

## Arlington Heights Proclamation

### North American Occupational Safety & Health Week May 2 – 8, 2010 & Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day May 5, 2010

**WHEREAS**, every year more than 6,000 people die from job-related injuries, never returning home from work, and 4.4 million more suffer occupational injuries and illnesses each year in the U.S.

**WHEREAS**, in today's economy where businesses are cutting back in many areas, including safety; and in the recent past, businesses have spent \$170 billion a year on costs associated with occupational injuries, health care and illnesses and about \$1 billion every week to injured employees and their medical providers – costs that take away from company profits, research and growth – costs that continue to go up as cuts in safety are being made; and

**WHEREAS**, indirect tangible costs of injuries may be as much as 20 times the direct costs, including costs from accident investigation, low employee morale, retraining workers, repairs and production delays, while the intangible costs of losing a loved one, a friend and a co-worker go beyond a price tag; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that for every \$1 invested in a work safety and health program, \$3 - 6 are saved as injuries, illnesses and fatalities decline, medical costs and workers compensation costs decrease and productivity increases; and

**WHEREAS**, last year during the economic downturn one state was able to realize for 700 of its businesses participating in a state workers compensation program a \$14,518,778 retrospective return based on the combined efforts of employers, employees, occupational safety and health professionals and state insurance professionals working together to make the state a safer place to work and live. The participants noted that attention to safety does pay great dividends, regardless of the state of the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, occupational safety, health and environmental professionals work every day so that millions of people go to and leave work injury free, by identifying hazards and solutions, and implementing safety and health advances in all industries and at all work places aimed at eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the more than 32,000 members of the 99-year-old American Society of Safety Engineers are occupational safety, health and environmental practitioners committed to protecting people, property and the environment urge employers to continue to invest in effective workplace safety programs as money cut from safety processes now can have an enormous cost later – from higher injury and health care costs, fines, lost production time, employee moral, or worst of all, employee injury or death – the costs of cutting safety – both tangible and intangible – are too high and hard to recoup; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Arlene J. Mulder, Mayor of the Village of Arlington Heights, along with the Arlington Heights Village Board, do hereby proclaim May 2 – 8, 2010 to be North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) and May 5, 2010 to be Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day. We commend occupational safety, health and environmental practitioners for their ongoing commitment to protecting people, property, and the environment and commend those businesses that encourage a strong safety culture and incorporate occupational safety and health into their business strategies. We encourage all industries, organizations, community leaders, employers, and employees to join with the American Society of Safety Engineers to support activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace. We urge employers not to reduce workplace safety programs during economic downturns as it will cost more in the future, and to encourage everyone to be safe at work.

  
Arlene J. Mulder, Mayor

Trustee Carol Blackwood  
Trustee Norman Breyer  
Trustee Joseph Farwell  
Trustee Thomas Glasgow

Trustee Thomas Hayes  
Trustee Bert Rosenberg  
Trustee John Scaletta  
Trustee Thomas Stengren

