

American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



The President's Message

January Greetings:

I hope you are surviving well early this year in this sub-zero weather, and managing to cope with Mother Nature's wrath. With 2008 in our rear-view mirrors, time to look ahead to the positives of 2009 from your ASSE WPA chapter.

One of the challenges of our organization is to perpetuate our mission, and to continue to provide information and services to our members via volunteers who are willing and able to dedicate their time and talents. Thank you at this time to our 08-09 staff who have done a great job thus far, and we are in the home stretch of our chapter year.

Oh yes, you know where this was leading: Per article VI of our chapter by-laws we have a nominating committee to select candidates for 09-10 elective offices. This year's vice president, Kim Morrison, myself and last year's president, Pam Ferrante will comprise the nominating committee. We will identify a slate of officers for election prior to the March meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved with our chapter, please contact myself or one of the other chapter officers.

I hope your 2009 professional career is rewarding, and you continue to improve yourself through learning, and via the support of your professional colleagues. Let us know how WPA ASSE can better serve you.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus M. Pajak, CSP, ALCM, MS

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Chapter Events Calendar

February 20, 2009 Construction Safety Seminar

The Construction Safety Seminar is being planned along with a job site visit to the arena construction project site for Friday, February 20, 2009. Agenda for the day is:

Crane Safety Presentation 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Presented by: Mark D. Ulmer, CSP

Safety Manager Parsons Transportation Group

Covering subjects such as Inspections, Set-up, Determining Capacity, Signaling,
Power Line Hazard Awareness, and Basic rigging

OSHA Update 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Presented by: TBA

Covering subjects such as Crane Safety Violations, Leading accident types on construction sites, and OSHA
Construction Safety Focus 2009

Construction Site Tour 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

New Arena Construction Site (5th Ave. and Washington Place)

Registration for this event will be from 7:00 am to 7:45 am and include coffee and donuts. The seminar will be held at the Marriott City Center at Center Avenue and Washington Place in Pittsburgh, Pa. The cost of the seminar is Cost: \$30.00 per person and includes a lunch buffet of sandwiches, soup and salad. This seminar is presented by the ASSE Western PA Chapter in conjunction w/ Master Builders Association and Construction Association of Pennsylvania. Reservations can be made by calling the ASSE Reservation Hotline at 412-281-1885. Reservations are due by February 16, 2008.

There will be no Chapter meeting this month.

March, 2009

Information is forthcoming.

April 30, 2009 Safety Expo

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 vendors. More information is forthcoming.

May, 2009

Information is forthcoming.

June 12, 2009 Golf Outing

The chapter is completing plans for a golf outing. The plans are tentative and will be communicated in more detail later. For now, the plans include a scramble with a shot gun start in the morning. The outing is open to members and guests. There are sponsorship opportunities available. Prizes will be awarded. The location has yet to be firmed up.

Future Program Ideas

It's not too soon to begin thinking about topics for future programs, 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

Mine Safety Board Holds First Meeting; Begins Process Of Making Pennsylvania Coal Mines Safer

A seven-member board established under Pennsylvania's new bituminous mine safety law met for the first time on January 7, 2009 to begin making the state's deep underground coal mines safer for those who work there. The new Board of Coal Mine Safety has the authority to put in place regulations that keep pace with changing mine safety technology, something the state was previously unable to do. Underground coal mining has been regulated in Pennsylvania since 1877.

One of the board's first tasks will be to review recent changes to federal law that phase in new fire-resistant conveyor belts in mines and require mine operators to install in-mine refuge areas to protect miners in the event of roof collapses, fires or explosions. The board will have the option to amend these requirements into state law and institute more stringent requirements, if needed, based on geologic conditions and other issues in Pennsylvania's underground mines.

The seven-member board, chaired by the secretary of DEP, was appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell and includes three representatives each of the United Mine Workers of America and coal mining companies operating in Pennsylvania's bituminous coal fields. Members and their affiliations include:

- Ronald Bowersox, Shelocta, Armstrong County – UMWA
- John Gallick, Waynesburg, Greene County – Foundation Coal Corp.
- Dave Hudson, Claysville, Washington County – Consol Energy Inc.
- Robert Penigar, Ford City, Armstrong County – Rosebud Mining Co.
- Frank Reidelbach, Ebensburg, Cambria County – UMWA
- James Sabella, Northern Cambria, Cambria County – UMWA

Pennsylvania's new Bituminous Mine Safety law was passed overwhelmingly by the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Rendell on July 7, 2008. It took effect on Jan. 3.

