

# American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



## The President's Message

Hello All,

<b>February 2009</b>	
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This past week our chapter held a construction safety symposium with a focus on crane safety. A special thanks to Mark Ulmer of Parsons Transportation, and Master Builders Association and Construction Association of Pennsylvania who helped in getting our guest speaker. OSHA and IUP OSHA consultation provided a nice augment to the meeting, and I believe that all 70 people in attendance were pleased with the presentation. Thanks too for Pam Ferrante for lining up the new arena tour after the education session.

As we all know, safety is a rather diverse endeavor crossing over to other areas of interest such as fire protection, environmental safety, industrial hygiene and wellness. Our March meeting date as been set for March 24 at the PNC Firstside Center. This will be a lunchtime meeting. As somewhat a change in pace, our presenter, Jeffrey Witte of PNC is going to discuss PNC's green and sustainability efforts as it relates to indoor air, safety, building design,

productivity, energy savings, environmental consciousness, reduced absenteeism etc....Lunch and a short tour of the LEED certified Firstside Center building will be part of the meeting. As PNC is a leader in green and sustainable buildings, hopefully there can be some applications we can all adopt. The hotline is now open for this meeting. 412-281-1885

Although it is only February, we have to start planning for the 2009-2010 chapter year. The Western Pennsylvania ASSE nominating committee has identified the following officers for our 2009-2010 chapter year.

- Kim Morrison, President
- Aaron Cameron, Vice President
- Doug Noble, Treasurer
- Gary Gillespie, Secretary

Look for information forthcoming soon on voting for these candidates.

Educational opportunities abound: Please see our website, "News" tab for an upcoming free, educational seminar on PPE presented by NIOSH to be held @ the Hyatt Regency Hotel Airport location. For more information 412-386-6111, fax 412-386-6716 or e-mail [npptlevents@cdc.gov](mailto:npptlevents@cdc.gov) using the subject line of Meeting Information.

Don't forget to mark your April calendars for the Shannon-ASSE safety expo. The date is April 30. Great educational topics, and CEUs being offered.

Think spring and summer and golf!! The wheels have been turning and we have set a date for June 12 for our WPA ASSE college scholarship golf outing fund raiser. We are looking for hole sponsors and foursomes. More information to follow. If you want to be a sponsor or get early spot, contact Kim Morrison @ [morrisonkl@upmc.edu](mailto:morrisonkl@upmc.edu)

Stay warm, spring is right around the corner.

Thaddeus M. Pajak, CSP, ALCM, MS

# 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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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 24, 2009 Lunch Meeting**

Jeffrey Witte of PNC is going to discuss PNC's green and sustainability efforts as it relates to indoor air, safety, building design, productivity, energy savings, environmental consciousness, reduced absenteeism etc. The meeting will be held at the PNC Firstside Center. Lunch and a short tour of the LEED certified Firstside Center building will be part of the meeting. As PNC is a leader in green and sustainable buildings, hopefully there can be some applications we can all adopt. The hotline is now open for this meeting. 412-281-1885

## **April 25, 2009 Boy Scouts Pre-Camp Inspections**

The Risk Management Committee of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the Boy Scouts needs assistance with the Pre Camp Inspection of the Boy Scouts Camp. It will take place at Heritage Reservation on April 25, 2009 at 8:30 AM until noon. This is a great opportunity to help the scouts in this important project and it is always a great way to see nature up close and personal.

Please contact Fran Sehn at 412-645-8584 or email [fran.sehn@willis.com](mailto:fran.sehn@willis.com) if you can help. We will meet at 7:30 AM for pre inspection breakfast at the General Braddock Inn (100 feet east of the late General's grave on Rt 40).

Thanks for your in advance for your interest in safe scouting.

## **April 30, 2009 Safety Expo**

Shannon Safety Products and ASSE-WPA are once again partnering for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Expo at the Hilton Garden in Southpointe, Canonsburg, PA. The information is on the chapter website at [www.wpa-asse.com](http://www.wpa-asse.com).

## **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](mailto:nkachur@nevchem.com).

**ASSE Requests a Dues Increase**

The National ASSE is requesting a dues increase again this year. As you might remember last years attempt at this was voted down. This proposal is to increase dues by \$10/year for the next three years. The Chapter delegates must vote by March 18th, so we as a Chapter must decide which way to vote. Please let your Executive Committee Members your opinion about a potential increase in dues.

