

American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



The President's Message

October 2008	
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Cross country season for high school and college students is winding down now with district and conference meets approaching. I do love running. What does this have to do with ASSE and the safety profession?

I am reminded of a cross country awards banquet I attended a few years ago where one of our region's college cross country coaches gave a presentation. In that presentation he said that "nobody outside of this banquet room really gives a care about cross country". So why do the kids continue to try and excel? It certainly is not for the glory and the maximum sports press coverage. This past week I received one written and one verbal thank-you acknowledgement for basically doing my job. Those thank-you notes sure do help. I think the message I would like to share is that sometimes we have to remind ourselves why we are in this business---looking past the mundane to the end accomplishments that often-times go unnoticed. Like the cross country runners, we have to

persevere because we know that in the long run, our efforts will pay off. Take time too, to sincerely thank your colleague's! They will appreciate your kind words.

Speaking of thanking people, I want to thank Bill Santa and Kennywood again for the very informative, and ghoulishly entertaining (phantom fright nights) tour and demonstration of fall protection. Participants benefitted from a technical session, and behind the scenes look at some of the rides and fall protection considerations at the park. See our website for pictures from the tour.

I am looking forward to our November 6 meeting @ Alcoa: AIM, "Assessment In Motion". This simple risk assessment methodology was created for the reduction of hand and finger injuries but may be used for any targeted body part. Registrations are due by 11/3.

P.S. Mark your calendars for the Holiday lunch on 12/12!

See you at Alcoa

Sincerely,

Thaddeus M. Pajak, CSP, ALCM, MS

Chapter Events Calendar

November 6, 2008; 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Bob Slack is with Alcoa and will host the meeting on hand injury prevention at Alcoa's corporate HQ location. This will be a real life presentation on what Alcoa did to identify, track, and the interventions put into play from a Corporate and Group level, and tools created to help reduce and prevent hand/finger injuries. The seating is limited to 60 people. This meeting, along with the October meeting, has been approved for 0.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU). Those who attend both meetings will earn 0.4 CEUs. We will take attendance, and ASSE will be notified of the attendees. This is a good opportunity for those with CSPs and other professional designations to earn CEUs. To make a reservation, call the hotline @ 412-281-1885.

This meeting, along with the October meeting, has been approved for 0.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU). Those who attend both the October and November meetings will earn 0.4 CEUs. We will take attendance, and ASSE will be notified of the attendees. This is a good opportunity for those with CSPs and other professional designations to earn CEUs.

An **Executive Board meeting** is planned for 2:00 pm, same day prior to the Alcoa meeting, @ Soho's, 203 Federal Street on the North Side. The agenda is forthcoming. Please let Thad Pajak know if you unable to attend.

December 12, 2008 Christmas Luncheon

More information is forthcoming.

February, 2009 (date TBD)

A Construction Safety Seminar is being planned along with a job site visit to the arena construction project site for February, 2009. Topics will include:

OSHA Construction Update	Crane Safety
Work Zone Safety	Electrical Safety

The speakers are TBD

Even though plans are not finalized, some information is available and very tentative. It will be finalized and communicated as soon as possible. Tentatively, the seminar will begin with registration at 7:30 AM and conclude at 3:30 PM and include a Continental breakfast and light lunch, it will be limited to 100 attendees. CEU's are anticipated. The date is trying to be arranged for Friday February the 20th with the speakers TBD. Vendor sponsors are welcome. There could be space for vendor exhibition booths. The speakers and sessions will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes and allow time for attendees to visit vendors' booth in the morning, at lunch and before and after the tour. The anticipated cost would be around \$75.00 for the day. We have \$1000.00 in the budget for this project.

Assistance is needed with lining up the speakers and finalizing plans. Contact Fran Sehn or Carl Heinlein.

April 30, 2009

Shannon Safety Products and ASSE-WPA are once again partnering for the 7th annual Expo at the Hilton Garden in Southpointe, Canonsburg, PA. We will be looking for speakers and vendors. More information is forthcoming.

Future Program Ideas

It's not to 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 Sponsors

Students enrolled in Safety Sciences are the future of our profession. The Executive Committee and Chairs are continuing the effort to develop linkages and outreach with the 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.

Government Affairs Update

Contributed by Stive Tima

DoL Proposes New Requirements for Assessing Occupational Health Risks

The Department of Labor's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking "to compile its existing best practices related to risk assessment into a single, easy to reference regulation, and to include two requirements to establish consistent procedures for conducting risk assessments that promote greater public input and awareness of the Department's health rulemakings."

