

Low Country Chapter

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY
ENGINEERS

May 2005



Tomorrow's Meeting



Date: **May 17th, 2005**

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

Time: 11:30 am

Guest Speaker: **Richard J. Overman**
Safety Specialist
Coble Trench Safety

**Lunch is promptly at Noon.
Please bring a Guest**

Safety 2005

New Orleans

June 12th – 15th, 2005

www.asse.org/safety2005.htm

Region IV PDC Conference

September 20-23, 2005
Kingston Plantation Resort
Myrtle Beach, SC

Register online at: asse-region6.org
(Online registration begins June 2005)

If you know of organization that you believe may interested in an Exhibitor Booth please let us know by contacting Janice Woods at Janice.Woods@us.bosch.com

Welcome New Members

Brenda Burke
Goodwill Industries

Ronald Sharpe
General Engineering and
Environmental

Polarize Your Eyes

Sunshine can feel good but not when it's in your eyes. Plants and animals need sunlight, but there's a limit to how much the human eye can take, especially the reflected sunlight we call "glare". **A little glare can temporarily blind you and too much can damage your vision.** You need protection. For eye protection on the job you need safety glasses. When any part of your work takes place in the sun you need to add the protection that sunglasses offer.

For some jobs, typical gray or smoke safety glasses will not effectively block the type of light that causes eyestrain and visibility problems. While a darkened lens can protect eyes from bright light, it offers very little protection from the reflected glare that can come off mirrors, metal, bodies of water, snow, ice or pavement. For adequate protection from glare you need **polarized lenses.**

Glare is concentrated light reflected in a specific direction off a surface. It is often bright enough to temporarily blind. Polarized lenses remove glare by lining the lens with vertical stripes on sheets of Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA). These stripes eliminate horizontal glare by allowing only vertical light to pass through the lens.

To polarize safety eyewear, the sheet of PVA is sandwiched between two layers of polycarbonate. Polycarbonate is inherently UV protective, so polarized safety glasses perform three functions: protect eyes from impact (as required by ANSI Z87.1 2003 high impact standard, protect eyes from glare off horizontal surfaces, and protect eyes from harmful UV rays.

Carhartt makes Flame-Resistant Relaxed Fit Jeans

www.carhartt.com

Future Meeting & Speakers

June 21st, 2005

Guest Speaker: Sandra Love
Damage Prevention Coordinator
BellSouth

Topic: Dig Safely/Underground Utilities

July 19th, 2005

Guest Speaker: John Martin and Sherry Dixson
Topic: "One Will Die" and Accident Investigation Analysis

August 16th, 2005

Guest Speaker: Jerry Harrison
Warning Coordinator
Meteorologist
National Weather Services

Topic: Hurricane Preparedness

The above listed meetings will be held at:

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

Time: 11:30 am
Lunch at Noon

Treasurer's Corner

As of April 30th, 2005, the Chapter's account continues to operate with a balance of \$9,910.19.

Janice Woods for Michele McCutchen as Michele is on currently on Maternity Leave – Happy Birth Day Michele, the best of health to you and your baby!

ASSE Low Country Chapter Has

"Girl Power"

The Low Country Chapter of ASSE elected their slate of officers for 2005-2006 in April. For the first time in the Chapter, the Officers are all female. Perhaps this has happened in other Chapters, but it seems noteworthy. The Officers are: Dana Fisher, AGFA Safety Coordinator; Jane Lyons, Robert Bosch Corp., Safety Specialist; Michele McCutchen, James Island Public Service District, Safety Director; Maureen Troescher, Palmetto Bridge Constructors, Safety/OJT Specialist; Janice Woods, Robert Bosch Corp, Medical Supervisor. Joining them on the Executive Committee are Past Presidents Joel Rogers of MeadWestvaco, Env. Coordinator; and Stephen Haynsworth of Robert Bosch Corp, Safety Specialist. Joel & Stephen say they are the

"Balance of Power"



Do you have any old history or photos from the SC Chapter ASSE?