Below is the Executive Overview for you to review about the proposed increase:

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

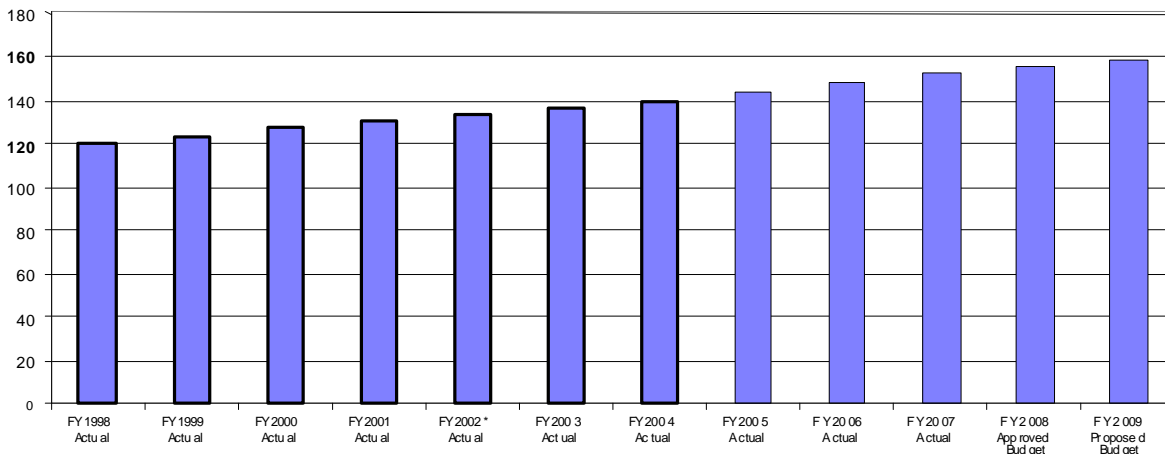
**Need a "Face to Face" Forum to Debate and Have Open Discussion**

- 2008 HoD had 172 Delegates and 47 were proxies.
- Proposed \$29 was acceptable but wanted a phased approach.

**Financial Reasons for Membership Dues Increase**

- The Finance Committee consisting of volunteer members addressed our financial vulnerability.
- Over the years the Society has transitioned from dues at 33.3% of revenue and non-dues at 66.6% of revenue to in FY2008 dues at 25% of revenue and non-dues at 75% of revenue.
- The member receives \$3.00 of value for every \$1.00 of dues.
- Increase reserves by 10% over 4 years to maintain financial well-being.
- We need to enhance membership services and support of the Profession.
- Other professional organizations dues range from \$150 - \$195.
- If Society dues had kept pace with CPI/inflation, dues would have increased from \$120 to \$160.

**Dues Rate to Keep Pace with Inflation**



- PDC generates 33% of our revenue and investment returns are expected to be flat.
- Increase value to member and expansion of programs is limited to funding.

### **Value of Being a Member**

- Professional Safety Journal, Discounts, Career opportunities, Website, Member directory, Leadership training, PDC CD, Technical publications, CSP points, Chapters etc.
- Practice specialties, Government relations, Standards, Networking, Public relations, etc.

### **Expense Controls**

- Staffing levels flat since last dues increase.
- Medical/Dental plan changes to reduce cost.
- Utilization of Technology.
- Major focus to control costs relative to all aspects of the Society since 1999 without any reduction in service to our members.

### **Expanded Services and New Services**

- **Society financial well being, enhance member professional status, expand Government Affairs and develop a Body of Knowledge.**
- **Invest in technical research, grow electronic delivery, expand global services and enhance Region/Chapter member services.**

End of Executive Overview

## **Government Affairs Update**

Contributed by Stive Tima

### **ASSE Comment on OSHA Cranes and Derricks Rulemaking**

In a comment for the record, ASSE has asked OSHA for a hearing to determine how OSHA failed to include even one reference to A10 Safety Requirements for Construction and Demolition Operation voluntary consensus standards in its proposed rule on cranes and derricks in construction. The ANSI/ASSE A10 Committee is one of the oldest ANSI committees, and, until recently, OSHA was a committee member. As ASSE's numerous technical concerns about the rulemaking indicate, references to the A10 and other standards are both appropriate and necessary if this rulemaking is to be consistent with already widely accepted crane safety practices within industry. ASSE also supported OSHA's proposal for crane operation certification but urged that changes be made to ensure quality accreditation of certification programs in the same way the credibility of the highest levels of safety and health professional certifications are guaranteed. With respect to the negotiated rulemaking process through which this rulemaking was developed, ASSE urged OSHA to look at its experience closely and see if lessons can be learned to help improve negotiated rulemaking as a tool for engaging the entire OSH community in OSHA's future rulemaking. ASSE has long called for the use of negotiated rulemaking to address some of the more intractable issues facing occupational safety and health.

