



The American Society of Safety Engineers

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Southern Nevada Chapter



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Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter

August 2006

ATTENTION TO MEMBERS!

By order of the Chapter Executive Board, your presence is requested at the next Chapter Meeting!

**Date: Wednesday,
August 9, 2006**

**Time: opens @700 A.M.,
Continental Breakfast until
7:30 AM.**

**Open mike meeting until
9:00AM**

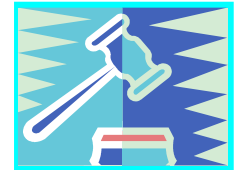
**Place: Main Street Station
"The Social Club"** (same as last
year, building next to parking garage)
At Main & Ogden Avenue

President's Corner

Greg Wilson, Chapter President, 2006 -2007

Hard to believe it's August and the beginning of a new chapter year and summer is almost gone. Anyway, its time to get the chapter year started. The new board and committee chairs had their strategic planning meeting this past Saturday at Sletten construction headquarters. The leadership team ratified the third year of the three-year strategic plan, so our course is set.

This year we have added in a new committee, the CoPs committee. CoPs is a national initiative and stands for the Council on Practice Specialties. Brian Gourdie from the Las Vegas Valley Water District will chair the committee. This effort fits well with our strategic planning goals of offering the best professional development and networking opportunities to our diverse membership that work in the many aspects of the EHS community. We really have a great cast of leaders; it gives me confidence that this year is set to be very successful.



The first chapter meeting of the new year is set for Wednesday, August 9th. and will be held at the same location as last year, Main Street Station. For this first meeting we plan to introduce the new board members and committee chairs to the membership and then have an open mike discussion on a number of topics. The meeting should be interesting and it will give everyone a chance to participate.

Speaking of participation, the chapter still has a number of open committee chair positions. The following chairs still need to be filled:

Asset Management
CHMM
Construction
Government Affairs Public Relations
Special Events
Website

If you have an interest or know of any one that would want to fill one of these positions please let me know. Participation from the membership is what will make the chapter strong. Lets have a great year, see you at the next meeting.

The new "Chapter Year" Meetings begin on Wednesday, August 9, 2006. Meetings will continue at Main Street Station, Pullman Grille (until we outgrow it!), from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Topic:
OPEN DISCUSSION
Hazardous Materials in the Workplace

Discuss how each attendee handles some or all of the following issues in their workplace:

Flammable Storage	Waste Minimization
Waste Paints and Oils	Water Treatment Chemicals
Compressed Gases	Secondary Containment
Mold	Warehousing
Asbestos	Wood Working Dusts
Lead-Based Paint	Metal Working Fumes
USTs and ASTs	Unknown Powders
Stormwater	Landscaping Chemicals
Cleaning Chemicals (Caustics, Solvents, etc.)	Silica Dusts
	Oil-Based Paints

Bring questions you want answered!

Please continue to check our chapter website for current information during the summer months at <http://www.asselv.org>. The website will be continuously updated to keep you in the news and goings-on.

**Avoiding the Triple Threat of Slips, Trips, and Falls—
Steps You Can Take to Cut Your Accident Rates**

While hot safety issues like repetitive stress injuries have taken the spotlight in recent years, the more mundane slip and fall accidents have been ignored by employers. This lack of attention can be costly. Falls account for about 15 percent of all work-related injuries. Each year hundreds of workers die and thousands become disabled from falls on the job. In fact, these incidents are second only to lower back pain and lifting injuries in the number of workers' comp claims filed.

Unfortunately, there has been little progress toward reducing these alarming statistics. Certainly, OSHA and other agencies are paying more attention to construction-related falls. But the run-of-the-mill slips and trips in general industry have not received much scrutiny.

Employers that do take such incidents seriously notice an immediate benefit. For instance, yacht manufacturer West Bay Sonship Yachts Ltd. of Delta, British Columbia, Canada, had an injury rate that was

more than double the industry average in 1997. "We had four or five people a week falling down holes," said safety training coordinator Michael Vuorensivu. "Now temporary hatch covers are secured. We've put railings where there should be railings, and retrained the employees who were constructing stairs and temporary ladders as to how they should be constructed so there'd be fewer individuals falling off these things." As a result of these and other safety measures, the company's injury rate dropped in half in 2000 and dropped even lower in 2001.

Why do we fall?

The consensus among safety professionals is that almost all falls can be prevented. It's simply a matter of learning how to recognize fall hazards and making the effort to avoid them.