Pennsylvania is the fourth-largest coal producing state—after Wyoming, West Virginia and Kentucky—with 34 underground bituminous mines, including four of the six highest-producing underground mines in the nation. There were three fatalities in bituminous underground mines in Pennsylvania in 2008, all involving underground mining equipment.

More than 20,000 bituminous coal miners have died in accidents since the state began keeping records in 1877. For more information on underground mine safety, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: Mine Safety.

BLS Says Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses Decline in 2007 Report

Both the rate and the number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work decreased from 2006 to 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department Labor. The 2007 rate was 122 per 10,000 full-time workers, a decrease of 4 percent from 2006. There were 1.2 million cases requiring days away from work in private industry out of 4 million total recordable cases as reported by the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. The number of days-away-from-work cases in 2007 decreased by 24,630 cases, or 2 percent, as compared to 2006 levels. Median days away from work—a key measure of the severity of the injury or illness—was 7 days in 2007, the same as the prior three years.

Key findings for 2007:

- In 2007, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) with days away from work declined by 23,400 cases from 2006.
- Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants had 44,930 days-away-from-work cases and a rate of 465 cases per 10,000 workers, which is a 12 percent decrease in the rate compared to 2006.
- Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers experienced the highest number of days-away-from-work cases, with 79,000 in 2007, a 7 percent decline from 85,120 in 2006.
- Cases with days away from work due to a fall on the same level increased by 10 percent from 2006 levels, driven by large increases in the number of cases in retail trade (up 4,280 cases, 19 percent) and health care and social assistance (up 3,360 cases, 11 percent)....

The full 2007 report from BLS can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.nr0.htm>

OSHA Notes FY 2008 Most Cited Standards/Highest Fines

The following were the top 10 most frequently cited standards in fiscal year 2008 (October 2007 through September 2008):

1. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction (29 CFR 1926.451)
2. Fall protection, construction (29 CFR 1926.501)
3. Hazard communication standard, general industry (29 CFR 1910.1200)
4. Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), general industry (29 CFR 1910.147)
5. Respiratory protection, general industry (29 CFR 1910.134)
6. Electrical, wiring methods, components and equipment, general industry (29 CFR 1910.305)
7. Powered industrial trucks, general industry (29 CFR 1910.178)
8. Ladders, construction (29 CFR 1926.1053)
9. Machines, general requirements, general industry (29 CFR 1910.212)
10. Electrical systems design, general requirements, general industry (29 CFR 1910.303)

The following are the standards for which OSHA assessed the highest penalties in fiscal year 2008 (October 2007 through September 2008):

1. Fall protection, construction (29 CFR 1926.501)
2. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction (29 CFR 1926.451)
3. Electrical, hazardous (classified) locations (29 CFR 1910.307)
4. Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), general industry (29 CFR 1910.147)
5. Excavations, requirements for protective systems, construction (29 CFR 1926.652)
6. Machines, general requirements, general industry (29 CFR 1910.212)
7. General duty clause (Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act)
8. Powered industrial trucks, general industry (29 CFR 1910.178)
9. Walking-working surfaces, general requirements (29 CFR 1910.22)
10. Process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals (29 CFR 1910.119)

From OSHA at http://www.osha.gov/dcs/p/compliance_assistance/frequent_standards.html

OSHA Extends Comment Period for Cranes and Derricks Proposed Rule

The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that it will extend the public comment period for 45 days on the agency's Cranes and Derricks Proposed Rule. A notice on the extension will be published in the Federal Register. The proposal was originally published in the Oct. 9, 2008, Federal Register. The proposed rule addresses the key hazards associated with construction cranes and derricks.

OSHA is extending the comment period because of the length of the original Federal Register notice, the comprehensive nature of the proposed rule, and the number of requests for public comment contained within the Notice. The agency will be scheduling a public hearing shortly.

