

# American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



## The President's Message

<b>February 2008</b>	
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Current events in the past few weeks remind me of the positive and negative sides of our profession.

Early in February a catastrophe in a sugar refining plant in Georgia killed, as of this writing, six employees and critically burned over 14 more. It took several days before the site was safe enough for fire fighters to even begin searching for some of those that remained missing. Photographs of the plant show incomprehensible devastation and destruction. While the investigation has yet to reach a final conclusion, it appears as though a likely culprit is combustible dust in the silos that ignited and caused the massive explosion and fire. According to an article posted online at MSNBC...

“More than 300 dust explosions have killed more than 120 workers in grain silos, sugar plants and food processing plants over the past three decades. Most are preventable by removing fine-grain dust as it builds up, experts say. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board concluded in a special report in 2006 that OSHA had no comprehensive regulation to prevent these explosions and their program "inadequately addresses dust explosion hazards." The board recommended OSHA issue a comprehensive industrial standard for combustible dust. OSHA did not issue a comprehensive industrial standard for combustible dust, as the board recommended. “

It's hard to comprehend the feelings of grief and anguish now rippling through that community and to imagine the impact these events will now have on so many families who are suffering horrific losses, possibly because of a failure to correct for a known and preventable safety hazard.

Tragic events like this on remind us of the importance of what we do and how hard we must continue to work to improve the lives of our fellow workers. At our February monthly Chapter meeting, those in attendance were able to witness the positive side of safety as we celebrated an achievement for a fellow Chapter member. Jason Malatak, Director of Risk Management from Mosites Corporation, was honored as the 20,000th person to be awarded the CSP designation. With this accomplishment, Jason joins a notable society dedicated to an ongoing and daily commitment to find ways to eliminate tragedies like the one in Georgia from happening.

Without a doubt, we all have a lot to be proud of and many of us can feel assured that our professional careers have resulted in improving and saving lives, but sometimes we are brought up short and need to take some time to reflect on the need to keep trying every single day.

Yours in Safety!  
 Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM  
 President

# Chapter Events Calendar

## March 26, 2008

Plans are in the final stages for our traditional joint meeting with AIHA. The working plan is a visit to the NIOSH facility in Morgantown, West Virginia. More details to follow. The details are not yet confirmed but since this event will require a whole day of your time, this information can be useful when blocking out the time to attend. Our Program Chairs are trying to work on a group transportation option so we don't have to leave such a big carbon footprint that day. As soon as more details are available, they will be passed on to you.

## April, 2008

## May 15, 2008

The annual awards dinner is planned for Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Library on Carson Street on the South Side. More details to follow.

## Future Program Ideas

It's not too soon to begin thinking about topics for future program, so please give it some thought and let us know what you are interested in hearing about or provide us with ideas of speakers you have heard that you think would make for a good monthly meeting.

**Student Section Sponsorship Opportunities** – The Executive Committee and Chairs this year are working to develop linkages and outreach with two Student Sections at IUP and Slippery Rock. The current policy is to allow Student Section members from either school attend our monthly technical meetings for free. The chapter absorbs this cost in our operating budget. You can help the chapter by sponsoring a student or two and pay their meeting fee. If you or your company would be willing to do this, please get in touch with Nick Kachur at [nkachur@nevchem.com](mailto:nkachur@nevchem.com).

# Government Affairs Update

Contributed by Stive Tima

The ASSE Pennsylvania State Governmental Affairs Committee is supporting PA House Bill 1325, "Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act". It is an Act requiring public employers to protect the occupational safety and health of their employees; and providing for enforcement and penalties. The bill is currently in the House Committee on Labor Relations. In an effort to support the committee's efforts, Chapter members, particularly those employed by public employers, are encouraged to contact either or both Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Chairman of the Labor Relations Committee and James E. Casorio, Vice Chairman. If your representative is a member of the house committee, please contact them as well and be sure to note you are a constituent! If your representative is on the State Government Committee, perhaps they could persuade a friend on the Labor Relations Committee to support the bill.

