

March 2004

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



Treasurer's Corner

As of February 29, 2004, the Chapter's account continues to operate with a balance of \$4074.59. There were 28 people present at the February 17, 2004 meeting.

Michele

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Time: 11:30 a.m. Network with your fellow members. Lunch is promptly at Noon.

Please bring a guest or potential new member.

**Speaker: Wallace G. "Buster" Holland
Young, Clement, Rivers & Tisdale, LLP**

Topic - OSHA Legal Issues (Worker's Comp)

**North Towne Seafood and Grill
2093 Eagle Landing Blvd.
North Charleston, SC
Phone: (843) 863-1001**

If you are planning on attending, please email me at: ecarms@comcast.net

Future Meetings

April 20 - 11:30 AM
North Towne Seafood & Grill
Topic – Ravenel Bridge Construction Presentation – Project and Safety Highlights
Guest Speaker – SCDOT

May 18 - 6:00 PM

TBA

Topic – Open Discussion

Guest Speaker – Fred Miller, ASSE Region VI President

Looking for a Meeting Host

Would you consider being a host for a monthly ASSE meeting? When you host a meeting, we request that you provide a door prize for a drawing and/or supply the attendees with a company promo such as pens, hats, or other items with your logo.

In exchange for hosting a meeting, there will be a space for advertisement provided to you at no charge in that month's newsletter. Just let me know when you would like to host a meeting.

Diana Potts

Safety Conferences

March 25-26
ASSE' - Achieving World-Class Safety
New Orleans
<http://www.asse.org/worldclass.htm>

April 21, 22 & 23, 2004
SCOSC Spring Conference
Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, SC
www.scosc.org

April 30-May 7
2004 American Occupational Health
Conference, Kansas City, MO
www.acoem.org or www.aaoen.org

May 7 – Required Attendance
Low Country ASSE PDC
Charleston, SC
dpotts@sc.rr.com

May 8-13
American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Expo, Atlanta, GA
www.aiha.org

May 23-26
NFPA World Safety Conference & Exposition, Salt Lake City, UT.
www.nfpa.org/meetings

June 7-10
ASSE 2004 Professional Development Conference and Exposition, Las Vegas, NV
www.asse.org

September 10-17
92nd Annual National Safety Congress & Expo, New Orleans, LA
www.nsc.org

September 20-24
48th Annual Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Meeting, New Orleans
www.hfes.org

November 30 - December 3
10th Annual National Ergonomics Conference and Exposition, Las Vegas, NV
www.ergoexpo.com

Please Welcome New Local Members to ASSE

Nicholas D. Kakasenko
Arthur J. Martin
Linda Rackley
Margie L. Self

OSHA Alerts 13,000 Employers about High Injury and Illness Rates

Approximately 13,000 employers recently received a letter from OSHA Administrator John Henshaw alerting them that their injury and illness rates are above average, and that the agency can offer help in lowering them. The notifications were based on data reported by approximately 80,000 employers surveyed by OSHA last year (the survey collected injury and illness data from CY2002). Henshaw said the notification process "is a tremendous opportunity for employers to take steps to improve workplace safety and health and create value for their organization."

Z244 Lockout/Tagout Teleconference Call

On April 14th from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CST, ASSE will be hosting a 90-minute conference call addressing this important Lockout/Tagout Standard. For more information and to register.

<http://www.asse.org/frz244.htm>

Five NFPA Standards Approved For First Responders' PPE

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adopted five National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards Feb. 26 for first responders' personal protective equipment. This is the first time DHS has adopted standards of this type to help state and local procurement officials choose the best available equipment for chemical, biological and other emergencies.

The five standards are NFPA 1951, Standard on Protective Ensemble for USAR Operation; NFPA 1981, Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services; NFPA 1991, Standard on Vapor-Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials Emergencies; NFPA 1994, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Chemical/Biological Terrorism Incidents; and NFPA 1999, Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations. DHS also adopted three NIOSH standards for respirators.

Donate Unused Safety Equipment or Supplies

Anyone wanting to donate obsolete or unused safety equipment or supplies may donate it to the Low Country Safety Council. The equipment will be used in safety training for demonstration purposes only.

Please notify Jane Lyons at 760-8367 or jane.lyons@us.bosch.com.

Safe Storage of Concrete Panels Subject of Safety and Health Bulletin

OSHA's Denver Area Office recently investigated a fatal accident after precast concrete panels tipped over at a concrete panel manufacturing facility. The investigation determined the panels fell due to improper storage procedures. Some of the panels weighed in excess of 13 tons each. A Precast Concrete Panels-Hazardous Storage Safety and Health Information Bulletin was published last month to alert manufacturers of the dangers involved in improper storage procedures and inadequate finger rack storage systems for the panels. The bulletin provides employers with recommendations and methods that will improve finger rack stability and reduce hazards to workers.