Public comments must be submitted no later than January 22, 2009, and may be sent electronically to www.regulations.gov, the Federal eRulemaking Portal. If submitting comments by regular mail, messenger, or courier service, send to them the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2007-0066, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Comments (10 pages or fewer) may be submitted via facsimile to 202-693-1648.

OSHA Issues Final Rule Clarifying Employer Duty to Provide PPE and Train Employees

The final rule on Clarification of Employers' Duty to Provide Personal Protective Equipment and Train Each Employee was published in Monday, December 22, 2008 Federal Register. The rule revises OSHA standards to clarify that, for employers to be in compliance, they must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and hazards training for each employee covered by the standards. Each employee not protected may be considered a separate violation and penalties assessed accordingly. This revised language is consistent with language in other standards for which per-employee citations have been upheld. The final rule amendments do not add new compliance obligations. Employers are not required to provide new kinds of PPE or hazards training or use a different approach than what is already

required. Additionally, employers are not required to provide PPE or training to employees not already covered by existing requirements.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

EPA Clarifies Nanotubes Regulated Under TSCA

EPA issued a "clarification" in the Federal Register on October 31 (73 FR 64946) that carbon nanotubes are regulated under TSCA as new chemical substances that require a premanufacture notification under Section 5. EPA expects to begin monitoring compliance after March 1, 2009 -- and given that premanufacture notices are required 90 days in advance of manufacture or import, companies don't have much time to act.

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-TOX/2008/October/Day-31/t26026.pdf>

OSHA Announces Final Rule on Vertical Tandem Lifts

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently announced a final rule on improving the safety of longshoring employees who work with vertical tandem lifts (VTLs). The final rule will reduce hazards related to lifting two containers at a time using cranes by ensuring that safe work practices are followed. The rule was published in the December 10 Federal Register

(http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=21367).

The final rule states that VTLs limited to two empty containers can be performed safely with the use of semi-automatic twistlocks (SATLs) that are specially designed for lifting. OSHA determined that an inspection of the containers and SATLs immediately prior to the operation of VTLs is needed to assure that the equipment is in good condition. The rule also sets requirements for a ground transport plan and safe work zones.

EPA Proposes Amendments to Petroleum Refinery Air Emissions Regs

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking comments on a small number of technical amendments to the June 24, 2008, new source performance standards for petroleum refineries. The proposed amendments would require refineries to monitor the amount of excess gas and sulfur to be burned off in a process known as flaring. If a refinery relies upon flaring more than expected, the facility would be required to take corrective action. These proposed amendments reflect additional data and information EPA received since issuing the current standards.

This proposal is in response to requests for reconsideration of the final standards. EPA will accept comments on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. More information on the final rule and amendments is at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1fs.html>

EPA Proposes Guidelines for Construction Site Pollution

EPA is seeking comments on its proposed guidelines to control the discharge of pollutants from construction sites. The proposal would require all construction sites to implement erosion and sediment control best management practices to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges.

In addition, for certain large sites located in areas of the country with high rainfall intensity and soils with a high clay content, stormwater discharges from the construction site would be required to meet a numeric limit on the allowable level of turbidity, which is a measure of sediment in the water. In order to meet the proposed numeric turbidity limit, many sites would need to treat and filter their stormwater discharges.

Sediment is one of the leading causes of water quality impairment nationwide, including reducing water depth in small streams, lakes and reservoirs.

Information on the proposal: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/guide/construction/>

Britain Enacts Health and Safety Offences Act

Britain has passed a new health and safety act providing for penalties, including fines and imprisonment, for breaking the UK's health and safety laws. More information on the act can be found at

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/en/ukpgaen_20080020_en_1 .

OSHA Publishes Nanotechnology Safety and Health Topics Web Page

OSHA has put into place a safety and health topics web page on nanotechnology. You can find the page at

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/nanotechnology/nanotechnology.html>

New OSHA Outreach Training Program Guidelines Available

OSHA issued new Construction and General Industry Outreach Training Program guidelines

(http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/index.html) replacing the 2003 versions. Changes

were made to the 10- and 30-hour training topics. There are also changes to the Outreach Training Program report and additional recordkeeping requirements for outreach trainers. The guidelines affect an estimated 15,000 active outreach trainers and thousands of OSHA-authorized outreach trainers.

