

ABSA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Form Alliance

The American Biological Safety Association is pleased to announce a new alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). ABSA and OSHA share the common goal of protecting health, and preventing illness and injury in the workplace. The agreement calls for ABSA and OSHA to share technical information and best practices on biological safety.

This partnership is a unique opportunity to work together on workplace biological safety issues related to training, education, outreach and communications. ABSA takes pride in this new alliance. It signals clear commitment to collaborate and use our collective expertise in addressing the protection of health in the workplace.

This initiative was undertaken during a year of unprecedented change and challenge for ABSA. The events of the past year have dramatically altered the biosafety work environment. Bioterrorism concerns have led ABSA members to broaden the scope of their profession to include biosecurity, responses to suspicious packages, the decontamination of mail rooms, and the management of other bioterrorism-related issues.

Bioterrorism has also become a familiar part of OSHA's work. Workers whose jobs would not ordinarily involve biological exposure could be, and have been, exposed through acts of terrorism. OSHA continues to play a central role in addressing hazards associated with bioterrorism. ABSA is pleased to have provided assistance to OSHA's Homeland Security Working Group with the development of their Biological Agent Fact Sheets.

ABSA is committed to continue to work with OSHA on emerging biosafety issues. By implementing the alliance's plan of action, ABSA and OSHA can reduce workplace hazards from biological agents and achieve a high level of worker safety and health.

For the OSHA News Release please see <http://www.osha.gov/media/oshnews/sep02/trade-20020923.html>