

Twenty years of editor's insights on professional safety communication

Harry J. Elston, Ph.D., CIH, Principal, Midwest Chemical Safety, LLC

Editor, *Journal of Chemical Health & Safety*

ANTEELSTON

Chemical Health & Safety first published June/July 1994. Warren Kingsley Editor.

“Maganal” – a Magazine/Journal hybrid concept

Contents included interviews with government and industrial leaders, paid articles, some experimental data. Strong focus on “Lab Standard” and “laboratory safety” wrt hazard identification

Chemical Health & Safety

JUNE/JULY 1994
Volume 1
Number 1

Published by the
American Chemical Society
and the
ACS Division of Chemical
Health and Safety

Piecing together the liability puzzle

Carbon monoxide levels during indoor sporting events

Recent releases from NTP and NIOSH

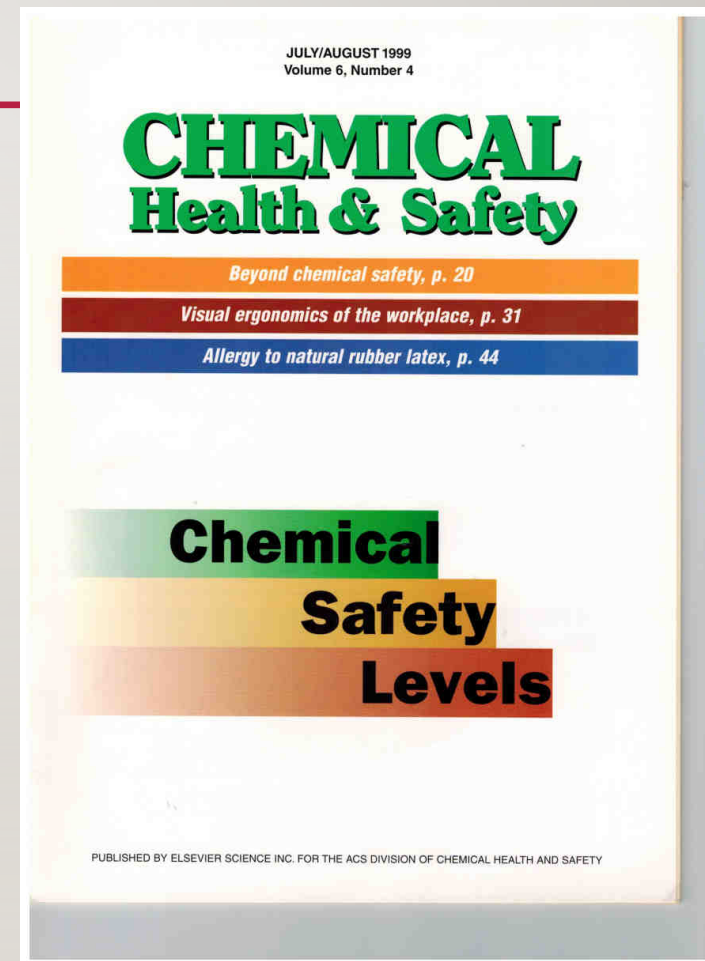


COMMUNICATION FOCUS, CIRCA 1999

- Centered on:
 - Environmental Compliance (primarily EPA)
 - EPA Enforcement Actions in New England and spread
 - Focus on the Lab Standard (and why that failed)

1999-2005 – A CHANGE FOR *CHEMICAL HEALTH & SAFETY*

- Recognition that “Chemical Health and Safety” incorporates much more than “Laboratory Safety.”
- *CHAS* – Emphasis Shift
 - Community best practices – knowledge and experience sharing
 - Goal – to be the “Go-to” publication for chemical safety professionals
 - Management shift to all peer-reviewed content in 1999



-
- Strategic Collaborations 1999 and beyond
 - CSHEMA
 - AIHA Laboratory Safety Committee
 - IHMM
 - To a lesser extent: ASSE, NSC and some others
 - *CHAS* evolving to journal structure
 - *CHAS* brand recognition increasing

2003-2008: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CYCLE

- Success begets success
- Noticeable quality improvement in
 - Content (Rejection rate* close to 80%)
 - Research articles
 - Exposure/exposure control
 - Local exhaust ventilation design
 - Lessons Learned* (from those not afraid to share them)

-
- Communication focus shifting to best practices
 - Recognition that Compliance \neq Safety
 - Brand recognition
 - 2006: *Journal of Chemical Health & Safety*
 - The need for professional development

