



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

## The Safety Net Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter



[www.asselv.org](http://www.asselv.org)

September/October 2007

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In June 2007 I had the opportunity to attend the annual ASSE Professional Conference in Seattle, WA where I was a speaker at two technical sessions. As I am affiliated with the Environmental Practice Specialty and have served that group on the national level for several years, I was invited to dinner by some of my EPS colleagues the evening of my arrival. It is comforting to travel to a strange city and to find welcome with people you know, even if in reality you actually know very little about them personally as a consequence of only seeing them once per year at best. But very quickly it became apparent that what brought me and the others together in that strange city was a shared commitment to both advancing our individual skills as safety professionals and the goals of the Society at large. We were joined in the bar of the restaurant by another small group of ASSE members, bringing our total to about ten. There was another round of recognition by old acquaintances and a round of introductions for new ones. One of the people in the group was an older gentleman by the name of Ed Granberry. Ed was afforded great deference by my colleagues and was obviously held in high esteem. Only recently while I was keeping up on the goings-on of the Government Affairs committee by reading a press release of that group did I find out why. It turns out that Ed is a chemist with over 48 years safety experience in chemical process and explosives manufacturing including nitroglycerin and high energy rocket propellants. On February 20, 1962, when I was I wide-eyed child whose parents woke up early that morning to watch the first Mercury Manned Space Flight on TV, Mr. Granberry was serving at Cape Canaveral as the Launch Safety Officer; a position he held through the Gemini and Apollo programs. The government affairs press release was an account of the testimony Ed provided on behalf of ASSE during a public meeting of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board on the Bethune Point Wastewater Plant Explosion that killed two municipal workers in Daytona Beach, FL. A key issue that arose during the hearing was the lack of coverage by OSHA standards for state and municipal employees and whether Florida should adopt federal OSHA standards to cover public employees. Mr. Granberry stated in his testimony that in his long career, he has learned that employees are better protected when there is a standard that employers know they must meet.

The ASSE is a remarkable organization, comprised of many talented and accomplished people. The strength of the Society and the Southern Nevada Chapter lies in its membership. While we are all in various stages of our careers, whether just beginning or a seasoned professional, we are each of us engaged in some aspect of occupational safety protecting people, property, or the

environment. What brings us together under the banner of ASSE is our shared commitment to advancing our own individual skills as safety professionals and to advancing the profession of occupational safety. And the beauty of it is, we don't need to travel to a strange city to do it, we can do it right here in Las Vegas. — Doug Sharp, President

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

September 12, 2007— ASSE/AIHA Joint Membership Meeting @ Nevada Power Company at 7:30 am. (See attached meeting announcement)

October 10, 2007— ASSE Membership Meeting  
Location: TBD

### ASSE CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Come join the ASSE Southern Nevada Chapter to swing into safety with our Four-Person Golf Scramble for fun and prizes on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007. Tee time is at 7:30 a.m. at the Silverstone Golf Club, 8600 Cupp Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89131.



An All American BBQ, featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and fixings will be served at the completion of the golf tournament. Proceeds benefit the ASSE Southern Nevada Chapter Foundation and other academic initiatives.

See registration information attached to this newsletter or go to: <http://www.asselv.org>.

### IN THE NEWS

**August 21, 2007** — Boyd Gaming has agreed to pay a \$185,000 fine for a tragic construction accident that killed two workers and injured another on February 2nd. The two workers died after trying to clear blocked grease traps in a manhole at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. The first worker entered the manhole, was exposed to gases and died. Two more workers followed, and one of them died. The other was



The American Society  
of Safety Engineers



## ASSE ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBER CRITERIA

The House of Delegates voted on a change to Professional Membership criteria within ASSE at the June meeting. An article with the details of these changes was posted on July 31 in ASSE's electronic newsletter, *Society Update*, and will also be communicated in *Professional Safety Journal* in September.

The ASSE's goal is to be sure that all members are familiar with this change and have a chance to reclassify their membership before the July 1, 2008 deadline (July 1, 2009 for members outside of the United States). Reclassifications are offered at no cost until these deadlines. The new criteria to qualify for professional membership are as follows:

- Shall be a certified safety professional (CSP) or certified industrial hygienist (CIH) in good standing with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals or American Board of Industrial Hygiene, respectively, or
- Shall hold an accredited certification from a body recognized by the Admissions Committee, hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university and shall have a minimum of 5 years in the aggregate professional safety, health and environmental experience, or
- Shall be registered or licensed by a state agency as a professional engineer (P.E.), hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university and shall have a minimum of 5 years in the aggregate professional safety, health and environmental experience, or
- Shall hold a doctorate level degree from an accredited college or university in a safety, health and environmental field recognized by the Admissions Committee and shall have a minimum of 5 years in the aggregate professional safety, health and environmental experience.
- Thus, to obtain professional member status with ASSE, members must have one of the following certifications:
  - Certified Safety Professional (CSP)
  - Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)
  - OR, one of the following certifications/licenses, along with a bachelor's degree and 5 years of SH&E experience:
    - Professional engineer (P.E.)
    - Certified Health Physicist (CHP)
    - Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM)
    - Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP)
    - Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA)
    - Chartered Member-IOSH (CMIOSH)
    - Chartered Fellow-IOSH (CFIOSH)
    - Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS)
    - OR must have a doctorate level degree in an SH&E field and 5 years of SH&E experience.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What has changed?

**A:** Previously, those members with a bachelor's degree and 10 years' SH&E experience, or those with a CSP or CIH in good standing, were allowed professional membership status in the Society. The new criteria requires a credential from the approved list, a bachelor's degree and 5 years' experience in SH&E; or a doctorate-level degree in an SH&E field and 5 years' SH&E experience.

**Q:** How does the change to the criteria to become a professional member affect those who are currently classified as professional members?

