



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

The Safety Net

Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter



May/June 2008

www.asselv.org

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

Although Chapter Year 2007-2008 is coming to a close in June, there is still much to look forward to as the Southern Nevada Chapter is ending the year as we started out, fully engaged in advancing the professional practice of occupational safety in our community. We've had a very eventful year in which we've managed to hold chapter meetings in every month in spite of having occasionally to find new locations in which to meet and accommodate our increasingly large turnout. Through the good work of the Executive Committee we were able to attract high quality speakers and generous sponsors which made our meetings as productive and informative as they were hospitable.

Thanks to the efforts of Member-at-Large Steve Ross, CHMM, who is our webmaster and newsletter editor, our website and newsletters have been beautifully and masterfully constructed and both truly reflect the high standards of ASSE. I also thank Member-at-Large Tom Morano, Construction, and his employer, Sletten Construction, for hosting the Executive Committee meetings for the past two years and for providing so much support to our Chapter. It is clear to me that this partnership is born of a genuine commitment to the professional practice of occupational safety by Tom and the owners and managers of Sletten Construction.

During this year, Las Vegas has witnessed a shockingly high rate of fatalities on construction sites as reported by Alexandra Berzon of the Las Vegas Sun. Our May 14 chapter meeting was held jointly with the Las Vegas chapters of the American Industrial Hygiene Association and the Indoor Air Quality Association and was dedicated to an open forum of directed discussion of the complex issues surrounding these tragic circumstances. We also included inquiry over how our chapter can positively and continuously contribute to efforts in our community which will result in safer work places for all. In addition to our usual membership, which includes stakeholders directly involved with the controversies surrounding these circumstances, our guests included Nevada State Senator Maggie Carlton and Brian Davie, Legislative Services Officer of the Las Vegas Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Both spoke to our audience and offered perspectives on the interest of State and Local government in these fatal accidents and suggested ways we may form partnerships with them. When this meeting was over and I got in my car, I turned on the radio and caught the final moments of Sun reporter Alexandra Berzon being interviewed on KNPR. I was proud to realize that the Southern Nevada

Chapter of ASSE was actively engaged in seeking ways to contribute to resolving the issues that her reporting brought to the attention of our community at the same time that her interview was being broadcast.

In June the ASSE Professional Development Conference will be in Las Vegas and there will be opportunities for our members to help make our guests feel welcome. We will have a booth in the conference hall where we will be selling ASSE Las Vegas T-shirts to raise funds for our treasury and at which those of us attending the PDC will be able to hang-out and enjoy each others company.

On June 13, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., we will be holding our annual Installation of New Officers and Awards and Recognition event, at Hennessey's Tavern on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. Details on this event will be posted elsewhere. I sincerely hope members and their spouses will join us for what promises to be a fun end to our Chapter Year.

Finally, as this is my last Presidents Message, I thank each member of the Executive Committee for their time and efforts in keeping this chapter of ASSE focused upon achieving the goals of ASSE in our community. I also thank all of our members for your efforts in support of our chapter in advancing the professional practice of occupational safety. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Southern Nevada Chapter as president and doing so has contributed profoundly to my growth as a safety professional. We have much to look forward to in Chapter Year 2008-2009 under the practiced and experienced leadership of President Dale Walsh, CIH, CSP, and I look forward to serving on the Executive Committee of the Southern Nevada Chapter for years to come.

—Doug Sharp, CSP

CHAPTER WEBSITE ADDS TWO BLOGS

The Chapter has recently created two new blogs with links from its website. The first blog is designed to provide chapter news and information and the second is to provide a forum for members to post safety questions. Each blog allow visitors to post information and provide comments and answers to safety, health, or environmental questions. To see the new blogs go

PROTECTING PEOPLE, PROPERTY,
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SINCE 1911.



The American Society
of Safety Engineers



SOCIETY NEWS

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL COMMON INTEREST GROUP

Dear Chapter Presidents:

Recently a common interest group was formed to help groom young professionals in the Society. The newly formed, Young Professionals (YP) Common Interest Group (CIG), will be having its first networking meeting in Las Vegas on Wednesday, June 11th, 2008 at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel in Conference Room #6.

The YP CIG targets graduating college and university seniors and those with up to 7 years of SH&E experience. Experience begins with the first full time employment as an SH&E professional. This also includes those who may be entering the field mid-career. This networking meeting is open to all who are interested in learning more about the group (i.e. members, mentors, sponsors, students, etc.).

The Executive Committee of the YP CIG would like to encourage professionals who are new to the Society or the Safety, Health, and Environmental (SH&E) field to attend this event. We are asking that you help us publicize the newly formed CIG by making an announcement at your chapter meetings, providing information on your website, by emailing your chapter members, and/or publishing information in your newsletter.

There is a flyer attached for your review and distribution. Please advise members to RSVP to selena.schmidt@libertymutual.com or tfalin@northcoastenergy.com if they are planning to attend.

The website for YP CIG is currently under construction, but can be viewed at <http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/yp/index.php> for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the executive committee. Contact information is listed on the website.

Regards,

Selena D. Schmidt - Senior Consultant
National Market Loss Prevention UPS
Liberty Mutual Group

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 14, 2008 — Joint Workshop/Meeting with ASSE, IAQA, and AIHA. The meeting will feature our chapter membership meeting plus a construction safety forum and two presentations on road dust and green building air quality.