EPA Seeks Comment on Adding Hazardous Pharmaceuticals to Universal Waste Rule

To help provide a streamlined system for disposing of hazardous pharmaceutical waste that is protective of public health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to add hazardous pharmaceutical waste to the Universal Waste Rule. The proposed rule encourages generators to dispose of pharmaceutical waste that is classified as non-hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as universal waste. The proposal will also facilitate the collection of personal medications that are classified as household hazardous waste so they can be managed properly.

The proposed rule applies to pharmacies, hospitals, physicians' offices, dentists' offices, outpatient care centers, ambulatory health care services, residential care facilities, and veterinary clinics, as well as other facilities that generate hazardous pharmaceutical waste. It does not apply to pharmaceutical manufacturing or production facilities. Currently the federal Universal Waste Rule includes batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, and lamps. Universal wastes typically are generated in a wide variety of settings including industrial settings and households, by many sectors of society, and may be present in significant volumes in non-hazardous waste management systems. Comments will be accepted for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. Information on the proposed rule: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastetypes/universal/pharm.htm>

Report Says Economy Affects U.S. Health Emergency Preparedness

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) today released the sixth annual Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism report, which finds that progress made to better protect the country from disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and bioterrorism is now at risk, due to budget cuts and the economic crisis. In addition, the report concludes that major gaps remain in many critical areas of preparedness, including surge capacity, rapid disease detection, and food safety.

The full report is available at www.healthyamericans.org.

EPA Finalizes its Approach to Fugitive Emissions

EPA is issuing final New Source Review (NSR) rule that requires consistent accounting for air emissions that are not released through a stack, vent or other confined air stream. For example, these emissions, also called fugitive emissions, can escape from equipment leaks or evaporation. The revision requires facilities to account for fugitive emissions from major modifications to existing facilities the same way they account for fugitive emissions from major newly constructed facilities under the NSR program. Fugitive emissions would be included in determining whether a physical or operational change is a major modification only for industries designated through previous Clean Air Act rulemakings.

Affected industries include electric services, petroleum refining, industrial chemical products, and pulp and paper mills. For more information on this final rule and the NSR Program visit: <http://www.epa.gov/nsr>

Wanted: EPA Goes Online to Find Fugitive Environmental Violators

A new Web tool is available to enlist the public and other law enforcement agencies in tracking down fugitives accused of violating environmental laws and evading arrest.

Information on EPA's Most Wanted Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/fugitives> For more information on EPA's Criminal Enforcement program: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/criminal/index.html>

EPA Finalizes Academic Lab Rule

EPA has finalized the Academic Laboratory rule to help improve the environmental performance of teaching and research laboratories owned by eligible academic entities. This rule provides increased regulatory flexibility, while enhancing safe management of hazardous waste. Eligible academic entities include colleges and universities, and teaching hospitals and nonprofit research institutes that are either owned by or formally affiliated with a college or university.

For more information on the Academic Laboratory Rule, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/generation/labwaste/>

New OSHA Outreach Training Program Guidelines Available

OSHA issued new Construction and General Industry Outreach Training Program guidelines (http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/index.html) replacing the 2003 versions. Changes were made to the 10- and 30-hour training topics. There are also changes to the Outreach Training Program report and additional recordkeeping requirements for outreach trainers. The guidelines affect an estimated 15,000 active outreach trainers and thousands of OSHA-authorized outreach trainers.

OSHA Emphasis Program in New England Targets Crystalline Silica in Construction

A new Regional Emphasis Program (REP) is underway in OSHA's New England Region to minimize employee exposures to crystalline silica hazards associated with commercial and residential construction. The goal of this REP is to help reduce the overall rate of workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities through outreach activities and targeted inspections. Agency REPs address hazards or industries that pose particular risks to employees within an OSHA regional jurisdiction.