Go to <http://www.house.state.pa.us/> to contact a member of the House of Representatives. Under the heading of "House Information" select either "Member" (then select the representative's name and scroll down to find his/her contact information) or select "[Representatives' E-mail Addresses](#)" and pick your representative from the list. If you're not sure who your representative is, use the search block to find your representative by zip code or county. A nine digit zip gets precise results. A five digit zip may get you a list of choices. Committee members are shown below.

Labor Relations Committee Members

Belfanti, Jr., Robert E., Chairman  
Casorio, James E., Vice Chairman  
Shimkus, Frank Andrews, Secretary  
DiGirolamo, Gene, Chairman  
Boyd, Scott W., Vice Chairman  
Blackwell, Thomas W.  
Buxton, Ron  
DePasquale, Eugene  
Galloway, John T.  
Gergely, Marc J.  
Gibbons, Jaret  
Goodman, Neal  
Harkins, Patrick J.  
McGeehan, Michael P.  
Ramaley, Sean M.  
Sabatina, Jr., John P.  
Seip, Tim  
Waters, Ronald G.  
Bastian, Bob  
Bear, John C.  
Cappelli, Steven W.  
Cox, Jim  
Gabig, Will  
Grell, Glen R.  
Killion, Thomas H.  
Mantz, Carl W.  
Metcalf, Daryl D.  
Mustio, T. Mark  
Pyle, Jeffrey P.

State Government Committee

Josephs, Babette, Chairman  
Blackwell, Thomas W., Vice Chairman  
Gibbons, Jaret, Secretary  
Baker, Matthew E., Chairman  
Mantz, Carl W., Secretary  
Carroll, Mike  
Cohen, Mark B.  
Curry, Lawrence H.  
Fabrizio, Florindo J.  
Freeman, Robert  
Kortz, II, William C.  
Kula, Deberah  
O'Brien, Michael H.  
Oliver, Frank Louis  
Parker, Cherelle L.  
Ramaley, Sean M.  
Vitali, Greg  
Youngblood, Rosita C.  
Benninghoff, Kerry A.  
Clymer, Paul I.  
Creighton, Tom C.  
Gingrich, Mauree  
Grell, Glen R.  
Marshall, Jim  
McIlhattan, Fred  
Quigley, Thomas J.  
Rapp, Kathy L.  
Vereb, Mike  
Watson, Katharine M.

**NIOSH Highlights Findings that Investors Should Look at Company Safety**

Recently, the global investment firm Goldman Sachs JBWere reported some gratifying but not really surprising study results. The firm found that companies who did not adequately manage occupational safety and health performed worse financially than companies that did. The findings suggest that smart investors will do well to look at companies' occupational safety and health policies and practices as a factor for deciding where to put their capital  
<http://tinyurl.com/2gf6zw>

**OSHA Issues Rulemaking for New Respirator Fit-Testing Protocol**

OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for a new respirator fit-testing protocol-the Abbreviated Bitrex® Qualitative Fit-Testing (ABQLFT) protocol. The proposed rule would add the ABQLFT protocol as an alternative to the current OSHA-approved qualitative fit-test procedures. The ABQLFT protocol for the seven exercises listed in the existing OSHA-approved Bitrex fit-test procedure in the Respiratory Protection standard would shorten the duration of each of the seven fit-test exercises from one minute to 15 seconds. The proposed rule would apply to employers in shipyard employment, and the general and construction industries. Comments are being accepted until Feb. 25, 2008. The rulemaking can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3d2wds>

**OSHA Announces NEP on Silica**

OSHA on February 1, 2008, announced a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on silica. The program is intended to target worksites where employees are at risk of developing silicosis. OSHA's press release can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2195k2> OSHA's NEP on Silica is at <http://tinyurl.com/32zzgz>  
The NEP is a compliance directive issued by the Office of Health Enforcement Programs within the Directorate of Enforcement Programs.

