



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

The Safety Net

Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter



www.asselv.org

January/February 2008

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In a recent edition of the Wall Street Journal, Cynthia Crossen highlighted the origins of the "Safety First" slogan and campaigns of the early twentieth century in her daily Déjà Vu column. In her article entitled "It was "Safety First," But Critics Worried Folks Were Going Soft," Ms. Crossen attempted to capture the nature of the public debate over occupational safety in the early 1900's. While she didn't report exactly when and where the "Safety First" slogan was coined, she did note that it was emblazoned on the outside of a Pennsylvania coal shaft which was involved in a fire in 1908 where forty five miners lost their lives. She also reported that more than 2,500 people lost their lives in 85 major coal mine disasters between the years 1905 and 1910, and that factory fires like the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire that claimed 146 people were common place in those days. Although tragedies like these resulted in a public demand for safer working conditions which lead to campaigns, slogans, and ultimately the establishment of safety-related professions and institutions, there was also a backlash in those early days as pundits began to question the responsibility of employers for worker safety and instead sought to lay the blame on the workers themselves noting that they knew the job was dangerous when they accepted it. The rule of thumb for workers erecting tall buildings, for example, was "a life for every story."

While the safety profession has come a very long way since the beginning of the "Safety First" message, it is sobering to note that in the year just ended, 2007, twenty eight people were killed on the job in construction related accidents in Las Vegas. In spite of the universe of laws and regulations, and the host of technological advances in worker protections which have evolved over the past 100 years, workers remain at risk of life threatening circumstances on a daily basis. And unfortunately, there still remains the attitudes on the part of some that workers are largely to blame for accidents and that occupational safety isn't a true professional at all.

As we look forward to the unfolding of 2008, I can tell you with certainty that members of ASSE will be working worldwide, in ways large and small, to safeguard people and property and to advance the professional practice of occupational safety and garner it the respect it deserves.

—Doug Sharp, CSP

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

January 9, 2007— ASSE Membership Meeting
From 7:00 am—9:00 am. Location: Molasky
Corporate Building, 100 City Parkway.

February 13, 2007— ASSE Membership Meeting
From 7:00 am—9:00 am. Location: Molasky
Corporate Building, 100 City Parkway.

Go to <http://www.asselv.org> for map and directions.

REQUEST FOR SPY NOMINATIONS

Do you know a Southern Nevada Chapter member who has shown outstanding service or leadership in the safety profession, ASSE, or the Southern Nevada Chapter? You can nominate this person for the 2007-2008 chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award. It's very easy to do, but the deadline for nominations is the end of March, 2008. Please download a one-page nomination form from our web site and submit it to Chapter President as soon as possible at: http://www.asselv.org/pdfs/spy_nomination_form.pdf

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Organizations like ASSE are dependent on volunteers. Member involvement is vital to the success and you can play a vital role. The Southern Nevada Chapter has volunteer opportunities available in the following committee positions:

- Education Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Meeting Sponsorship Chairman
- CoPS Practice Specialty Chairman

Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference. See any of the chapter for more information.



The American Society
of Safety Engineers

PROTECTING PEOPLE, PROPERTY,
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SINCE 1911.



ASSE NATIONAL NEWS

COUNCIL ON PRACTICES AND STANDARDS

The Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) after 14 years of no increases, will increase the per practice cost to join a practice specialty to \$20.00. According to CoPS the "increase will be used to address rising printing and postage costs as well as the additional labor and personnel needed to publish each of the thirteen different technical publications and to provide our current high caliber products and services".

You may be asking why this is of importance to you. In actuality, the \$20 membership fee is quite a bargain. Each practice specialty provides newsletters, offers technical resources, has an "I have a Question" area on their website. The practice specialties include the following:

- Academics
- Construction
- Consultants
- Engineering (with a fire protection branch)
- Environmental
- Healthcare
- Industrial Hygiene (with an ergonomics branch)
- International
- Management (with a hospitality branch and a manufacturing branch)
- Mining
- Public Sector
- Risk Management/Insurance (with a training and communications branch)
- Transportation (with an oil and gas branch)

If you are a member of a parent specialty, you automatically become a member of the corresponding branch. Practice Specialties give members many benefits including: networking, service, & leadership opportunities, technical & educational resources and ways to get your name in print. The ASSE web site offers a description of each of the specialties. Please go to <http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties> for additional information.

HAVE A TECHNICAL QUESTION...ASK ASSE

Send ASSE your technical questions regarding Occupational Safety and Health issues. They will post selected questions and answers to the website in the future. Make sure to include your name and email address with your question. Go to: <http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/askasse.php>



**American Society
of Safety Engineers**

*Protecting people, property,
and the environment since 1911*

SEMINARFEST 2008 IN LAS VEGAS

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) will host SeminarFest, an intensive weeklong event of more than 50 seminars ranging from one to three days in length offering essential technical, management and skill development topics for occupational safety, health and environmental professionals.

January 20-26, 2008

**Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel
3555 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, NV 89109-4343**

The weeklong SeminarFest will offer skill-building seminars in leadership, safety management, safety training, achieving safety excellence and coaching; business acumen development seminars in ROI, cost-benefit analysis, Six Sigma, statistical analysis, project management, balanced scorecard, performance management, strategic planning and criminal and liability law; technical and topical seminars on emergency management, pandemic management, technology solutions, risk management, nanotechnology, hazard analysis, ergonomics, incident investigation, crisis management, environmental management, electrical safety, industrial hygiene, lockout/tagout, confined space rescue, construction issues, fall protection; and more.