Information about the Regional Emphasis Program can be found here:

http://www.osha.gov/dep/local_emphasis_programs.html

NIOSH Data Leads to Changes in OSHA's Nat'l Emphasis Program

In August 2008 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a directive to implement a revised National Emphasis Program (NEP) to reduce occupational exposures to lead, superseding the 2001 program (CPL 02-00-130). Significant changes in the directive include the utilization of data generated by NIOSH under the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) Program for 2002

(<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ABLES/ables.html>) to assist OSHA's field offices in determining industries at risk for lead exposure. Additionally, inspections will now be conducted in establishments where reported employee blood lead levels were at or above 25 µg/dL. The complete revised program is available at http://www.OSHA.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_03-00-0009.pdf.

NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Training Program Changes Become Effective Jan. 1

NIOSH will now require spirometry technicians to complete a NIOSH-approved refresher course to maintain their NIOSH-approved spirometry course certificates. Two changes to the NIOSH Spirometry Training Program (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/spirometry/>) will take effect Jan. 1, 2009. First, a time limitation will be placed on the certificates awarded to students who successfully complete NIOSH-approved spirometry training. Second, NIOSH will begin reviewing and approving dedicated spirometry refresher training courses designed for technicians who have previously completed a NIOSH-approved spirometry course and are seeking recertification. For additional information, contact spirometry@cdc.gov.

EPA Touts Enforcement and Compliance Results

Fiscal year 2008 was a banner year for EPA's enforcement and compliance program, which concluded civil and criminal enforcement actions requiring regulated entities to spend an estimated \$11.8 billion on pollution controls, cleanup and environmental projects, a record for EPA.

More information on EPA FY 2008 enforcement and compliance results:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/reports/endofyear/eoy2008/fy2008.html>

EPA to Investigate Formaldehyde Emissions from Pressed-Wood Products

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register announcing the Agency's intention to investigate whether and what type of regulatory or other action might be appropriate to protect against risks posed by formaldehyde emitted from certain pressed wood products.

You may find the ANPR Federal Register notice at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/formaldehyde/index.htm>.

For more information, please contact Cindy Wheeler at 202-566-0484.

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
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Long Range Planning	Rick Schultz	rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu
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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.

BOATERS URGED TO BE SAFER IN 2009

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

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 78, 7th Division, 8th District - Eastern Region, is offering boaters and water enthusiasts four easy-to follow tips to be safer this coming year:

1. ***Always wear your life jacket:*** Statistics show time and time again that many boating fatalities could have been avoided, simply by wearing a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket while boating is like wearing a seat belt when driving or riding in a vehicle. Simply put, life jackets save lives! Resolve to wear one anytime you are on or near the water.

2. ***Be prepared - take a safe boating course:*** Most vehicle drivers are required to take some sort of driver's education course before getting their drivers' license. Statistics show that 80 percent of those involved in boating fatalities never took a boating safety course. Knowledge is power, and that knowledge may help you be "SEMPER PARATUS" (the Coast Guard's motto, which means "always ready"). It may, in fact, save your life! Resolve to make 2009 the year you improve your boating safety knowledge and skills.

3. ***Get a free Vessel Safety Check:*** Boats that are properly equipped, in good operating condition, and are safe from hazards are less likely to be involved in accidents and fatalities. ***Know before you go*** - request a free Vessel Safety Check by visiting www.safetyseal.net, and clicking on "I WANT A VSC." Resolve to make sure your boat is a safe boat.

4. ***Avoid alcohol while on or near the water:*** Approximately 40 percent of all boating fatalities involve the use of alcohol. If you are drunk and get into an accident on the water, but are fortunate enough to survive, you will likely suffer financial and social consequences, such as large fines (similar to driving under the influence), and the loss of automobile driving privileges. But alcohol doesn't just impact the operator; passengers who have been imbibing are 10 times more likely to fall overboard and drown. Simply put, water and alcohol don't mix! Resolve to be a sober boater.

By following these four, easy-to-follow tips on how to stay safe on or around the water, the Coast Guard Auxiliary hopes that you and your loved ones will enjoy 2009, and be around to make more New Years resolutions come next January.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, volunteer component of Team Coast Guard who assists the active duty Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement.

To find out more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary, or to locate your local Auxiliary unit, visit www.cgaux.org or www.auxpa.org.

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

Current job openings can be sent to Pam Ferrante to post on the chapter website. Current job openings 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 wayne@rjrsafety.com by the 15th of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,

Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP