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Just The Facts About GHS

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is a hot topic of di nternationally. While GHS has historically focused on the international co e European Union and Japan, the GHS trend is moving west and will definitely be in the spotlight in the U.S. in 2012. GHS has already had and will continue to have profound effects on chemical data management initiatives, both for companies that must author and publish material safety data sheets (MSDS) for their chemical products, as well as those companies that must manage (M)SDS and related chemical data for onsite chemical inventories.

With all of the information and change swirling about GHS, we're presenting "just the facts" in this easy-to-digest Infographic about what you need to know about GHS. Enjoy and share with your colleagues in and out of the EHS profession!

GHS

System of Classification and Labeling Chemicals

is a standard system for labeling and classifying the hazards in chemicals and for conveying that information in health/data sheets for common global use. GHS was developed by international hazard communication experts.

Why do we need GHS?

Without GHS, every country has a different system for communicating chemical-hazard information, with little or no consistency among the systems. GHS is needed to:

Make all systems consistent for workers handling hazardous chemicals

Reduce costs to governments and companies complying with different systems

Enable better communication of chemical information

Protect workers

Increase international trade

What are the end goals of GHS?

The basic goal of GHS is to standardize the classification rules for hazards, as well as safety data sheets (SDS) and chemical labels.

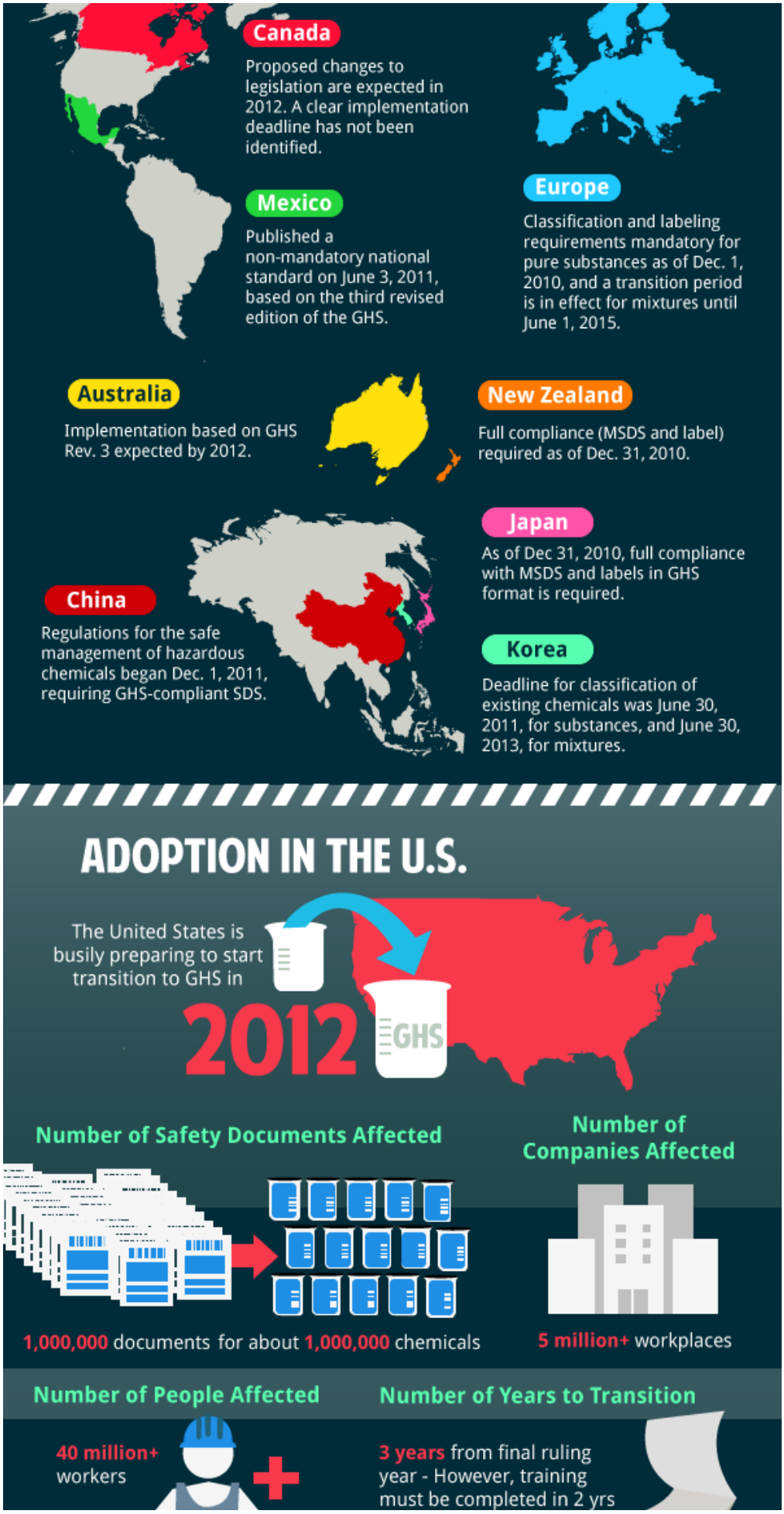
The aim is to create a system that can be utilized as needed by countries using a building-block approach, or a la carte style.