Under the new proposal, the DoL would issue an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) asking for relevant data when developing risk assessments for health standards regulating occupational exposure to toxic substances and hazardous chemicals, and rulemaking documents and underlying studies used in a risk assessment would be electronically posted. Comments must be submitted on or before September 29, 2008.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-20179.htm>

Review of NIOSH Concludes More ERC Safety Research Needed

NIOSH, under former John Howard's leadership, asked that the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Science review NIOSH's various research programs. The report from that review of NIOSH's Injury Prevention Program has now been released. Significant to safety are at least two of its conclusions, included below, that are fully consistent with what ASSE urged the panel to consider in its informal testimony last year. The report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nas/traumainj/pdfs/NA-TI-report-August2008.pdf>

Those conclusions are:

(7) Increase the visibility of traumatic injury research. NIOSH should embark on a program to increase the visibility of traumatic injury research in order to attract new researchers. Absent a significant increase in research funding, the TI Research Program can still attempt to influence the number of Education Resource Centers that have a focus on safety research and can still disseminate information about the quality, impact, and scientific challenges of traumatic injury research, as well as the dynamic changes in the field that go beyond the confines of traditional safety engineering.

(5) Work collaboratively with OSHA. An agency of particular importance and relevance to NIOSH is OSHA. The TI Research Program, along with NIOSH leadership, should continue to work with OSHA to identify areas of high-priority research that NIOSH should undertake and to identify NIOSH research findings of particular salience for potential regulatory action by OSHA.

IOM Panel's Evaluation of Injury Prevention Program Provides Valuable Input for NIOSH Strategic Planning

A new report by a prestigious, independent scientific panel provides valuable findings and recommendations about the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) research program for preventing traumatic occupational injuries, NIOSH said today. The panel was convened by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) at NIOSH's request.

The full text of a pre-publication copy released on Aug. 27, 2008, is available at

www.cdc.gov/niosh/nas/traumainj/pdfs/NA-TI-report-August2008.pdf.

The full package of materials from the IOM evaluation of NIOSH's traumatic injury prevention program, as well as materials from related evaluations of other NIOSH programs through the IOM and the National Academies, can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh/nas/.

MSHA Proposes Alcohol- and Drug-Free Mines Rule

MSHA has published a proposed rule to replace the existing metal and nonmetal standards for the possession and use of intoxicating beverages and narcotics and establish a standard for all mines. The proposed rule would designate the substances that cannot be possessed on mine property or used while performing safety-sensitive job duties, except when used according to a valid prescription. Mine operators would be required to establish an alcohol- and drug-free mine program, which includes a written policy, employee education, supervisory training, alcohol- and drug-testing for

miners that perform safety-sensitive job duties and their supervisors, and referrals to assistance for miners who violate the policy. The proposed rule would also require those who violate the prohibitions to be removed from the performance of safety-sensitive job duties until they complete the recommended treatment and their alcohol- and drug-free status is confirmed by a return-to-duty test. All comments must be received by midnight eastern standard time on October 8, 2008. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-20561.htm>

Ergo Rules in Process in Michigan

Regulations governing ergonomics are in the process of being reviewed in Michigan. You can find the latest version, from January 2008, at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/CIS_WSH_Ergo_Draft_16_1-18-2008_232049_7.pdf. This process has been ongoing for about five years in Michigan, and the news report linked below refers to this draft plus new nonbinding addendums that have been added to the January draft, according to a representative of MIOSHA. Those addendums are not yet available on MIOSHA's web site. The following business journal article is available at http://www.mlive.com/businessreview/oakland/index.ssf/2008/08/new_state_regulations_on_repet.html

EPA Posts Risk-Based Prioritizations for 29 Additional Chemicals

On Thursday, August 28th, EPA posted Risk-Based Prioritizations and supporting documents for 29 additional chemicals that were sponsored under the High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program at: http://iaspub.epa.gov/opthpv/hpv_hc_characterization.get_report?doctype=1. To date, Risk-Based Prioritizations have been posted for a total of 74 chemicals.