We would like to obtain copies if possible so they can be displayed at the 50th Anniversary Celebration! If you have ASSE Memorabilia you would share, please send it to Wilma Magyar: wmagyar@wilbursmilth.com

Thank you,
Marshall Fowler

The 2004-2005 Member-Get-A-Member Challenge

* **Individual Prizes**

1st Place: \$1,000

2nd Place: \$500

3rd Place: \$250

* **Region Prize: \$1,000**

* **Chapter Prize: \$500**

* **Plasma Television** – everyone that recruits at least one new member will be entered into a drawing to win a plasma television

**The winners will be announced in
May 2005**

I've phoned ASSE Customer Service to find out when this drawing will take place – As soon as I know, I'll forward the info to you.

Maureen

Seat Belt Legislation

The Primary Seat Belt bill is scheduled to leave the Committee and be returned to the House of Representatives on Monday, May 17, 2005. It is anticipated that the House will vote on the Bill by Wednesday of next week.

There is still some opposition to the Bill. We need everyone's help across the state. Please contact your Representative and/or Governor Mark Sanford and let them know you support the Primary Seat Belt bill. Every phone call/letter/email makes a difference!

Click Here to view a list of the SC House of Representatives and their contact information.

<http://www.scstatehouse.net/html-pages/housemembers.html>

Click Here to view the contact information for Governor Mark Sanford.

<http://www.scgovernor.com/Contact.asp?sitecontentid=33>

Sample Letter:

I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 3057 for primary enforcement of seat belt laws. As a Safety Professional and Member of the American Society of Safety Engineers, it is a known fact that strengthening the existing seat belt law will save lives. It will send a strong message to South Carolinians that they can best protect themselves and others by always buckling up.

It is well documented that seat belts save lives. If everyone in the United States were properly restrained at all times, over 6000 lives would be saved each year. However, seat belt usage averages only 66% in South Carolina.

Allowing law enforcement officials to enforce seat belt laws as a primary violation -- that is, allowing

officers to pull someone over for not wearing their seat belt -- is a necessary step in increasing seat belt use and saving lives. Those states that have enacted such a law have seen an 11% increase in seat belt usage and a corresponding decrease in lives lost. In addition, crashes where people were not belted cost 55% more than those in which the participants are properly restrained. Considering that 85% of that cost is borne by society, we have a compelling interest in requiring citizens to wear their seat belts.

I would like to hear from you that you will support Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 3057 and that you will oppose all efforts to filibuster or amend them. Thank you for your consideration and support in this life saving effort.

NAME
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE #

Thank you,
Marshall Fowler

Did You Know

Mercury is a known neurotoxin that is extremely toxic even in small amounts. It directly affects the central nervous and renal systems, causing developmental delays, motor and brain problems like those associated with autism. Mercury's hidden danger also lies in when at room temperature, when exposed it vaporizes readily. Once it becomes an aerosol, it is absorbed into the lungs and spreads throughout the body. Chronic mercury poisoning is more common due to long term exposure by inhalation of dust or vapors, and knowledge to prevent such incidents is vital in mercury collection and clean up. It is recommended to evacuate personnel and shut down air conditioning or heating.

For more information concerning mercury-containing devices, clean up, collection and recycling contact the Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers at www.almr.org or go to the Mercury Awareness Program web site.

Letter from the Editor

Friday's April 15th PDC was excellent!

For those of you who were unable to attend, I'd like to share with you some of the outstanding thoughts and ideas of the three speakers I sat in front of, the topics were: Accident Investigation, Behavior Based/Human Nature, and Changing the Culture.

Behavior observation, communication of and response to incidents; the importance of reporting and investigating a "near miss"; thorough incident investigations – asking "why?" until it actually makes sense; the fact that innocence can lead to an incident and therefore "blame" is not what we're looking for, it's the back-tracking of the sequence of events that can develop a new safety procedure that obviously is necessary; positive recognition – thanking and recognizing employees so that they know you appreciate that they wear all the appropriate protective gear and follow the necessary safeguards, let them know that you notice that they are safety conscious; develop safety teams with team leaders so each and everyone knows that they are part of the safety program. Incentive awards - they need to be carefully thought out – get feedback from all to find out what they think a safety award should be, other than the fact that everyone goes home in the same condition that they arrived in, and discuss it. The bottom line – employee interaction. Everyone's involved and needs to be because the safety record is comprised of each and every one of us. Make small teams/groups for starters so it's easier for us to look out for one another.

Safety record categories – are we Failing, Improving, Excellent or World Class?