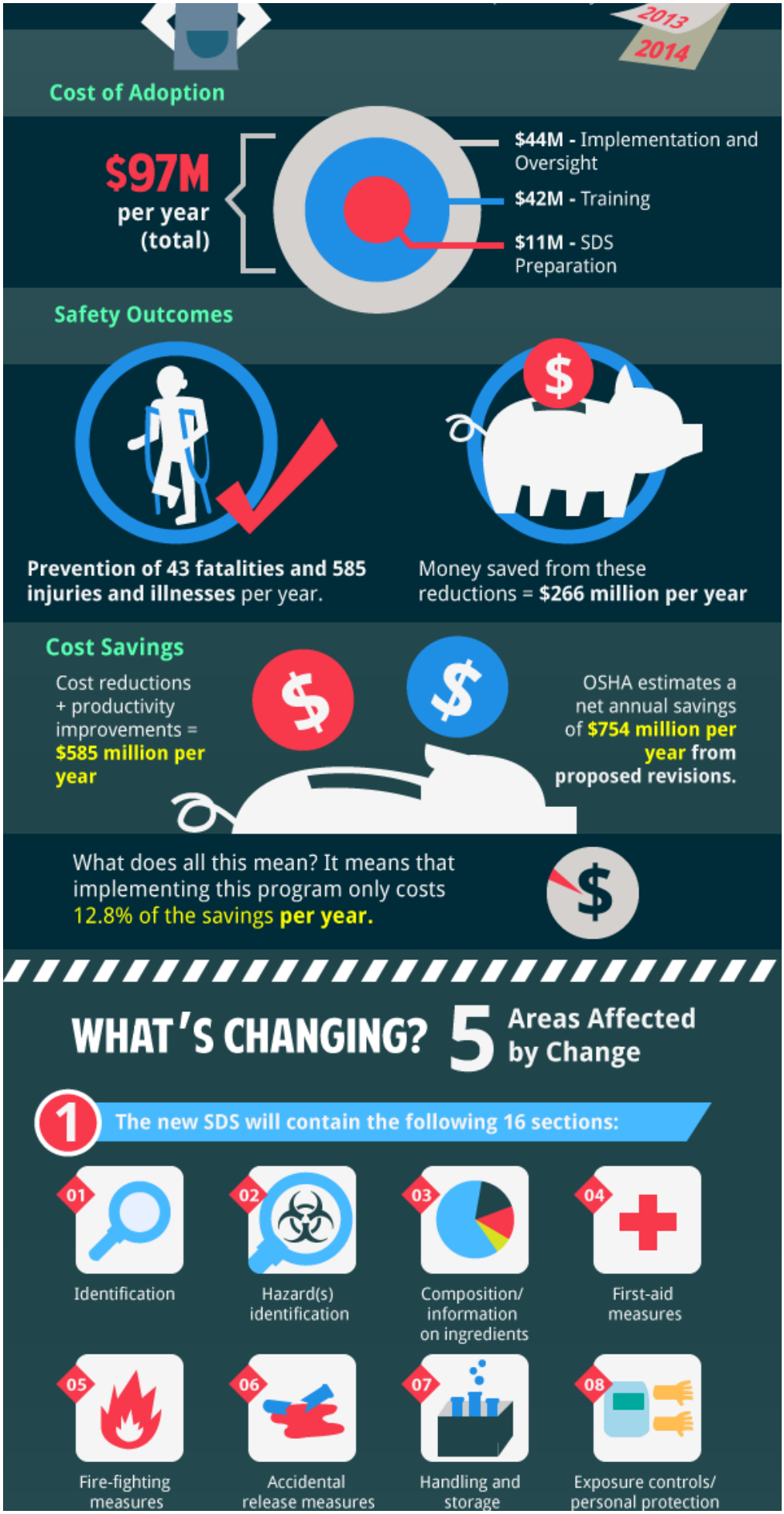
GLOBAL ADOPTION

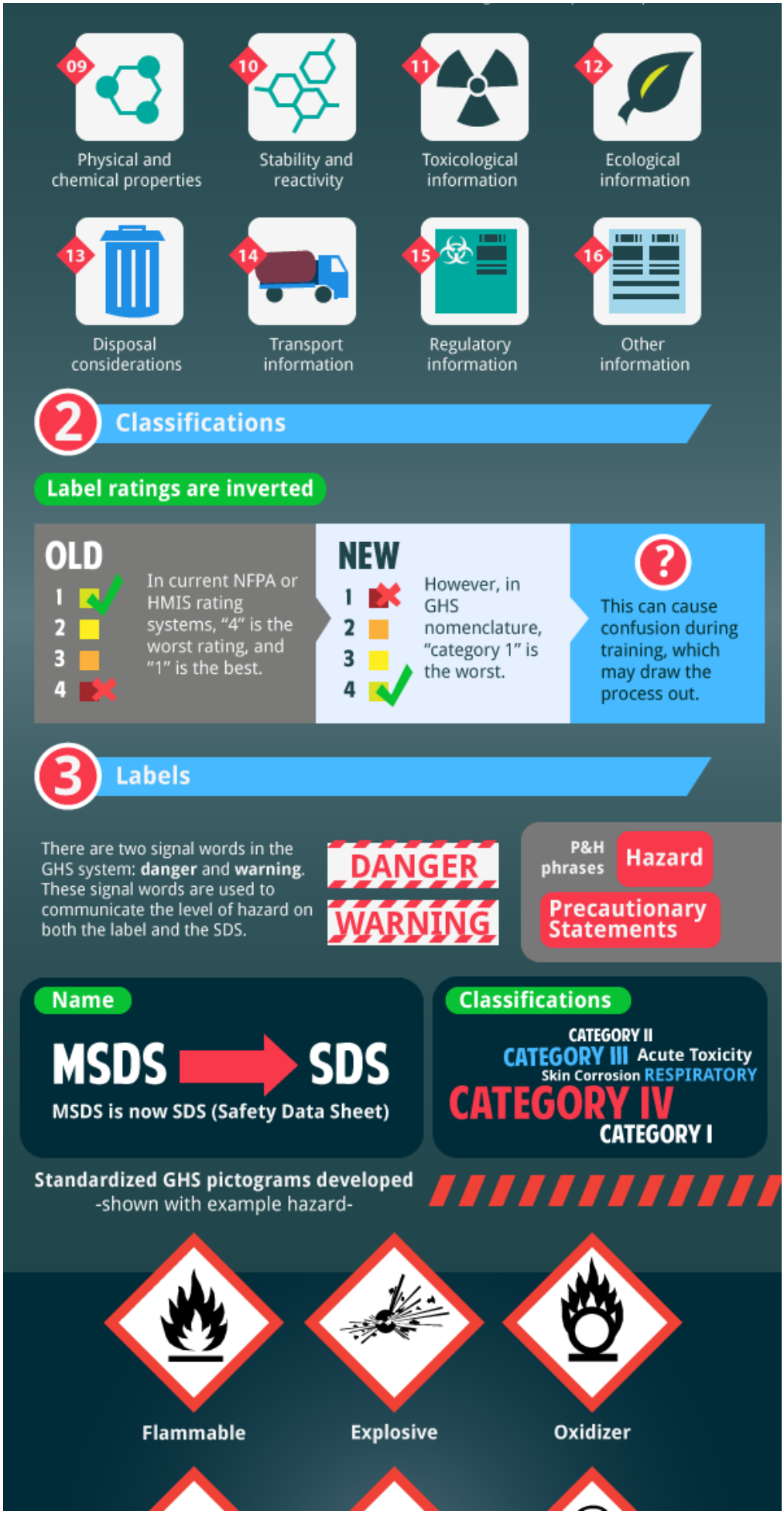
2012

Adoption of GHS began back in 1992 when UNICED required a standard practice for labeling chemicals. After 20 years of research, committee meetings, and public hearings, a three-year implementation is scheduled to begin in the US in 2012.