When you fall, you lose your balance and footing. Your center of gravity is displaced, and a fall is inevitable. You may be thrown off balance by slipping on a wet floor or tripping over an object in your way. Once you lose your footing and support, there's no place to go but down.

One of the most common fall hazards is the unsafe or incorrect use of ladders. Climbing on other equipment instead of ladders to access higher levels is another unsafe work practice that often leads to injury.

Falls will often occur on the ground because of slippery surfaces caused by grease, water, or ice. Even if you have a sturdy, slip-resistant floor, a slight contamination from dust, water, grease, or metal shavings can make the surface slippery. The use of inappropriate footwear and poor lighting or obstacles in walkways and on stairs can contribute to slips and falls, too.

In the supposedly safe environment of an office, falls are the most common type of injury. Tripping over an open desk or file drawer is one common hazard. Falls can also occur when someone bends while seated in an unstable chair. Tripping over electrical cords is another typical office fall.

Focus on hazards

Make tripping and fall hazards a major part of your regular safety inspections. Include these items in your inspection checklists and train your employees to watch out for them. Encourage your workers to report any wet or slippery floors or treads on stairways that have become worn.

Review accident reports to determine the causes of slips, trips, and falls. But don't fall into the trap of blaming "carelessness." One supervisor did just that at American Airlines when a cargo handler slipped on a worn tread as he was descending from the cab of a ramp

cargo vehicle and broke his ankle. The supervisor was admonished by the safety department for writing down "Told to be careful" as the corrective action, when the real cause of the accident was the worn tread that should have been reported and replaced.

Training is an essential part of making everyone aware of the potential for slip and fall accidents. Include the following items in your safety talks:

Ladders

- Use the four–one ladder rule—Set the base of the ladder one foot away from the wall for every four feet of ladder height.
- Only use ladders with nonskid feet.
- Tie off the ladder or have someone support the base.
- Never stand on the top two rungs of the ladder.
- Don't climb with tools in your hand—keep them on a tool belt.
- Don't overreach to the sides from the ladder.
- Always fully extend stepladder legs before use.

Floor and Wall Openings and Holes

- Put covers and/or guardrails in place to protect employees from falling into holes, pits, tanks, vats, and ditches.
- If a cover needs to be removed from a hole or pit, there should be an attendant nearby or a removable railing to keep anyone from falling in.
- Make sure lighting is adequate and replace burned-out bulbs promptly.
- Avoid edges of loading docks and other areas where falls are likely.

Housekeeping

- Clean up grease, oil, and debris after each job.
- Report accidental spills immediately.
- If wet processes are regularly used at work, drainage should be provided as well as dry standing places (perhaps provided by mats).
- Make sure walkways and stairs are well lighted and free of debris.
- Report loose carpeting or damaged or uneven floors to Maintenance.
- Close desk, tool, or file drawers after each use.
- If you see anything on the floor, such as a pen or paper clip, pick it up.

Walking

- Use slip-resistant footwear.
- If possible, use nonslip surfaces for floors and ramps and slip-resistant floor waxes and polish.

- Stair treads should also have nonslip surfaces.
- Don't take stairs two at a time.
- Anticipate falls and prepare for them.
- Look before you walk and make sure your pathway is clear—don't walk backwards.
- Changes in floor level should be clearly marked.
- Make sure walkways and stairs are well cleared and sanded in snowy or icy weather.
- Don't run—walk!

Training tips

Make slips and falls your safety focus for the month. Have a poster contest awarding a prize for the best original poster aimed at preventing slips and falls. Display the poster and give out the prize at the safety meeting. Ask for employee suggestions on how to control fall hazards and give prizes for the best ideas.

Hold a scavenger hunt and give out prizes to teams that find the most slip, trip, and fall hazards. Take photos of potential hazards and ask employees if they can identify them and their location.

Many falls also occur at home. Some of the same safety procedures would apply for off-the-job safety as well. Discuss among your workers any recent slip and fall accidents that may have occurred at home and how they could have been avoided.

Source: OSHA Required Training for Supervisors, Issue #352, Business & Legal Reports Inc., 141 Mill Rock Road East, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. www.blr.com

When OSHA Comes Calling

OSHA's list of the 10 most-violated workplace safety and health standards offers employers the opportunity to improve safety. *by Tom Anschutz*

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration recently revealed the 10 most-violated OSHA standards for the 2005 fiscal year. Those standards include Scaffolding (1926.451), Hazard Communication (1910.1200), Fall Protection (1926.501), Respiratory Protection (1910.134), Lockout/Tagout (1910.147), Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178), Electrical (Wiring) (1910.305), Machine Guarding (1910.212), Electrical (General Requirements) (1910.303) and Ladders (1926.1053). Of the top 10 violations, a full 10 percent of the citations involve the failure to establish a written safety program or the failure to provide training. Not only will establishing programs and training help to eliminate these violations, it also may alleviate many other violations that are causally related to training failure, as well as injuries and illnesses suffered by employees who are not receiving adequate training on workplace

hazards. Additionally, establishing written programs and training is likely to provide protection against many willful violation claims.