The safer we work together, the more successful we will be in more ways than one – Win-Win Situation.

Company leaders are looking at the business aspect primarily – yes, they have a heart for the injured, however, it all comes down to money and after all, it is a business. The business aspect of it is profit and loss – now more than ever – companies are suffering with new prospects due to their "mod rate" EMR – their worker's compensation history. Insurance companies and business prospects, they want to know if you're a "risky" contractor and also "are you charging more money to perform a job because your worker's compensation rate has eaten up a chunk of your profit". You can't explain that to the employees that you want them to be safer because it will put more money in their pocket and you can't explain to them that we'll

get more contracts because our injuries are low to none, because that's a "cold" way of expressing the facts. We need to allocate the money in the "Worker's Comp kitty" to observation, training and incentives.

We must use a more humane approach and that's why an organization has different departments comprised of the individuals that can naturally perform the functions to meet all aspects of smart business. We all have at least one thing that we do best and that's where smart management will delegate individuals to where they need to be placed within the company for overall success of the company and for the individual professionally and personally.

Okay, so we know he or she comes to work faithfully every day, maybe some days they are mentally or physically not well, but they're there, because they're serious about who they are, what they represent and they take pride in themselves and what they do and they don't give up. Those "some days" are risk days. That is where observation and communication come into the picture. Maybe we could give that employee a less risky task today because they're not as focused as they usually are or should be – do we have that flexibility in our workplace and are we willing to divert the plan of the day to prevent an incident.

Tweaking the structure and the programs – making the business smarter – improving what you have already established and making it better. Money well spent is money saved.

Changing an attitude, changing a habit – reshaping performance so that it's safe and productive. This takes time and dedication and cannot be done without respect and trust and above all "practice what you preach" – set that good example and stick with it – get into the mind of the careless, the "bad attitude" employee that may be a wizard at their skills however they don't like to follow the safety rules for whatever reason – find out that reason – maybe they have a constructive idea and perhaps a compromise will change that attitude and eliminate those safety short cuts. We must "work" with each other because we're all an important part of the organization.

Just because an employee chooses to stay in that "hourly" position as opposed to taking that management offer because their character is not comfortable in that "management" position doesn't mean they don't have great ideas. Get to know your people, have constructive conversations even if it is privately. Some of your quiet employees are holding valuable ideas that they can't express freely. The incidentals of the orchestra in the background is not

incidental at all, it is very much an important part of the theme.

The employees that represent the Safety Department should be observing, analyzing, interacting positively by commending and directing a positive safety culture within the entire organization by utilizing the accomplishments of what we have now and who we have helping us make accomplishments directly and indirectly and making the very best of it.

Yes, we can say our company is special because it is “specialized” – specialized in the category built from intelligent minds and special, talented people and on the other hand, no matter what we specialize in, we need to be specialized in safety first.

Has anyone ever complimented you and completely caught you “off guard” because you didn’t realize they noticed your performance, your special qualities – that personal feeling is one of the best feelings you can experience when your authority commends you. That is the kind of recognition that promotes – it promotes by activating and stimulating positive growth and at the same time, you’re implementing positive direction. Identifying the special qualities in our employees because we all have them.

The next time something goes wrong – don’t look at it negatively – investigate and analyze thoroughly so that a lesson learned can formally be implemented.

Incidents can happen innocently and with that, I’m going re-express **Bob Mussat** during his portion of the conference concerning **“Accident Investigation”** - A gentleman slips, falls and breaks his leg. The visible reason for the incident was oil on the floor that had leaked from a forklift. The accident investigation that was done was so thorough it traveled all the way back to personnel ordering oil filters from another company because the filters were less in price. What they didn’t realize is that just because these filters had the same item identification number, the dimensions of the filter were not the same, which obviously caused the filter to leak. Here the personnel made a decision to save money for the company and it turned the other way. Now they have an injured employee, a recordable incident and more money spent for medicals. So now, when they decide to order parts from a different vendor, they inspect these products prior to accepting.

I’m going re-express **Marshall Stone** during his portion of the conference concerning **“Behavior-Based Safety”** - Cautious maybe publicly and that’s a good point – but “not privately” is what we need to concern ourselves with. When the boss is around, everyone’s on his or her best behavior – but when the boss is not in

sight, who is taking the short cuts. That situation is where a **safety team** promotes the positive influence. Each and every one of us needs to help with the safety team concept. If one person is taking a safety short cut then you most likely have more than one doing the same if it’s not controlled within the group. It’s a conscious effort that must be the way of life.