ASSE's SeminarFest will also feature certificate in safety management seminars and certification preparation workshops including a math review and exam preparation workshops for the ASP, CSP, CHST, and the OHST exams. ASSE has been reviewed and approved as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Registrants can earn up to 5.0 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or 7.0 Certification Maintenance (CM) points at SeminarFest.

For more information and register visit www.asse.org.



Join us on June 9-12, 2008, at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada for the annual ASSE's 2008 Professional Development Conference & Expo. This years PDC brings a wide variety of perspectives to the attendees through specialized sessions identified by experience levels to help you better navigate the conference. The Levels are:

- Two to five years of experience are identified as basic (B).
- Six to ten years of experience are identified as intermediate (I).
- Ten years plus experience are identified as advanced (A).
- Executive level sessions are identified as executive (E).

For more information and how to register please visit: <http://www.asse.org/education/pdc/>



REGULATORY NEWS

WORKPLACE FATALITIES TREND DOWN

The latest statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that 5,702 fatal work injuries were recorded in the US in 2005. This is about one percent fewer than the 2004 total. 2005 Highlights include:

- Fatal work injuries among workers, under 20 years of age, were up 18% to 166 cases
- Fatal work injuries involving women were down 3% to 402 cases, the lowest total ever recorded by the fatality census
- Fatal work injuries among Hispanics up by 2% to a new series high
- Fatal falls were lower by 7%

While the number of fatal work injuries in private construction were the most of any industry sector, the number of fatalities was 4% lower than 2004. Visit BLS at www.bls.gov for more info.

OSHA ANNOUNCES FINAL RULE ON EMPLOYER-PAID PPE

Employers will be required to provide all personal protective equipment (PPE) at no cost to employees, including healthcare workers, under a final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on November 15, 2007.

The rule also clarifies OSHA requirements regarding payment for employee-owned PPE and replacement PPE. Exceptions to the rule requiring employers to provide PPE include ordinary safety-toed footwear, ordinary prescription safety eyewear, logging boots, and ordinary weather-related clothing and gear. Enforcement won't begin until six months after the Nov. 15, 2007, publication of the final PPE rules. OSHA said the grace period will give employers time to change their existing PPE payment policies to accommodate the new requirements. For more information, visit www.osha.gov/.

NEW SILICA IN CONSTRUCTION WEBSITE

The University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences has done research on characterizing silica exposure on construction sites and testing the effectiveness of controls for silica dust producing tools for several years. A website was developed to provide the construction industry with information from these studies. You can find information on silica exposure ranges by common construction tool, controls available, and guidance on respirator use in the initial stage of a project (before air monitoring can be done). The web address is: <http://depts.washington.edu/silica/>

TOPICS, SPEAKERS & SPONSORS WANTED

Ever sit in one of our chapter meetings and wonder where in the heck did they come up with that topic? **We need your input for the Spring schedule.** What topics would you like to hear about? What subjects trip your safety trigger? Be on the lookout at local seminars for good speakers with good material, or a company who might want to sponsor a meeting. If you'd like to present a topic, step up to the plate for consideration. If you have suggestions or would like more information, please contact a chapter officer.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

40 Hour HAZWOPER

January 14-18, 2008 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
College of Southern Nevada - Occupational Safety & Health Programs

Mold, Lead & Aerosol Workshop

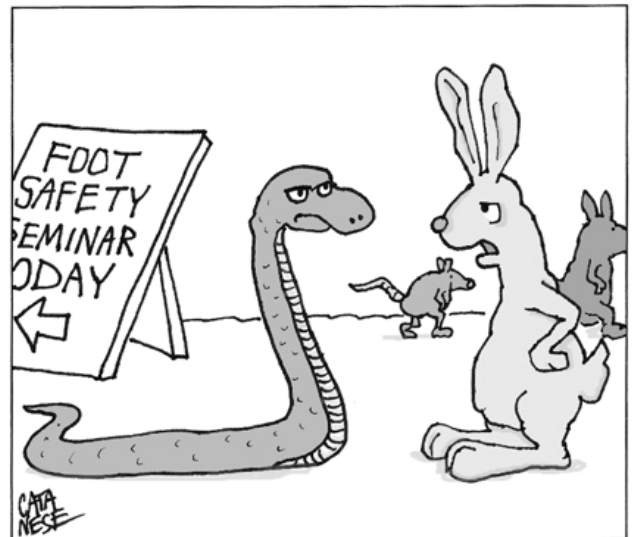
Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 7:30 AM to 12 PM Las Vegas Chapter of the Indoor Air Quality Association . Free to All with Interest

For additional information go to <http://www.asselv.org>

SAFETY JOBS

Check the jobs page on the SNC website for a listing of current job openings or post a job in Las Vegas and a broad at: <http://www.asselv/jobs/>

THE FUNNY SIDE



“What do you *mean*, you got nothing out of that?”

If you have news, an article, an accomplishment that you would like added to the newsletter, please contact Steven Ross, our Newsletter Editor at steven.ross@lvvwd.com

Disclaimer: The Southern Nevada Chapter, ASSE is not responsible for the accuracy of information posted in the newsletter or email postings if that information has been received from outside sources. Nor do we, as the Chapter, endorse or sponsor the activities/events that are posted via this medium, except where noted. We attempt to provide information relevant to the safety profession for our members as a chapter activity and service. Additionally, Southern Nevada Chapter member e-mail addresses on this newsletter are considered protected information for Chapter or National ASSE use only.