A Growing City, a Center of Industry and Education, Stays Compliant With VelocityEHS

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Chris Knight

Waste Management Manager City of Stillwater, OK

As one of the largest cities in the state, Stillwater, Oklahoma is home to a diverse economy that includes aerospace, agribusiness, and biotech. Stillwater is also the location of Oklahoma State University, a NCAA Division I school with over 23,000 students. A growing city with a steadily increasing population, Stillwater faces all the challenges of an expanding major municipality. This is also true when it comes to its management of hazardous chemical compliance requirements.

Until recently, Stillwater's safety team relied on physical binders full of paper SDSs. However, a call from a salesperson at VelocityEHS turned out to be the first step on a journey that ended with Stillwater managing its SDS library more effectively, efficiently, and inexpensively than ever before.

Chris Knight, Waste Management Manager for Stillwater, explains how the transition occurred. "We had been looking for a different and better way to manage our SDS inventory," says Mr. Knight. "We had paper binders in twelve locations around the city with thousands of SDSs inside. Keeping the binders up to date was always a real chore.

from VelocityEHS, the program that the salesperson described sounded just like what we wanted. We signed up."

When I got this call from out of the blue

According to Mr. Knight, the impacts from adopting VelocityEHS Chemical Management were swift.

"Right away, it started saving us time," reports Mr. Knight. "People weren't running around updating the books, and I wasn't running around checking that it had been done. Using the [VelocityEHS] system to find and place new SDSs in our eBinder was very easy to do. It also saved us money. There was a cost with the paper binders to all of the updating we had been doing internally, in terms of hourly and salary

Stillwater, OK

- Growing aerospace, agribusiness, and biotech hub
- Home to Oklahoma State University
- VelocityEHS customer since 2015

wages. Combined with the fact that it helps keep us in compliance, I'd say it's definitely saving us money in the long term."

Most importantly, Mr. Knight says adopting VelocityEHS has boosted employee safety in important ways.

"The biggest thing is we have a lot of employees who may be working with chemicals they've never used before," says Mr. Knight. "Even with us providing the required training in advance of them working with the chemical, you can't take employee knowledge for granted when it comes to an incident. For example, if an employee gets something in their eyes, despite training on what to do, employees may still defer to the SDS before taking action. That's not a huge problem, since that's one of the main purposes of the SDS, but it underscores the importance of ensuring we always have them readily accessible for all the chemicals in our inventory. And now with VelocityEHS,



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wherever our employees are — as long as they have access to a computer or mobile device — they have access to our company-specific library of SDSs."

Mr. Knight stresses that VelocityEHS also provides peace of mind now that GHS is the law of the land for HazCom in the United States.

"The assistance with getting our HazCom program GHS-aligned is also a benefit," says Mr. Knight. "VelocityEHS has been very helpful for that process. We signed up in 2015 when the transition was still happening. With VelocityEHS, you can find the [GHS-aligned SDS] formats you need to stay compliant."

Mr. Knight concludes by giving advice to anyone considering adopting VelocityEHS.

"First of all, I would say VelocityEHS is going to be a group of people who are very easy to work with, and who are going to be very helpful. And the system itself is going to work great. If you hit a challenge, it may be on your own team. For example, I have some departments who are still hung up on hard copies. I tell 'em, 'You can do you what you want, but you also need to have VelocityEHS.' When they see how easy the [VelocityEHS] system is to use, they begin to appreciate the benefits."







MUNICIPALITIES OF ALL SIZES FIND A TRUSTED COMPLIANCE PARTNER IN VELOCITYEHS

When it comes to chemical management, municipalities are challenged to meet the same OSHA and EPA compliance standards that govern private industry, while contending with the added bureaucracy and limited resources that can accompany government work. At VelocityEHS, we understand these pain-points that local governments face. It's one reason why we designed VelocityEHS Chemical Management to provide powerful, simple, and effective tools, allowing central management of HazCom compliance for multiple locations and departments across a municipality. (Our cost-effective solutions give cities and towns access to the same leading-edge safety tools used by Fortune 1000 companies, helping them keep their workers safe and workplaces compliant by providing among other things required SDS information at the touch of a button — anytime, at any of their locations.) Find out what makes us the provider trusted by so many municipalities across the country for meeting compliance and chemical management and safety needs.

Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile SDS/Chemical Management app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

VelocityEHS Chemical Management pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there's no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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