Time: 7:00 AM—12:00 PM

Location: Chashman Convention Center Rooms101/102
850 North Las Vegas Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89010

Friday, June 11, 2008 — Chapter Awards Banquet

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Hennessey's Tavern,

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

ASSE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER NEW CONFINED SPACE RULE

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has stated in a letter to OSHA's Edwin G. Foulke, Jr. that the recent proposed rule on *Confined Spaces in Construction* is unduly complicated and fails to recognize current safety practices that have proven successful both in general industry and in construction.

"This rule, if adopted without significant changes, would provide for a significantly lower level of safety than what is currently required throughout the construction industry by the Z117.1-2003 standard," ASSE President Michael W. Thompson, CSP, said in the letter, sent February 29. ASSE serves as the Secretariat of the ANSI Z117 Accredited Standards Committee for Confined Space Entry.

"Rulemaking that provides less worker protections than that provided by a widely adopted voluntary consensus standard like Z117.1 goes against OSHA's duty established under the 'National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995'," said Thompson.

Rather than adding clarity or advancing safety consistent with current industry safety practices, Thompson wrote, the changes offered in the proposed rule instead add a new level of complexity to confined space work while adding little new to the approaches already successfully being used to address confined space risks. It also fails to address key confined space topics including harmonization of confined space classifications, hazard assessment, assignment of responsibilities, and the continued allowance of a chest harness as part of a vertical confined space rescue effort.

Thompson was also concerned that the rule is not in harmony with the widely accepted Z117.1-2003 consensus standard — Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces. ||

A comparison of Z117.1 to the proposed rule demonstrates that the existing general industry regulations together with Z117.1 does have the necessary scope, breadth and detail to help employers manage successfully confined space safety matters within the construction industry, according to ASSE.

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CSP PROFESSIONAL EXAMS TO CHANGE IN 2009

Two examinations that are part of the Certified Safety Professional credentialing process have been updated and will be put into use in 2009.

The tests, "[Safety Fundamentals](#)" and "[Comprehensive Practice](#)", have been updated to better reflect today's required skills and practices, according to the Savoy, IL-based Board of Certified Safety Professionals. Future CSP candidates and those currently enrolled who purchase the tests after Jan. 1 will be subject to the updated versions. BCSP Examination Director Steven Schoolcraft said the updates should not result in significant changes to how candidates study for the exams



REGULATORY NEWS

OSHA ENFORCEMENT FY 2007

WASHINGTON -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently released its [annual enforcement statistics](#), confirming that the agency's enforcement programs are producing positive results for the benefit of American workers.

In FY 2007, OSHA conducted 39,324 total inspections, a 4.3 percent increase over its stated goal of 37,700. Total violations of OSHA's standards and regulations were 88,846, a 6 percent increase from Fiscal Year (FY) 2006. The agency cited 67,176 serious violations, a 9 percent increase from the previous year and a more than 12 percent increase over the past four years. The number of cited repeat violations also rose from 2,551 in FY 2006 to 2,714 in FY 2007.

"The fact that OSHA surpassed its inspection goal for FY 2007 proves our enforcement commitment remains strong," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Edwin G. Foulke, Jr. "The significant increase in citations for serious and repeat violations documents OSHA's focus on identifying and eliminating severe hazards in the workplace."

Fatality and injury and illness rates have continued to decline to record lows. The injury and illness incidence rate of 4.4 per 100 employees for calendar year (CY) 2006 was the lowest that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has ever recorded. Workplace fatality rates hit an all-time low in CY 2006 with 3.9 fatalities per 100,000 employees.

OSHA's results show that a strong, fair and effective enforcement program, along with outreach to employees and employers and partnerships and cooperative programs, add value to the workplace for both employers and employees by reducing injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

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.



**American Society
of Safety Engineers**

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

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

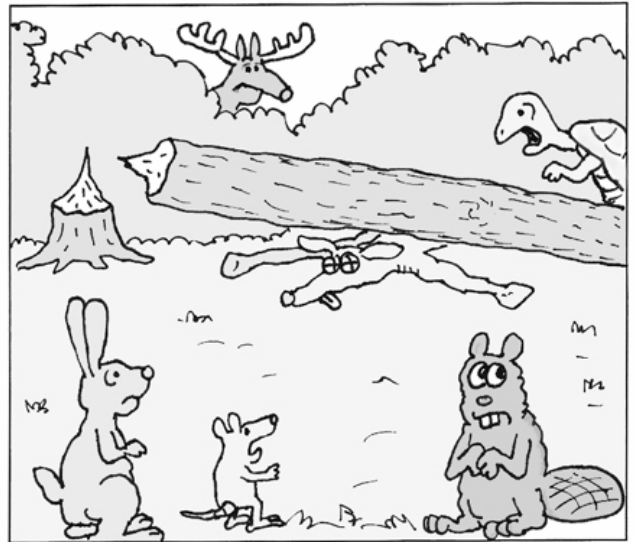
Check our Education page on the SNC website for a listing of upcoming safety educational and training opportunities go to: <http://www.asselv.org>

Also, if you know about a training opportunity in the Las Vegas area and want to post it, please contact the webmaster at: steven.ross@lvvwd.com

SAFETY JOBS

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

THE FUNNY SIDE OF SAFETY



**"Oh my gosh! Does anyone
know what happened?"**

THE SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Published six times a year by the Southern Nevada Chapter of ASSE. Members are invited to submit articles, member news, etc. All material is subject to editing and will be included as space allows. Please contact Steven Ross, our Newsletter Editor at steven.ross@lvvwd.com to post an article..

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.