**A:** Members who are currently classified as a professional member will not be affected by this change. Once you are classified as a professional member, your classification will not change as long as you continue to meet the requirements (for example, keep your CSP in good standing with BCSP).

**Q:** How can I reclassify?

**A:** One of two ways:

- Through the online form. The site will allow no-cost reclassification between now and June 30, 2008.
- Through the membership application via fax or mail. The back page of the application has a "reclassification" option. Complete the Work/Educational History and the Occupational Experience sections. Again, the cost will be waived through June 30, 2008.

**Q:** If I reclassify to professional member now without a certification, what will happen on July 1, 2008?

**A:** All members who reclassify to professional member before July 1, 2008, will keep their level of membership at that time (if this includes a certification, it must also be in good standing). All members who join or reclassify after that point will need to meet the new requirements.

**Q:** I reside outside of the U.S. and have a hard time accessing certification programs. How does this apply to me?

**A:** For members residing outside of the U.S., the change will not take effect until July 1, 2009. This will provide an additional year to acclimate to the new criteria.

**Q:** I hold a certification outside of the list currently recognized by ASSE. Can this certification be considered to be recognized for professional membership?

**A:** The ASSE Admissions Committee is continually reviewing credentials for consideration for Professional Membership. If you would like a credential to be considered, please submit it to Michelle Brozell, manager, membership development.



## Why Safety Matters...

- Employees who don't learn the safe way to work in training are accidents waiting to happen.
- Employees learn at different rates and in different ways, which means you need to repeat each safety message several times in different ways to make sure you get through to everybody.
- When safety involves the application of a skill, technique, or procedure, repeated practice is essential for most employees.



**THE MONSTERS OF CONSTRUCTION FRAUD**

Like it or not, construction companies face a great deal more challenges in the issue of fraud than other types of companies do. Like any business, a construction company faces the normal Accounts Receivable and Payable frauds, the Ghost Employees, the Vendor and Customer frauds that all companies must deal with on some scale. But in addition to those types of fraud construction companies are especially vulnerable to these following schemes. I (David Roberts) call them the Monsters of Construction Fraud.

1. Dr. Frankenstein - The Dr. Frankenstein "operates" on the material purchased by construction companies. He strips the plastic coating off of the copper wires, junking the plastic and selling the copper to junkyards. He will scrounge the construction sites for scrap and will sometimes go to the extra step of ordering extra copper wire or materials that are not needed so that he can sell it as "scrap". He does this to "piece together" his creation, an expensive fraud. These kinds of frauds prey on a lack of internal controls of ordered inventory and materials.
  
2. Igor - In the movies, Igor is the down and dirty hunchback operating the machinery for Dr. Frankenstein. In a construction company Igor is the down and dirty mechanic more often than not hired by a Dr. Frankenstein. In this ploy, Igor submits invoices for parts, materials, and labor to a knowing Dr. Frankenstein who then submits these invoices to the company owners for reimbursement. A reimbursement for parts and materials that didn't exist, and for labor that never occurred.
  
3. The Zombie Master - Using the names and identities of "dead" or "dying" companies, (companies where the owner has retired or passed away) the Zombie Master 'resurrects' the company so to speak, and will sometimes go so far as to open bank accounts in the name of the "dead" business. Zombie then uses an accomplice in the company to add "legitimacy" to the invoices he sends with the logo, name and convenient new address (usually a mail drop box with a Suite number instead of Post Office box number.) for the 'dead' company. He then recreates this same scheme using a number of 'deceased' companies to bilk the owners out of, potentially, millions of dollars. Another variation that is not mutually exclusive to this previous strategy is to use the same "dead" company to bilk many more construction companies at the same time. The fraud is one of timing as the Zombie Master cannot keep submitting the invoices as word of the "death" of the legitimate business spreads. The fraudster's accomplice will act as the middle man, usually receiving a kickback for his part in the fraud. Perhaps using the names of old movie monsters is a bit dramatic, but for what the owners of construction companies go through after these guys or gals are done, it may not be nearly dramatic enough. These types of frauds have been responsible for shutting down what were pretty solid companies. Those that were lucky enough to survive the horrors still shudder at the thought of these 'monsters'.

David Roberts, CFE, CQBPA, MBA, He is the owner of Homesoon Accounting Services which specializes in QuickBooks Consultations and Fraud Prevention and Detection.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Focus Four & Other Construction Hazards**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007  
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Codale Electric Supply  
3755 West Sunset Road, Suite A  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
Fee: FREE  
Contact: Carroll Mumford, Executive Director  
Southwest Safety Training Alliance, Inc.  
(Ph) 480-829-0580 or toll free 1-877- 671-4800



**Trenching & Shoring Competent Person Course**

Friday, October 5, 2007  
8 a.m - 12:00 p.m.  
Allied Trenching & Shoring  
6680 Surrey Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Fee: \$99  
Contact: Dr. H for Registration drhisin@cox.net or 562-0877

For more information on educational opportunities go to <http://www.asselv.org>

**BECOME A CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PRACTITIONER (CHMP)**

The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) announces the launch of the application and examination process for the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner (CHMP) credential. Candidates for CHMP certification must pass a multiple-choice examination, professionally developed by IHMM, and administered via computer-based testing (CBT) at over 200 locations across the United States. Your education and/or experience will determine your eligibility to sit for the exam. There are two ways to qualify:

- Five years of relevant experience\* with responsibilities directly related to the handling of hazardous materials and/or waste in the workplace;  
--OR--
- Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree from an accredited college or university in hazardous materials management, environmental science, environmental management, or environmental technology, plus 3 years of relevant experience.

For more information about the CHMP go to: <http://www.ihmm.org>

**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](mailto:steven.ross@lvvwd.com)**

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