I’m going re-express **Tom Harvey** during his portion of the conference concerning **“Changing a Culture”** How do reshape an individual or department – of course, you may not be able to communicate well with a certain someone, due to a characteristic clash, however, you do know someone who can influence that certain person and communicate comfortably to induce a positive change and that is the objective.

Stay close to the ones that care about you – be alert, listen, observe and learn – we were not born with wisdom. Our teachers in life have learned from their mistakes and/or have learned from others’ mistakes. Every day we build our character by the choices that we make – every day we learn whether we realize it or not. Share your knowledge, don’t ridicule the less fortunate – teach them because you did not get where you are all by yourself.

Did you ever see a person “light up” during a task you’ve given them and they weren’t even trying hard. That is awesome to tap into a true talent as sometimes we really don’t know who we really are and only the journey will bring us there.

Mr. John A. Anderson has given me the opportunity to be a part of his safety team and I am very thankful for that I wish to remain a part of his team. He has exposed me to safety education and he is an outstanding teacher of many subjects. John bears wisdom, intelligence, patience and sense of humor. You can definitely learn when you listen. This PDC was the second PDC he has allowed me to attend and I loved every minute of it. I am not a CSP but I would certainly love to walk that journey to get as close as I can.

We cannot help everyone but we can help the ones around us to help contribute toward making a growing positive difference today, tomorrow and forever.

Safety, an ongoing journey – 24/7

*Thank you,
Maureen Troesch*

I also want to share with you an article I read in the April 2005 issue of **Occupational Hazards**, page 27, **Incentives Programs**. Basically, Denark Construction, Inc. of Knoxville, TN's Safety Manager, Kaye Love-Dodgen has implemented quarterly bonus checks for all employees – this program has been a remarkable success.

Within a five-year period the company's incident rate went from 18.97 in 1999 to .87 in 2004.

Subcontractor incidents affect the Project Superintendents' bonuses.

Employees also were required to sign a waiver that said if they failed to report a work-related injury, they could lose their job.

The incentive program at Denark has helped encourage workers to look out for each other on the job.

For more information on safety incentive programs visit:
<http://www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/13162>

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

FUTURE ASSE ROC MEETINGS

July 26-28, 2005

**Tarheel Chapter (Officer Training)
Charlotte, NC**

November 16-18, 2005

**SC Low Country Chapter
Charleston, SC**

American Industrial Hygiene

Conference & Expo 2005

May 23-25, 2005

Anaheim, CA

www.aiha.org/aihce05/aihce.htm

Safety Performance Solutions Seminar

People-Based Safety

June 21, 2005 – Chicago, IL

July 15, 2005 – Houston, TX

www.safetyperformance.com

2005 AEC

National Environmental Health Association Education Conference

June 26-29, 2005

**Providence, RI
303-691-9490**

**Meeting Hosts are needed for
September 2005 and forward – if you have any
suggestions please let us know.**

Contact Jane.Lyons@us.bosch.com

or

mtroesch@tidewaterskanska.com

Women's Health & Wellness Conference

Friday July 15th Noon to 6:00 p.m.
& Saturday July 16th 8:00 am to 3:30 p.m.
at the Coliseum in N. Charleston

Health Screenings both days – Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Weight, Height, Osteoporosis, Strength, Body Fat, Agility, Cholesterol & Heart Disease Risk Assessment, Breast Cancer Risk Assessment, Parenting 101, Safety & Self Defense, Menopause, Depression & Sadness – Causes and Strategies for you or someone you love, Caring for the Aging Loved One, Alternative Medications vs. Prescriptions, Health 30-Minute Meals and Fitness and Exercise for all Ages.

Dinner @ 6:00 Friday
Breakfast, Lunch & Refreshments Saturday
Door Prizes, "Ask-A-Doc" Booths plus Exhibitors

\$50 per person – For more info call Trident HealthFinders at 797-3463 or visit their website at www.tridenthealthsystem.com

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Web-site

Checkout this safety web site:
<http://www.emeetingplace.com>



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