

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE, as defined by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, is:

That science and art devoted to the recognition, evaluation and control of those environmental factors or stresses arising in or from the workplace that may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort and inefficiency among workers or among the citizens of the community.

In short, the primary purpose of industrial hygiene is to reduce or eliminate the various health hazards in the workplace arising from environmental agents. These environmental hazards can include chemical agents, physical stresses (heat, cold, vibration, noise), biological agents, and workplace design (ergonomics) factors. Recognition of the presence of these factors is critical in diagnosing and solving potential work-related health problems.

At Jurgiel & Associates, an evaluation of the work environment, whether by means of air sampling, noise monitoring, or general assessment of environmental factors and risks, is always completed in a highly professional manner using state-of-the-art instrumentation and industry accepted methods. All analytical analyses are performed at laboratories accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

When an occupational exposure risk is identified, the broad range of potential control measures are evaluated by Jurgiel & Associates prior to our recommendations.

The potential control strategies may be selected from alternatives including source elimination, process isolation, application of feasible engineering controls, administrative remedies, and use of personal protection devices (respirators, protection clothing, etc). Within the framework of accepted industrial hygiene practice and various regulatory requirements,



Jurgiel & Associates will recommend practical and results-oriented solutions to efficiently and effectively control the environmental health hazards.

Developing and documenting exposure monitoring data are an important part of ensuring workplace health and safety. In many cases, they are a requirement of occupational safety and health regulations. Such information can also be extremely useful in addressing potential workers' compensation issues or liability claims. To ensure that such monitoring data is developed and interpreted in a competent manner, a board Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) should play an active role in the project design and implementation. The designation "CIH" is a mark of distinction conferred by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene only to individuals meeting strict and extensive academic and professional requirements.

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