The Top 10

The OSHA 2005 top 10 contains most of the same standards that have appeared on the list for the last several fiscal years. Scaffolding violations hold the top spot for the fourth year in a row. Ladder violations are the only new entrant to the top 10. The complete list is as follows:

1. Scaffolding (1926.451) – 2005 marks the fourth straight year that scaffolding holds the top violation spot. Scaffolding violations make up more than 10 percent of all violations found by OSHA inspectors. Employers are bound to protect employees from falls and falling objects while working on or near scaffolding at heights of 10 feet or more.
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200) – Hazard communication violations hold the No. 2 spot for the second year in a row. Hazard communication violations account for approximately 8.5 percent of all violations. Failure to develop and maintain a written program is by far the most pervasive type of this standard violation.
3. Fall Protection (1926.501) – Employers are required to provide protection for employees working above 6 feet. Fall protection was also No. 3 on OSHA's top 10 list in the fiscal year of 2004.
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134) – Employers are required to establish and maintain a respiratory protection program. Respiratory Protection violations have moved up from No. 5 on the 2004 list. The majority of the violations involve failure to establish a program, failure to provide medical evaluations to determine employee ability to use a respirator and failure to provide respirators.
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) – This standard outlines minimum performance requirements for controlling hazardous energy during machinery maintenance. Violations of the lockout/tagout standard have shown modest improvement from its 2004 inclusion as No. 4 on the list.
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178) – Violations involving powered industrial trucks moved up two spots from last year's No. 8 ranking. The violations are heavily weighted towards training inadequacies.
7. Electrical (Wiring) (1910.305) – This standard covers the grounding of electrical equipment and has slightly improved over 2004's sixth-place ranking.
8. Machine Guarding (1910.212) – Machine guarding violations have improved since the 2004 fiscal year. However, 3.5 percent of all OSHA violations still involve failure to provide and use proper safety guarding procedures.
9. Electrical (General Requirements) (1910.303) – This standard differs from the electrical wiring standard in that it covers general safety requirements for designing electrical systems.

Taken together, the two electrical violations would rank No. 4 on the list of top 10- most-violated OSHA standards.

10. Ladders (1926.1053) – This standard covers the general requirements for ladder safety. The 2005 fiscal year marks the first inclusion for ladders.

Richard Fairfax, director of OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs, noted that violations per inspection have increased. Conversely, the 10 most-violated OSHA standards decreased slightly from their 2004 numbers. These statistics tend to show that employers have begun to focus on remedying the top 10 most-violated standards. However, as the top 10 OSHA standard violations account for more than 50 percent of all OSHA violations, it is clear that more attention still must be devoted to the top offenses.

Tom Anschutz is an associate with Berens & Tate PC LLO, a labor and employment law firm in Omaha, Neb. He graduated from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, summa cum laude, in 2000. In 2004, Anschutz graduated from the University of Nebraska-College of Law with distinction. Tom is admitted to practice in the states of Nevada and Nebraska as well as the United States District Court of Nebraska. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Omaha Bar Association and the Nebraska State Bar Association, where he serves in the Labor Relations and Employment Law section. He practices in all areas of labor, employment, and human resource law. He can be reached at (402) 391-1991 or at toma@berenstate.com.

Training Opportunities

Anyone interested in Industrial Hygiene is invited to attend the Fall UNLV course titled Industrial Hygiene (HPS 480/680) to be given from 7 PM to 9:45 PM on Thursday evenings starting August 31, 2006 at the Bigelow Health Sciences building Room 201. Contact Dale Walsh, CIH, CSP, CEM at dwalsh@converseconsultants.com or 263-7600 X2010 to audit the class for no charge or sign up for credit at UNLV (www.unlv.edu).

SPONSORSHIP of the Wednesday, **June 9, 2006** ASSE Chapter Meeting generously provided by:
(*This could be your company's recognition*)

Chapter Meeting and News

Chapter Celebrates a Successful Year

The Annual Chapter Achievement Banquet, June 9, 2006, was the largest attended celebration in our history. Great food, great company and lots of door prizes! Special guest, Jim Gallup, P.E., ASSE Regional Area Director, congratulated the Chapter for achieving ASSE National Chapter STARS recognition.