For a given chemical or chemical category, each Risk-Based Prioritization presents an initial recommended level of concern based on information in the supporting documents, which include a Hazard Characterization, Exposure Characterization, and Risk Characterization. EPA uses these screening-level documents to evaluate chemicals and assign initial priority for future potential action based on the risk concerns presented by these chemicals in comparison with other HPV chemicals and in light of any uncertainties presented by gaps in the available data.

The documents are primarily based on hazard, use, and exposure data available to the Agency through the HPV Challenge Program and on EPA's examination of chemical use and exposure information collected from the 2006 Inventory Update Reporting (IUR) as well as data from readily available sources of hazard and exposure information.

For more information, contact David E. Giamporcaro, Industry and Small Business Liaison, Environmental Assistance Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, US EPA, at (202)564-8107.

Local News and Events

This section is for news and events of local importance and should be forwarded to the newsletter editor for inclusion.

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.

Membership Information

In order to keep our member information up to date, please notify Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson at 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	Thad Pajak	tpajak@ffic.com
Vice President	Kim Morrison,	morrisonkl@upmc.com
Treasurer	Doug Noble	dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu
Secretary	Kiena Nutter	disnutt@aol.com
Programs	Gene Mattis	gene_mattis@pmagroup.com
Programs	Gary Gillespie	ggillespie@harleysvillegroup.com
Special Projects	Fran Sehn	fran.sehn@hrh.com
Special Projects	Cathy Davis	cathdavis1@comcast.net
Webmaster	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com
Government Affairs	Steve Tima	stima@portauthority.org
Long Range Planning	Rick Schultz	rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Vanderhoof	wayne@rjrsafety.com
Public Affairs	Nick Kuntz	nkuntz@hdhgroup.com
Membership	Carl Heinlein	cwheinlein@acig.com
Student Section	Nick Kachur	nkachur@nevchem.com
Arrangements	Mark Barch	mbarch@ffic.com
By-Laws	Rick Schultz	rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu
Honors and Awards	Scott Keener	skeener@pawc.com
Auditor	Bill Boots	bill.boots@hrh.com
Foundations	Thad Pajak	tpajak@ffic.com
PDC Delegate	Rick Schultz	rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu
PDC Delegate	Fran Sehn	fran.sehn@hrh.com
PDC Delegate	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com
Council on Practices and Standards Representative	Carl Heinlein	cwheinlein@acig.com
Social (Holiday Party)	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com

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.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFERS FALL BOATING TIPS

Contributed by Dave Zazac, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Many boaters who have put their boats away for the year shortly after Labor Day are missing out on a variety of boating opportunities available in the fall months. The cooler weather associated with fall provides great visual displays and enjoyable boating.

Annually Pennsylvanians anticipate the spectacular colors of the trees, but miss out on some of the best views which are actually on many waterways. On a bright sunny day, boaters can get twice the color show with the trees reflecting off the water.

Whether fishing or enjoying the fall colors from the water, boaters need to prepare for conditions unique to the season. To ensure a safe autumn outing, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8 offers these tips to take into consideration.

Check water levels and conditions before heading out. These include levels at your boat slip or launch ramp and when you are underway. Lower water levels in the fall create obstruction hazards different from those in summer months. For example, boaters could encounter submerged logs, trees and other debris in the water that they would not normally have to deal with earlier in the year during higher current flows.

File a float plan with someone on-shore with details about your trip, destination and approximate time to return. For more information, visit <http://www.uscgaux.org/~floatplan>

Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. While there might be some bright sunny days left, the cool night temperatures are causing water temperatures to drop. One of the major causes of boating fatalities is immersion hypothermia, the rapid reduction of body temperature which occurs when boaters fall into cold water. Any water with a temperature below 70 degrees is considered cold enough to trigger hypothermia.

Always wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD), regardless of swimming skills. A PFD allows a boating mishap victim to stay afloat. The shock of falling into frigid water has claimed hundreds of experienced swimmers nationally. Wearing a PFD during fall boating outings is a must. Beside keeping a victim afloat, PFDs provide excellent insulation against the cold, wind and rain.

If you should find yourself in the water, relax and stay with the boat. Try to climb out of the water and on top of your capsized boat to wait for someone to rescue you if you are alone. Do not worry about trying to salvage gear, anything that falls overboard is of less value than your own life.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed, non-military volunteers who assist the Coast Guard in all its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement.

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.

Job Openings – Local

This section is to list any local job openings in the safety fields for membership. Positions can also 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 wayne@rjrsafety.com by the 15th of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,

Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP, WSO-CSS