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A Variety of Events Planned for 2013

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AHMP News

AHMP 2013 National Conference - Call for Abstracts

Plan to take an active part in the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, on September 15-18, 2013. AHMP encourages abstract submissions from environmental, health, and safety professionals in all areas related to hazardous materials. Visit the following website link for more information: <http://ahmp.confex.com/ahmp/2013/cfp.cgi>.

Bernalillo County Emergency Support Function Presentation at NMSHMM Luncheon Meeting

George Schroeder, from the Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department, and Kelly Murtagh, from the Bernalillo County Homeland Security Emergency Management Department, will discuss Bernalillo County's Emergency Support Function. The role of hazardous materials managers will be covered. One CHMM recertification credit will be available. Please join us: on **January 16, 11:30 am, at Macaroni Grill, 2100 Louisiana NE, Albuquerque.** *Next month's meeting will be on-line. Log-on information will be emailed to you.*

Candidates Needed for NMSHMM Board

NMSHMM needs a few members to step-up and run for board positions. In the upcoming election, positions are open for President-Elect and Directors-at-Large. We also need volunteers for the Education Committee. Our organization depends on volunteers, and we need you to become actively involved in NMSHMM. If interested, please email nmshmm@nmshmm.org or call Eric Johnson at (505) 898-8848.

Holiday Social

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Holiday Social at Landry's in December. The event was an opportunity to meet and greet with fellow NMSHMM members and contribute to a worthy organization. This year's recipient was the Barrett Foundation, an organization geared towards helping women and children. A large donation from the attendees included hats, gloves, diapers, socks, household goods, and cash. The

Barrett Foundation is in need all year long for items that would supply a small apartment with food and support materials. Check their website for needs or how to drop off donations.

SFCC HAZWOPER Course

A 40-hour HAZWOPER course is scheduled for January 14-18th 2013 at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), and seats are still available. This HAZWOPER course is free to individuals who apply and qualify under the **Centers of Excellence grant criteria** (US Department of Labor SESP funds). Janet Kerley, SFCC's lead environmental and safety instructor, will be teaching this course. Contact Ann Black, Associate Dean for Economic and Workforce Development at SFCC: (505) 428-1811 or ann.black@sfcc.edu.

Science Fair

Central New Mexico Science & Engineering Research Challenge is around the corner. It is once again time to ask NMSHMM to participate in the 53rd Central NM Science & Engineering Research Challenge to be held March 14-16, 2013 on the University of New Mexico Main Campus. Special Award judging will take place on Friday, March 15, 2013 from 12:00pm (registration) until 3:45pm (close of judging; students dismissed). Judges are needed for the entire period 12:00-3:45 pm. If interested please contact Sandra Martin, Education Chair, at nmshmm@nmshmm.org.

New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program

With approximately 15,000 abandoned mine features in our state, the New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program has plenty of potential work. One of the AML Program's current priorities is to prepare a comprehensive plan to protect the public from old mines at Silver City's Boston Hill Open Space. Measures being considered include netting over open shafts, enclosures at mine openings to protect bats and other wildlife, and providing recreational amenities at the Boston Hill Open Space.

The New Mexico AML is an agency within the New Mexico Department of Energy Minerals and

Natural Resources tasked with remediating dangerous and hazardous features at abandoned mines. A federal law, the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977 (SMCRA), set up the framework for state abandoned mine programs. The AML Program receives funding from a coal production reclamation fee. Based on a category structure established by SMCRA, the AML Program prioritizes and selects mine features to work on based on the dangerous conditions and environmental hazards of the feature.

There are many hazards that may be present at an



abandoned mine – thus, old mines are not a good place for casual exploring on a weekend. Hazards included open shafts, unstable high walls, contaminated water bodies, rusting machinery, and defected explosives. Air quality is often poor. Poison gases can be present and often accumulate in low areas of the mine. Horizontal mine entrances, or adits, can collapse at any time. Weathered rock around the adit may have deteriorated, and the slightest noise, such as footsteps, can set off a cave-in. It is easy to fall in an abandoned mine such as down a shaft, off a high wall, or on a broken ladder. Dynamite may be present. Most hazardous materials managers should have enough safety awareness training to keep away from old explosives and blasting caps.

On the positive side, abandoned mines provide wildlife habitat, especially for bats. Abandoned mines are similar to caves and provide areas for rearing young, hibernation, and rest stops during spring or fall migration. Twenty-seven bat species occur in New Mexico such as the spotted bat, pallid bat, and spotted bat. Other species found in caves include barn owls and rattlesnakes. Providing habitat for this wildlife is an important consideration when remediating dangerous conditions and environmental hazards.

More information is available at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/AML/amlmain.html> and in a December 24th *Albuquerque Journal Business Outlook* article.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nmshmm.org

Upcoming NMSHMM Events

Date	Event	Information & Location
Jan. 16 – 11:30 AM to 1:00 pm	Luncheon Meeting	Emergency Support Function presentation by George Schroeder, Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department, and Kelly Murtagh, Bernalillo County Homeland Security, Emergency Management Department. Location: Macaroni Grill, 2100 Louisiana Blvd. NE
Jan. 17 – 5:00 pm	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE, 5:00 pm. Dinner served to all attendees.
Feb. 20 – Noon	Webinar	Log-on information will be sent to you by email.
Feb. 21 – 5:00 pm	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE. More information at www.nmshmm.org
Mar. 20 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Luncheon Meeting	Speaker to be announced
Mar. 21 - 5:00 pm	Board Meeting	AMEC, 8519 Jefferson NE. More information at www.nmshmm.org

The New Mexico Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association holds its regular luncheon meeting the first Tuesday of every month at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 10415 Central Avenue NE (@ Eubank), Albuquerque, NM 87123, Mike du Mond, e-mail: du_Mond@juno.com

About NMSHMM..

NMSHMM's mission is to provide environmental professionals in the Southwest with a forum for professional development, education

and networking opportunities; and to offer our community environmental, health, and safety expertise.