Safeopedia Presents: A Review of Medical Surveillance In Occupational Health Programs



DATE: April 28, 2022

TIME: 11:00AM PT

SPEAKER: Doug Trout

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This session will provide an overview of several aspects of medical screening and surveillance as part of an Occupational Health Program. A formal occupational health surveillance program includes aspects of hazard and medical surveillance. Although the focus of this session concerns medical surveillance, integration of hazard and medical surveillance is key to an effective occupational health surveillance program. Medical surveillance describes activities that target health events or a change in a biologic function of an exposed person or persons. A surveillance program involves recurrent longitudinal examinations and data analysis over time. Medical screening is a complementary activity that is designed to detect early signs of work-related illness by administering tests to apparently healthy persons in a cross-sectional approach.

The Building Trades National Medical Screening Program is a voluntary national medical screening program which provides ongoing medical screening exams, at no cost, to construction workers previously employed at Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons sites. This session will provide an overview of the BTMed, which has the mission of assisting construction workers who have been employed on DOE sites and who may be at significant risk for occupational illnesses as a result of their work. Lastly, the session will provide a brief overview of issues to consider related to medical screening as part of an occupational health screening program for workers and workplaces during the current phase of the pandemic.

Doug Trout, MD, MHS is currently a Medical Officer in the NIOSH Office of

Construction Safety and Health and a member of the NIOSH Construction Sector Council. Doug has worked for NIOSH since 1992 in several roles, including a number of years in the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program. He has a degree in Industrial Hygiene and is an Internal Medicine and Occupational Medicine physician.

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