GHS IMPLEMENTATION AROUND THE GLOBE


Canada
Proposed changes to legislation are expected in 2012. A clear implementation deadline has not been identified.
Mexico
Published a non-mandatory national standard on June 3, 2011, based on the third revised edition of the GHS.
Europe
Classification and labeling requirements mandatory for pure substances as of Dec. 1, 2010, and a transition period is in effect for mixtures until June 1, 2015.
Australia
Implementation based on GHS Rev. 3 expected by 2012.
New Zealand
Full compliance (MSDS and label) required as of Dec. 31, 2010.
China
Regulations for the safe management of hazardous chemicals began Dec. 1, 2011, requiring GHS-compliant SDS.
Japan
As of Dec 31, 2010, full compliance with MSDS and labels in GHS format is required.
Korea
Deadline for classification of existing chemicals was June 30, 2011, for substances, and June 30, 2013, for mixtures.
ADOPTION IN THE U.S.
The United States is busily preparing to start transition to GHS in
2012
GHS
Number of Safety Documents Affected
1,000,000 documents for about 1,000,000 chemicals
Number of Companies Affected
5 million+ workplaces
Number of People Affected
40 million+ workers
Number of Years to Transition
3 years from final ruling year - However, training must be completed in 2 yrs


2013
2014
Cost of Adoption
$97M
per year
(total)
$44M - Implementation and Oversight
$42M - Training
$11M - SDS Preparation
Safety Outcomes
Prevention of 43 fatalities and 585 injuries and illnesses per year.
Money saved from these reductions = $266 million per year
Cost Savings
Cost reductions + productivity improvements = $585 million per year
OSHA estimates a net annual savings of $754 million per year from proposed revisions.
What does all this mean? It means that implementing this program only costs 12.8% of the savings per year.
WHAT'S CHANGING?
5 Areas Affected by Change
1 The new SDS will contain the following 16 sections:
01 Identification
02 Hazard(s) identification
03 Composition/ information on ingredients
04 First-aid measures
05 Fire-fighting measures
06 Accidental release measures
07 Handling and storage
08 Exposure controls/ personal protection


09
Physical and chemical properties
10
Stability and reactivity
11
Toxicological information
12
Ecological information
13
Disposal considerations
14
Transport information
15
Regulatory information
16
Other information
2 Classifications
Label ratings are inverted
OLD
1
2
3
4
In current NFPA or HMIS rating systems, "4" is the worst rating, and "1" is the best.
NEW
1
2
3
4
However, in GHS nomenclature, "category 1" is the worst.
This can cause confusion during training, which may draw the process out.
3 Labels
There are two signal words in the GHS system: danger and warning. These signal words are used to communicate the level of hazard on both the label and the SDS.
DANGER
WARNING
P&H phrases
Hazard
Precautionary Statements
Name
MSDS SDS
MSDS is now SDS (Safety Data Sheet)
Classifications
CATEGORY II
CATEGORY III
Acute Toxicity
Skin Corrosion
RESPIRATORY
CATEGORY IV
CATEGORY I
Standardized GHS pictograms developed
-shown with example hazard-
Flammable
Explosive
Oxidizer


Corrosive
Gas under pressure
Acute toxicity
Irritant
Carcinogen
Environmental toxicity
4 Communication/ Distribution
5 Training
HOW CAN COMPANIES PREPARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GHS TRANSITION?
1 Get prepared and be on the lookout for new GHS information.
2 Check implementation dates in your country, plus any you do business with.
3 Create a transition plan for your company.
4 Perform a chemical inventory to validate the chemicals actually present.
5 Put together a plan to acquire, update, and manage the new incoming SDS documents.
6 Update workplace labels according to new regulations.
7 Schedule employee training on new GHS approaches.
NEED MORE INFO?

NEED MORE INFO?

Visit SiteHawk to stay up to date on all the current GHS information: **www.sitehawk.com**

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Sources:

http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html
http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/ghs.html
http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/ghs/benefitsof-ghs.pdf
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www.ghsinformation.com
https://www.wshc.sg/ghs

Want to learn more? Download our GHS Transition Guide or view our GHS Webinar Series.