Jeff Kranitsky, Perini Building Company, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The Chapter's 2005-06 Executive Board, Committee Leadership and Volunteers were presented with the Chapter's appreciation. Those honored include: Dr. Gloria Heatherington, President; Greg Wilson, Vice President; Mary MacDonald, Secretary; Allan Eaton, Treasurer; Board Members Larry Mundy, Wayne Matherly, Christer Backlund, Al Johnson, Tom Morano, Steve Ross and John Willian. Committee Chairs Doug Sharp (Education), Mike Cushman (Golf Tournament), Stormy Stormoen (Construction), Sandy Kirkwood (Public Relations), Rodd Weber (Membership), Dr. H (Meeting Sponsors), and Rick Imker, Newsletter.

Special Awards were presented as follows: Member of the Year to Steve Ross for his contribution to the CHMM certification Study Group and creation of the Chapter's Brochure; President's Recognition Award to Wayne Matherly, for his outstanding service to the Chapter and President; Golden Quill Award to Rick Imker, in recognition of the publication of a superb Chapter Newsletter the past two years.

The distinguished honor of Safety Professional of Year (SPY), 2005-2006, was awarded to Dr. Gloria Heatherington for her 5-year body of work in service to the Chapter and the Safety Profession. During the past five years, Dr. Heatherington has served the Chapter as Secretary, Vice President and two terms as President. She has been instrumental in revitalizing the membership and expanding our Board, developing the Chapter Website (webmaster), has served as Newsletter Editor, Special Events, Technical Programs, and Meeting Sponsorship Chairwoman. Dr. Heatherington is CEO of an international consulting firm.

Closing out the evening's Program was 2006-2007 President, Greg Wilson, CSP. Greg presented his vision for the continued growth and development of Southern Nevada Chapter.

Door prizes galore were contributed and our sincere appreciation to these fine Companies:

Atlas Drug Testing
Boyd Gaming
Four R's
Heatherington Consulting Group
Kitchell Development
Pacific Institute for Applied Ergonomics
Perini West Building Company

ASSE Southern Nevada Chapter Meeting Dates

Chapter Year 2005-2006 Confirmed Dates and Location

Chapter Meetings now are held in "The Pullman Grille" at Main Street Station, 12 Ogden Street [at Main and Ogden]. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served to all attendees.

Executive Board Meetings now are held at The Riviera Hotel, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd South. Call or email Executive Board Secretary, for meeting room location.

Chapter Meetings

(begin at 07.00)

2006

August 9

Executive Board Meetings

(begin at 07.00)

2006

August 23

SPONSORSHIP of the Wednesday, **July 5, 2006** Hospitality Industry Committee Meeting generously provided by: (**Preferred Marketing Group**, Drew Spero can be reached at phone – 818-994-9292, fax –818-994-9399, email – dspero@pmgnow.com , Web site – www.pmgnow.com. Brad Hitchcock can be reached at phone – 818-994-9292, fax –818-994-9399, email – bhitchcock@pmgnow.com , Web site – www.pmgnow.com.)

Hospitality Industry Committee Report 7-5-06

Drew Spero and Brad Hitchcock from Preferred Marketing Group gave a presentation at the South Coast on 7-5-06 on preventing burns and cuts in kitchens. Proper gloves and other personal protective equipment is the key to reducing cuts and burns in kitchens and other areas of a business. Drew Spero can be reached at phone – 818-994-9292, fax –818-994-9399, email – dspero@pmgnow.com , Web site – www.pmgnow.com. Brad Hitchcock can be reached at phone – 818-994-9292, fax –818-994-9399, email – bhitchcock@pmgnow.com , Web site – www.pmgnow.com. Article submitted by John Willian.



Presentation Subject



Drew Spero form Preferred Marketing Group



Attendees at ADA presentation



Brad Hitchcock Preferred Marketing Group with hand in boiling water with vapor barrier glove



Ken Blanche from Four Queens with hand in boiling water with vapor barrier glove



Preferred Marketing Group display table of gloves, PPE and kitchen wares

Meeting Locations and Times

August 9, 2006	September , 2006
Location: Main Street Station Room: TBA Time: 07.00 – 12.00 Moderator: Dale Walsh Subject: Handling hazardous materials and waste in the work place Contact Person: W M (702) 794-9381	Location: Nevada Power Room: TBA Time: TBA Speaker: Joint meeting with AIHA Subject: Contact Person: Dale Walsh