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT CHANGES IN DECEMBER 2008 (SORT OF)

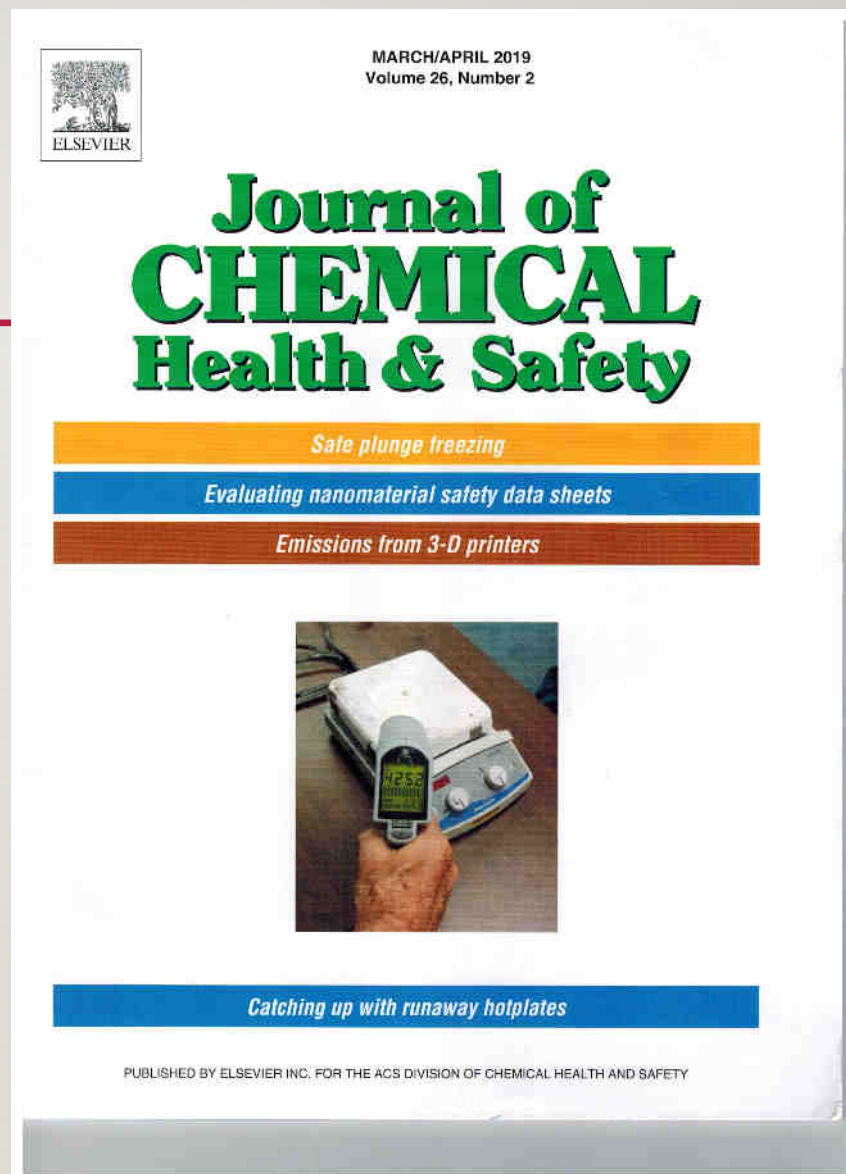
- Shari Sangji research fatality (incident Dec 2008, death in Jan 2009)
- Recognition that the community must do better
 - Hazard and risk communication
 - Process inclusion
 - *JCHAS* responds to needs

TOP CITED AND TOP DOWNLOADED

- *Safe handling of organolithium compounds in the laboratory.* Schwindeman, et al. (May/Jun 2002)
- *Methods for the safe storage, handling, and disposal of pyrophoric liquids and solids in the laboratory.* Alnajjar et al. (Jan/Feb 2011)
- *An exposure assessment of desktop 3-D printing.* Zontek (March/April 2017)
- *A methodology on how to create a real-life, relevant risk profile for a given nanomaterial.* Schimpel, et al. (Jan/Feb 2018)

TRENDS 2008-PRESENT

- Communications are increasing in technical safety
 - Sharing best practices
- Continued difficulty in sharing lessons learned



ACS-CHS 2020 AND BEYOND

