

# S.C. Low Country Chapter



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

## September 2008 Newsletter

*"Your Safety.....Our Profession"*

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This is my final reminder (*I promise!*) to make plans to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Region VI Professional Development Conference at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. So far, I know of 5 chapter members and at least 3 vendors from the Low Country that will be attending and we'd love to have more! Online registration is still available at: [www.asse-region6.org](http://www.asse-region6.org).

Remember to mark your calendars for **Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. This will be our annual holiday evening meeting where spouses and significant others are welcome to attend. We will be meeting at the Harborview Restaurant atop the Round Holiday Inn in West Ashley from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a night of fun, food and education. Our guest speaker will be our ASSE Region VI Vice President, Jim Morris. Please RSVP with Terri Sherrill. The cost is \$10/person.

We are looking to reinitiate our participation in local elementary and secondary school career fairs, so if you're interested in heading that up, please contact me or Sue Ivey.

**As always, be safe!**

Michele P. McCutchen, MSPH, CSP  
President, ASSE Low Country Chapter

### ***Planning for the 2009 Chapter PDC is Underway...***

We are getting close to firming up a date and location for the ASSE Low Country Chapter's Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC). If you are interested in serving on a subcommittee to help plan and execute the PDC, please contact Jayne Carswell, 1st Vice President/PDC Chair, at 740-4568. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** Even if you are unavailable to serve on a subcommittee, please contact Jayne with any suggestions for topics or ideas for speakers. We will also be looking for 8-10 vendors to display safety paraphernalia and offer services to our attendees. Also, if you have any marketing ideas or input on how to increase attendance, please let us know. Remember, this is our chapter's main source of fundraising, so we need your support!

It's time to get involved....

### **Next Chapter Meeting**

September 16, 2008  
11:30am

**OSHA Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program**

Kenneth R. Warren, CIH

[North Towne Grill & Seafood Restaurant](#)  
2093 Eagle Landing Blvd

*AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS' PRESIDENT WARREN K. BROWN's, CSP, ARM, CSHM,  
STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF 2007 WORKPLACE FATALITY NUMBERS*

DES PLAINES, IL (August 21, 2008) – Our sympathy goes out to the family, friends and co-workers of the 5,488 people who lost their lives in 2007 due to workplace injuries and we reiterate the commitment of our American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) members, 32,000 occupational safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals, to continue to work around the clock to make sure that the millions of people who go to work return home safely every day.

We are pleased to see a reduction in the number of on-the-job fatalities in 2007 over 2006. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries reported Wednesday that there were 5,488 workplace fatalities in 2007 compared with 5,840 in 2006. The numbers will be finalized in the spring of 2009.

With the expanded ongoing efforts of our members the past few years at increasing fleet safety to address the annual increase in on-the-job transportation-related fatalities we are pleased to see a reduction in those fatalities, but concerned that they still continue to be the number one cause of on-the-job deaths. We will continue through communications, sharing best practices, symposiums, mentoring and more to work to reduce these roadway tragedies.

Another major concern is the fact that homicides were reported by the BLS to be the second leading cause of on-the-job deaths, an increase of 13 percent, in 2007 with 491 people dying as a result of a shooting and 39 people died from being stabbed. The BLS notes that workplace homicides involving police officers and supervisors of retail sales workers both saw substantial increases in 2007.

In May of 2004 the "Workplace Violence Survey of ASSE members & White Paper" done by the ASSE Risk Management and Insurance (RM/I) Practice Specialty found that many companies and organizations in all industries had yet to address the problem of workplace violence. Noting that one size does not fit all, the ASSE RM/I members suggested employers consider doing the following to address the prevention of workplace violence:

- Officers and directors – establish a workplace violence prevention policy; upper management must promote a clear antiviolenace corporate policy; and, establish and maintain security policies.
- Human resource managers – examine and improve hiring practices; implement prescreening techniques; utilize background checks; encourage employees to report threats or violent behavior; establish termination policies; and, provide post-termination counseling.
- Risk management and safety, health and environmental departments – train all employees in the warning signs of aggressive or violent behavior; train management in threat assessment and de-escalation techniques; conduct a formal workplace violence risk assessment; increase security as needed; develop and communicate a contingency plan to all employees which includes crisis management; review insurance coverage and verify coverage and exclusions; and, identify a defensive strategy.

As we move forward ASSE and its members will continue to work to protect people, property and the environment. They work in all areas of safety including: environmental, system safety, risk management, mining, transportation, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, fire protection, radiation, chemical process, construction and much, much more utilizing safety science and promoting good leadership and management techniques.

Thanks to Randy Cooper of NUCOR who has invited us out to his facility for our January 2009 meeting. Details regarding directions and lunch are coming and will be posted on our website ([www.lowcountryasse.org](http://www.lowcountryasse.org)) when available.

**Welcome New Members**  
**Jay Arnold – Hagemeyer**  
**Robert Lindley - Hagemeyer**

**Treasurer's Report: \$9943.46; See Dana Fisher if you have questions.**

**Membership: 08-25-2008**  
**131 Members including:**  
**6 Associate Members; 4 Emeritus Members;**  
**79 Members; 42 Professional Members**



**ASSE Low Country**

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### **ASSE Low Country Chapter Holiday Meeting/Meal**

Make sure you reserve your spot for our December 1, 2008 Evening meeting atop the Round Holiday Inn in the Harborview Restaurant.

Our speaker will be:

Jim Morris, our Region VI Vice President.

We will be having

Heavy Hors D' Oeuvres and a cash bar.

Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Please RSVP no later than November 17, 2008 to

[tsherrill@smeinc.com](mailto:tsherrill@smeinc.com).

**Date: 12/01/08**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

Holiday Inn Riverview  
Harborview Restaurant  
301 Savannah Hwy  
Charleston, SC 29407  
1-843-556-7100