### **February 28 New Deadline for OSHA Confined Spaces in Construction Comments**

On November 28, 2007, OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) titled "Confined Spaces in Construction." OSHA has extended the comment period 30 days. Comments are now due February 28, 2008 <http://tinyurl.com/2prugd>

### **New OSHA Publication Focuses on Security Personnel**

Security personnel (i.e., guards) stand to benefit from a new publication by OSHA entitled Preparing and Protecting Security Personnel in Emergencies (<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3335-security-personnel.pdf>). This publication addresses emergencies involving hazardous substance releases and provides guidance for employers and their security personnel, who may be involved in the emergency response. Printed copies can be obtained by calling OSHA's publications office at 202-693-1888.

### **EPA Final Rule on Steel Foundry NESHAP**

EPA has issued amendments to the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) for iron and steel foundries. These final amendments add alternative compliance options for cupolas at existing foundries and clarify several provisions to increase operational flexibility and improve understanding of the final rule requirements. The final amendments are effective February 7, 2008 <http://tinyurl.com/yrgyo6>

### **OSHA Issues Directive on New SHARP Criteria**

OSHA has announced a new pilot project providing alternative criteria for participation in OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). The directive was issued January 18, 2008, and can be found at [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive\\_pdf/CSP\\_02-00-002.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CSP_02-00-002.pdf)

## **Local News and Events**

### **Career Day at WVU**

Career Day being sponsored by our fellow ASSE Chapter in West Virginia at West Virginia University. The event will be held on Friday, February 29th.

### **Chapter Elections**

The Nominating Committee this year is composed of Del Kubeldis, Fran Sehn and Scott Keener. They have been tasked with developing a slate of candidates for you to vote on for the upcoming Chapter year. Elections are usually held in the spring for the following Chapter year which runs from July to June. At the moment our biggest gap is that of Vice President. This position serves for one year and then ascends to President the following year. We have structured it this way so that anyone who has an interest in becoming President but does not think he/she can take on the task because they don't understand what is involved will have a year of "apprenticeship" so to speak. It is also important to note that a President does not function in a vacuum. If you think you might be interested in a Board position next year, please take the time to contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. They will be happy to answer your questions.

### **Chapter Incorporation News**

Confirmation has been received from the Society that the paperwork submitted for the Chapter to be incorporated was processed as planned in December and our chapter is officially incorporated. This is a move designed to strengthen the fiscal responsibility of Chapters and provide for more consistent management of Chapter operations through the US and overseas. This year our annual financial audit will need to be performed by a CPA; if any of you know of a firm that could assist us in this process, please pass that information on to me. The Executive Committee and Board Chairs will need to make some type of decision about who to use so the more options we have, the better.

### **ASSE Membership Changes**

As a member of ASSE you should be aware of changes in membership criteria that were approved by the House of Delegates at the Society's Annual PDC in Orlando this summer. The changes affect the requirements for the various membership status and categories, specifically what is required to become a Professional member of the Society. Those who are already Professional members will not be affected, but it is important to note that there is a one-year grace period currently in place until July 2008, to obtain Professional membership status under the old criteria. Once

the grace period closes, you will need to abide by the new criteria. For information on the changes follow the links below:

Link to *Society Update* which describes the changes and new criteria in detail - [http://www.asse.org/societyupdate/0708\\_HOD\\_Votes.php](http://www.asse.org/societyupdate/0708_HOD_Votes.php)

Link to reclassify your membership status during the grace period - <http://www.asse.org/cartpage.php?link=additem&PID=MEMBERRECLASS&QTY>

**Welcome to New Members** – (This section is for welcoming new ASSE-WPA members. Information on new members should be sent to Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson.)

**Membership Personal Notes** (This section is for ASSE-WPA membership personal notes such as recent promotions, recent certifications, personal achievements, links to articles and papers published by chapter members, etc. Please send related information to this editor at [wvanderhoof@netzero.net](mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net) .)

**Membership Information**

In order to keep our member information up to date, please notify Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson at [cwheinlein@acig.com](mailto:cwheinlein@acig.com) with corrections, deletions, revisions, or additions to member contact information especially the email address. If you know of a member that is not receiving chapter information by email, please let Carl know. Also, questions about chapter membership should be directed to Carl.

National membership questions can be answered, in general, on the ASSE website at <http://www.asse.org/membership/> .

