



News and Reminders for the PPE Professional

Summer Wear Guidelines

In the summer, heat exhaustion is an important hazard to be aware of. Remind your workers:

Clean FR coveralls +Cotton Underwear & T-shirt = Win!

T-shirts are optional. The external coverall is what is important. 100% Cotton underneath is very important– it allows the coverall to work the way it should. Keeping layers to a minimum allows workers to stay as cool as possible.

Don't forget: Allow adequate breaks, access to water, and sun protection (Consider tinted safety glasses if applicable)

The American National Institute for Safety and Health (NIOSH) has posted this handy guideline for heat stress:

[NIOSH Fast Facts](#)

Obviously, this short blurb in no way covers the nitty gritty science and care that goes into PPE choices. This is a simple reminder to also account for weather and physical needs in hot weather. Each H&S committee or Safety Officer should look at PPE options and what applies to their hazard assessments and industry risks.

Please contact Peter Clark for the whole story, including training tips and resources. He is a willing partner to help figure out how the standards and regulations apply to your company.

Our Focus is Keeping You Safe



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PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

THE RIGHT STUFF

Show us workers wearing the right stuff the right way. If we use your photo, we will contact you to select a prize. Your picture may be used on our website or in the next newsletter!

[For More Details Please Contact Peter Clark](#)

StayCool FR : Ultrasoft AC– The New Cool



StayCool FR

[For Wear Trial Details Please Contact Michelle Petrin](#)

Ultrasoft AC is the new FR Pima Cotton Blend from Westex.

Increased comfort, softness, and durability without compromising on safety. We have already created shirts and coveralls for clients in the 7oz fabric, and are excited to review the 9 oz fabric when available.

Our next newsletter will contain responses from users, giving 'on the job' feedback on feel, weight, how it washes and more!

Facebook and Twitter: Up and Running!



We post daily regarding new textile innovations, ongoing work at the U of A textiles research labs, safety expo's and Edmonton and area happenings.

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We are happy to join everyone in the 21st Century!

BANFF PETROLEUM SAFETY CONFERENCE 2011

Leadership & Safety Go Hand in Hand



Our Booth:
Base camp for the whole conference.
From our Hospitality night with Westex and Katch-Kan on the 2nd to pack up on Thursday May 5th.

The Banff Petroleum Safety Conference is a hit with industry leaders every year, with lots of room for learning, collaborative projects, and plenty of networking. This year we attended the trade show with six representatives, and decided our new newsletter would showcase four different perspectives from the event.

Monique (The Newbie Sales Rep):

Can you tell me five thoughts that describe your initial impression when you arrived: Wow, Massive, Overwhelming, Amazing, and Unexpected.

And five thoughts to describe your end impressions: Tired, Calluses, Overload of knowledge, Inspiring, Hung over.

As a person new to the PPE industry, would you say you gained a better understanding of the people you will be meeting with in the industry? I met a lot of people I will need to get to know, and I am excited about the contacts I made. The people at the conference, all kidding aside were really there to learn. That was great to see. I went into one of the conference proceedings (Westex and the University of Alberta put on a presentation regarding PPE) and there was so much information to absorb. I also heard about new undercurrents- like how women in the oil-patch have different needs and this gave me some ideas to bring back from the conference.

What will you do to prepare for future events like this? Get way more sleep before the show! With our hospitality event at the Balkan Restaurant Tuesday night, setting up the booth Tuesday, opening the booth by 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and the evenings spent networking– It makes for very little sleep!

Tom Legare (Our President. The Big Guns):

Can you tell me your initial impression when you arrived: The show seemed bigger than it has in the past... I loved that our booth was up in the front hall, we had a great view of people. That said, sometimes it felt like we missed some of the engagement, because people would walk past the booth to get to the rest of the show, instead of stopping to chat.

Why do you go every year?: I really like the 'meeting of the minds' that happens there. We love sharing ideas, and in Banff this happens openly with everyone, which you don't often see elsewhere. Everyone is focused on safety,

And the Hospitality night?: I think it was brilliant this year! Our venue had plenty of people, but they weren't just party crashing for free food, we really enjoyed the evening and met with some great people in the industry. Next year we can aim to have a bit more visibility– a door sign or something so people can find it, and see who is putting it on for everyone.

What did you want to convey as our message at Banff?: We are a manufacturer within Canada and we focus on Safety, Quality, and Standards. We are not a company that just sells coveralls. We make sure they are made properly, with the right fabrics to keep people safe. When people buy our products, we aren't just selling clothes. This is PPE. We want them to know that we are doing our due diligence and ensuring they are getting the right product. Our company takes pride in our reputation for integrity. This comes with a responsibility to be aware of what's happening throughout the industry, and we are willing to discuss the changing face of PPE and garment choices with anyone, whether they are our client or not.

You took some sample rainwear products that we are looking into– Why?: I think the rainwear was a great visual to communicate what we are working on. Shortly after Banff Peter and I went to Europe to explore some rainwear initiatives that are developing there. Rainwear and steamburn are both 'problem areas' in this market, they need to be addressed. We want people to know that we are aware of the issues, and we are going to great lengths to find good products which will meet standards and keep them safe.

What were your wrap up thoughts on Banff?: Often we put a lot into the show, we have a great booth, a big party, a lot of action and planning goes into making our presence known. That in and of itself is great, but sometimes we don't necessarily move forward on the things we discussed while there. We obtain information, we make contacts, and then we get back to the regular grind work. This year we have committed to following up with the people we have met, the new ideas we have, making the motivation of the show last through until next year.

Michelle (Banff is her PARTY. She's been going for a while):

Can you tell me five thoughts that describe your initial impression when you arrived: I can't sum it up in five words. The FR/Safety clothing/ PPE world is always changing, but Banff happens every year. This year was great, because I met up with people that I haven't been in touch with for years, and it's great to see them again. Banff is like going home.

And your end thoughts: Well... then it's over. So you pack up, go back to Edmonton. The challenge is to keep the connections that you have found, or rekindled, and actually move forward with the things you've learned.

Can you tell me a bit about the hospitality night, at the Balkan restaurant? We do a hospitality night every year, it's great to just get people together, catch up with who has moved where, what people are up to. We were fortunate to have great partners with Westex and KatchKan this year to share the evening with us, really just getting the conference off on the right foot.

What separates us from some of the other vendors there? I think that we really started to get the message out to people this year that we are not just a company that can send you someone else's garments. We manufacture garments and then ship them right to our customers. We are pretty special in that way– we can build someone a stock program to be housed within our warehouse in Edmonton, or we can supply them with some goods we have off the shelf from our normal stock product. If they just need gear for one crew, one time, we do that. If they want gear for a whole company, for each season, we can do that too. On the fun side of things, I think people really loved the oil can stress balls we gave out– we had no idea they would be such a hit!

Peter (Research and Safety are his priorities):

What is different from Banff than other times you see the industry out in force: What's really nice about Banff is that the people are there for a purpose which is different than normal working affairs. These are huge or small companies, all usually in competition with each other. In this environment, they are all here to learn together, to share cultures with one another, working towards keeping employees safe. It leads to a very different culture, and I love that about Banff.

How do you think that effects how people talk together and the way we communicate with them? Well this is a time when we have the opportunity to share knowledge and not be perceived as cut-throat competitors. I think most safety driven companies are looking for their clients to be protected, bottom line. This is a great forum for that message to be received. I was not there to take away from someone else, I was there to share the knowledge I have so that everyone is safer. I want everyone in the right gear, wearing it properly. Even if it's not supplied by us, I want them to know how to stay as safe as possible.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at apedden@apparelsolutions.ca or call 780-434-6100