Silica

Despite the highly critical SBREFA panel report (authored by OSHA, OMB and SBA) on OSHA's draft crystalline silica standards, senior OSHA personnel have made it clear that OSHA is committed to proceeding with a rulemaking leading to some type of comprehensive, substance-specific standard(s) for crystalline silica. The draft silica standards were patterned on OSHA's lead and asbestos standards.

Furthermore, by its recent actions, OSHA has placed itself in a position where if it failed to proceed with a silica rulemaking, it seems quite likely that the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit would order it to do so.

Hazard Communication

In the near future, OSHA expects to post three sets of draft guidelines on its web site for public comment addressing: 1) the HAZCOM hazard determination; 2) preparation of MSDS; and 3) HAZCOM training. At the same time, OSHA is collecting information that will help it in identifying a group of approximately ten chemicals that will be the target of an initial HAZCOM National Emphasis Program. OSHA plans to provide its compliance officers with a checklist of what should be in the MSDS for each of those chemicals. When OSHA finds any of those chemicals at a particular site, it will ask for the MSDS and review them against the applicable checklist(s). If OSHA determines the MSDS is inadequate, it will notify the chemical manufacturer/importer by using the phone and fax approach it employs to handle complaints. If the response is not adequate, OSHA will initiate an inspection of the chemical manufacturer/importer.

Ergonomics Enforcement

In the past year, OSHA has conducted approximately 1250 inspections that involved ergonomics. This resulted in the issuance of citations to approximately 13 establishments and the issuance of Section 5(a)(1) hazard alerts to approximately 150 other establishments. OSHA plans to revise the standard form of its hazard alerts to require the employer to advise OSHA, within a specified period, as to what follow-up actions were taken by the employer. If the follow-up actions are considered inadequate, a follow-up inspection is likely.

Alleged ergonomics violations are cited under the General Duty Clause. OSHA cannot issue citations alleging repeat violations of the General Duty Clause, but citations for alleged willful violations of the General Duty Clause are available.

Process Safety Management (PSM)

OSHA is in the process of substantially revising its PSM directive. Among other things, the revisions are expected to address: 1) the process vessel v. storage vessel v. atmospheric tank issues raised by the Meer case; and 2) the treatment of reactive chemicals under the General Duty Clause (at least in part as a way of responding to the recommendations of the Chemical Safety Board).

Nursing Working Hours Conference

NIOSH is helping sponsor a conference aimed at creating a "cutting edge" research agenda on nursing working hours. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, the sociological, economic, and health dimensions of long work hours in nursing will be explored, as well as the impact of working long hours is having on occupational safety, health, and well-being in nursing and the current and emerging interventions in this field.

April 29-30, 2004

Long Working Hours, Safety, and Health: Toward a National Research Agenda
University of Maryland School of Nursing
655 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1579

Sponsors:

University of Maryland School of Nursing
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
US. Department of Justice

Contact:

School of Nursing Office of Continuing Education
Phone: 410-706-3767

longworkhours@son.umaryland.edu

<http://nursing.umaryland.edu/longworkhours/index.htm>

New Web Tools From OSHA

Two new resources are available on the agency's Web site: **MyOSHA**, a tool to create personalized links to OSHA online resources; and Quick Start, a step-by-step guide to identify major OSHA requirements and guidance materials.

Visitors to MyOSHA can sign up to create personalized links to OSHA online resources. Users can customize the content of their pages by choosing links from categories that include "Industry," "Safety and Health Topics," "What's New," "Audiences," "Publications," "Laws and Regulations," "Strategic Management Plan Areas of Emphasis," and "Working with OSHA."

Quick Start is a new tool on OSHA's Compliance Assistance Web page that provides step-by-step guidance on how to identify OSHA requirements and guidance materials that may apply to specific workplaces. A module for workplaces covered by OSHA's general industry standards includes information on recordkeeping and reporting requirements and links to compliance assistance resources and key standards and information for developing a comprehensive safety and health program.

**ASSE National Society
Newsletter**

The ASSE National Society Newsletter is now available online at:

<http://www.asse.org/su03.htm>

Articles from our Professional Safety magazine are also available at:

<http://www.electronicipc.com/JournalEZ/toc.cfm?code=0427001>

Member Directory & Job Line

Jane Lyons will continue to update the member directory as needed. If you have not sent her your updated information, please email her at:

Jane.Lyons@us.bosch.com

Jane also maintains a Job Line by email notification. Please email her if you would like to be on the distribution.

If you are a member of ASSE, you may want to update your information at:

www.asse.org/format_frames_main.asp?bannerframe2=professional_safety_banner.html&mainframe2=contact2.htm

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American Society of Safety Engineers
The oldest National Safety Organization in the United States – Founded in 1911