

Mendon Highway Department
101 Semmel Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472-9755
Town Board Meeting, September 12, 2016
@ Mendon Town Hall

F.Y.I.

1. Work for the County has taken a majority of the man hours during the last month. Work has been conducted in Mendon and Rush, assisting their Highway Department.
2. On August 16, 2016, one of the highway workers was injured while working in Rush. The worker was working at the rear of a truck when a load of hot blacktop material shifted and came over the top of the truck. He received burns to the neck, shoulder, arms, and back area. After being hospitalized for seven days, he is at home recuperating. No date has been set for him to return to work.
3. The Highway Department has set Monday, October 3, 2016, as the start date for the fall brush pick up.
4. Work continues on the NYS PESH concerns. The majority of the items have been addressed, with the Hazardous Communications Program the only item remaining. 267 items have been identified that may require Safety Data Sheets (SDS). These are an expanded version of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) with mandatory training to start in 2013. We first started training July, 2014.

Respectfully,



William E. (Bud) Smith,
Highway Superintendent

Global Harmonization System

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is modifying the Hazard Communication Standard ([29CFR 1910.1200](#)) to come into line with international developments. As explained on the [OSHA website](#):

In 2003, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The GHS includes criteria for the classification of health, physical and environmental hazards, as well as specifying what information should be included on labels of hazardous chemicals as well as safety data sheets. The United States was an active participant in the development of the GHS, and is a member of the UN bodies established to maintain and coordinate implementation of the system. The official text of the GHS can be found on the [UN web page](#).

Under the Global Harmonization System there will be uniformity in the presentation and content of product labels and safety data sheets. As things are now, labels and safety data sheets from different manufacturers can be quite different in format, making it difficult to quickly locate the information that might be important in an emergency. The new style data sheets all have the same 16 part format. The labels and safety data sheets also make use of universal pictograms that make it possible to have an understanding of a chemical's primary hazards with just a brief look.

Here is an example of a current data sheet: <http://hazard.com/msds/f2/bjp/bjyps.html> and here is a data sheet for a similar product that is consistent with the new standard: http://www.alsglobal.eu/docs/eng_20100526_msds_h2so4_en.pdf

OSHA mandates that all affected employees receive training about the changes under the Hazard Communication Standard by December 1, 2013. That mandate is enforced by the Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau of the New York State Department of Labor for public employees in New York State. Public employees must also receive information about the new labels and safety data sheets as part of the mandated training under the State's Right-to-Know Law.

Manufacturers have several years in which to fully transition to the new documents, but you can expect to start seeing them in your workplace soon.