

# Greater Houston Industrial Hygiene Council

## December 13, 2018

Hurricane Harvey, Mercury, Residential VOCs, Pesticides and Silica – Oh, my!

**Special Thanks to Agenda Producer(s):**

*Justin Lopez, CIH, ASP, MPH, Inside Sales and Consultant and Dave Thomas, President  
REPSS, Inc.*

- 8:30-8:50**            **Sign-in/Desk Opens**  
Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
- 8:50-9:00**            **Welcome - Agenda Review (Justin Lopez and Dave Thomas)**
- 9:00-10:00**           **Facility Potential Exposure Mitigation and Resolution Post Harvey**  
*Jan Koehn, JK, Inc.*  
Remaining floodwaters, extensive building damage and severe immediate impact on work operations existed in Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Required provision of on-going response efforts was conducted to attempt to address basic human health and safety considerations in addition to assistance with future re-occupational of workplaces.
- 10:00-11:30**        **Mercury during Turnarounds**  
*Kevin Grice and Vivek Patel, Chevron*  
Mercury occurs naturally in oil and gas deposits at varying levels. When crude oil or natural gas is produced, mercury is entrained in the stream and deposits itself in various forms and locations throughout the refining process. This presents operational issues in processing facilities and potential health, safety, and environmental issues. This presentation will provide a brief history of mercury measurement in hydrocarbon products, behavior accumulation, and review some findings from a recent crude unit turnaround.
- 11:30-12:30**        **LUNCH**  
*Provided by SWCOEH*
- 12:30-1:30**           **Residential VOCs**  
*Jeff Cook, CIH, CSP, TxMAC, RAS, CXL, LEED AP BD&C, Principal Consultant, Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc.*  
Field measurements of residential low concentration VOCs, and their significance to occupant health, with special emphasis on expanding polyurethane foam.
- 1:30-2:30**            **Residential VOCs – Toxicology Perspective**  
*Carla Kinslow, PhD, Director, Toxicology and Food Safety, Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc.*  
Residential low concentration VOCs, odors and evaluating the hazard potential: A toxicology perspective.
- 2:30-2:40**            **BREAK**

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- 2:40-3:40**            **Overview of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation and Use in the United States**  
*David Lee, ARM, CIH, CSP, Risk Consultant, Lockton Companies*  
An overview of the history of pesticide regulation, EPA's role in pesticides use in this country, working safely with pesticides, pesticide toxicology and why regulation is so important to agricultural workers.
- 3:40-4:10**            **Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Characterization during Hydraulic Fracturing Operations**  
*Justin Lopez, CIH, ASP, MPH, Inside Sales and Consultant, REPSS, Inc.*  
Potential exposures during hydraulic fracturing operations are relatively uncharacterized. The use of silica in proppant is common and industry trends indicate more silica is being used with smaller mesh sizes during each hydraulic fracturing job which could increase potential exposures. This study looks at respirable crystalline sources, measurement techniques and potential exposures during on-shore hydraulic fracturing in the US.
- 4:10-4:30**            **Round Table and Close-Out**