**ASSE-WPA Executive Board**

Title	Member Name	Email Address
President	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>
Vice President	Thad Pajak	<a href="mailto:Tpajak@ffic.com">Tpajak@ffic.com</a>
Secretary	Scott Keener	<a href="mailto:Scott.Keener@amwater.com">Scott.Keener@amwater.com</a>
Treasurer	Doug Noble	<a href="mailto:dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu">dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Programs	Fran Sehn	<a href="mailto:fran.sehn@hrh.com">fran.sehn@hrh.com</a>
	Kim Morrison	<a href="mailto:morrisonkl@upmc.edu">morrisonkl@upmc.edu</a>
Membership	Carl Heinlein	<a href="mailto:cwheinlein@acig.com">cwheinlein@acig.com</a>
Foundations	Jim Feeny	<a href="mailto:birdog704@aol.com">birdog704@aol.com</a>
PDC Delegates	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>
	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu">RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
	Del Kubeldis	<a href="mailto:delkubeldis@ergsafe.com">delkubeldis@ergsafe.com</a>
Honors & Awards	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>
By-Laws	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu">RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Webmaster	Barry Gibson	<a href="mailto:barry.gibson@basf.com">barry.gibson@basf.com</a>
Government Affairs	Steve Tima	<a href="mailto:stima@portauthority.org">stima@portauthority.org</a>
Social	Josh Shaw	<a href="mailto:joshshaw@ergsafe.com">joshshaw@ergsafe.com</a>
Arrangements	Kiena Nutter	<a href="mailto:disnutt@aol.com">disnutt@aol.com</a>
Auditor	Bill Boots	<a href="mailto:Bill.Boots@hrh.com">Bill.Boots@hrh.com</a>
Student Section	Nick Kachur	<a href="mailto:NKachur@nevchem.com">NKachur@nevchem.com</a>
Council on Practices and Standards Representative	Carl Heinlein	<a href="mailto:cwheinlein@acig.com">cwheinlein@acig.com</a>
Long-Range Planning	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu">RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Special Projects	Cathy Davis	<a href="mailto:cathdavis1@comcast.net">cathdavis1@comcast.net</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Vanderhoof	<a href="mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net">wvanderhoof@netzero.net</a>

Feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board with ideas, questions, comments and concerns.

**General Safety Articles** (This section is for links to articles published by ASSE-WPA members. Please send related information to this editor at [wvanderhoof@netzero.net](mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net) .)

**Other Societies Event** (In cooperation with other professional organizations, this section, at the discretion of the Executive Board, may be utilized to list events from other organizations such as, but not limited to, the ABIH, ACHMM, RIMS, CPCU, etc. Please send related information to this editor at [wvanderhoof@netzero.net](mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net)

- American Industrial Hygiene Association – Pittsburgh Chapter  
<http://www.aiha.org/localsections/html/Pitts/contact.htm> – Their monthly meeting was this past week and as noted above, we will be having a joint meeting with them next month.
- Risk and Management Society, Inc. – Pittsburgh Chapter – <http://www.pghrims.org/> – Another group that met this past week as well, but having attended several of their meetings over the years, it is worth an occasional visit to their website as many of their presentations are also of interest to our members.
- Society of Human Resource Management – Pittsburgh Chapter - <http://www.pittsburghhra.org/LDP.php> - For many of our members who wear several different hats, there are some interesting professional development opportunities available through this group.
- Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers – Three Rivers Chapter - <http://www.trc-achmm.org/> - It's not too late to sign up for their trip to the Penguins game on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

(Courtesy of Pam Ferrante)

**Job Openings – Local** (This section is to list any local job openings in the safety fields for membership. Please send related information to this editor at [wvanderhoof@netzero.net](mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net) .) Positions can be viewed on the chapter web site on the [Job Page](#).

**Editorial Note:** The monthly newsletter will be published electronically – posted on the chapter website – during the third week of each month. Therefore, all material to be placed in the newsletter for the month needs to be in the email mailbox of this editor at [wvanderhoof@netzero.net](mailto:wvanderhoof@netzero.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,  
Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP, WSO-CSS