced NISCC Vulnerability issues.



COMPUTER RESISTANT FIRE FIGHTING FLUID

A common problem when dealing with fires in computer centers, museums, libraries and offices are damages occasioned by automatic fire sprinkler activation to exposed computer electronics by conductive water intrusion. According to New Scientist.com, Tyco Fire & Security, Boca Raton, Florida recently launched a fire addressing suppression system called Sapphire that detects smoke and then sprays the entire room with a non-conductive fire suppression liquid produced by 3M, called Novec

1230 ,and claimed to require 25 times less energy to evaporate than water; thereby evaporating quickly to avoid damage to computer electronic components .



NEW GRID COMPUTING ALLIANCE

A number of prominent business technology managers recently introduced their Enterprise Grid Alliance claiming it will advance grid computing as the next evolutionary step in network computing by providing an open forum for hardware and software vendors, service providers and IT professionals. It also plans to help customers obtain lower costs and better systems utilization by making it easier for systems from multiple vendors to interoperate in a common grid. However like any type of network, a grid of computers and other systems can only work well if customers can mix and match resource from multiple vendors.

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