**Comment:** <http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs/docs/012208OSHAcranesruleFINAL.doc>

**Proposed Rule:**

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=09000064807410d8>

### **OSHA Announces Public Hearing on Cranes and Derricks Rule**

OSHA is convening an informal public hearing to receive testimony and documentary evidence on the proposed rule for Cranes and Derricks in Construction. The hearing will be at the Department of Labor in Washington, DC, and will begin March 17, 2009, at 10 a.m. on the first day. If needed, the hearing will continue for additional days. If the hearing is continued for additional days, it will begin at 9 a.m. on each of these days. Parties who intend to present testimony must notify OSHA in writing no later than February 13, 2009. Parties requesting more than 10 minutes to present their testimony or who will submit documentary evidence must provide OSHA with copies of their full

testimony and all documentary evidence by March 3, 2009. The informal public hearing will be held in Washington, DC, in the auditorium on the plaza level of the Frances Perkins Building, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-1128.htm>

### **Money for OSHA and NIOSH in Stimulus Package**

HR 1 is the House version of the Democratic stimulus package. On January 26, it was reported to the House. Contained in the bill are monies for OSHA and NIOSH's NORA Research agenda. How much exactly is planned for OSHA is hard to tell. Money for OSHA is included in general language that would give the Department of Labor more money under general provisions for "Department Management" in the following provision: \$80,000,000, for the enforcement of worker protection laws and regulations, oversight, and coordination activities related to the infrastructure and unemployment insurance investments in this Act" and that the Secretary of Labor may transfer such sums as necessary to "Employment and Standards Administration", "Occupational Safety and Health Administration", and "Employment and Training Administration—Program Administration" for enforcement, oversight, and coordination activities...

For NIOSH, its money is being targeted for consolidation of NIOSH facilities in this provision – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall acquire real property, and make any necessary improvements thereon, to relocate and consolidate property and facilities of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. And the bill provides funding for NIOSH's NORA research – ...not less than \$40,000,000 shall be used as an additional amount for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to carry out research activities within the National Occupational Research Agenda....

These provisions can be found in HR 1 beginning at page 27 at [http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111\\_hr1\\_text.pdf](http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111_hr1_text.pdf)

### **ASSE Regional Government Affairs Leaders**

With most state legislators beginning sessions now in the new year, ASSE members should note that there are ASSE leaders in nearly every region to help lead volunteer state government affairs activities. These members have stepped up to provide support to chapters interested in pursue involvement in legislative or regulatory activities. If there is an issue you would like to be involved in or believe that ASSE should pursue, please contact the leader in your region and Dave Heidorn at [dheidorn@asse.org](mailto:dheidorn@asse.org) or Liz Harmon at [lharmon@asse.org](mailto:lharmon@asse.org).

**Region VIII:** Bob Coffey

[wrcoffey@wrcofsafety.com](mailto:wrcoffey@wrcofsafety.com)

(717)-428-1357

### **ASSE/OSHA Alliance Aimed at Workplace Deaths in Baton Rouge**

With the goal of working together to provide expertise in developing information on prevention and recognition of workplace hazards and ways of communicating this information to employers and employees, the American Society of Safety Engineers' Greater Baton Rouge Chapter and OSHA's Baton Rouge Area Office recently formed a formal alliance.

The alliance came about following a number of on-the-job deaths the OSHA Baton Rouge Area office investigated within the past three years involving specific hazards. As such, the new alliance will target these hazards, which include falls, combustible dusts, trenching/excavation, 'struck-by' object hazards associated with local petrochemical and construction industries, and more. The alliance aims to provide OSH&E professionals access to additional training resources as they work to enhance employees' safety and health. These training and education goals include working together to develop training and education programs for general and construction industries regarding the specific hazards and communicating that information to employers and employees in those industries....

The entire article that follows can be found at OH&S Online at <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/01/09/9-on-the-job-deaths-in-baton-rouge-spark-asse-osha-alliance.aspx>

### **OSHA Proposes Adding to Fit-Testing Procedures**

OSHA is proposing to add two quantitative fit-testing protocols to its Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134). One protocol consists of the eight fit-testing exercises described in Part I.A.14 of Appendix A of the Respiratory Protection Standard, except each exercise would last 30 seconds instead of the currently required 60

seconds. The second proposed protocol would eliminate two of the eight fit-testing exercises, and each of the remaining six exercises would last 40 seconds; in addition, this proposed protocol would increase the current minimum pass-fail fit-testing criterion from a fit factor of 100 to 200 for half masks, and from 500 to 1,000 for full facepieces. Comments are due March 23, 2009.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-922.htm>

### **OSHA Begins Diacetyl Rulemaking**

OSHA is requesting data, information, and comment on issues related to occupational exposure to diacetyl and food flavorings containing diacetyl, including current employee exposures to diacetyl; the relationship between exposure to diacetyl and the development of adverse health effects; exposure assessment and monitoring methods; exposure control methods; employee training; medical surveillance for adverse health effects related to diacetyl exposure; and other pertinent subjects. OSHA intends the term "diacetyl and food flavorings containing diacetyl" to encompass other constituents of food flavorings containing diacetyl. In addition to information on diacetyl, OSHA seeks information on acetoin, acetaldehyde, acetic acid, furfural, and other compounds present in food flavorings that may cause or contribute to flavoring-related lung disease. OSHA is also interested in and seeks information about diacetyl present in substances other than food flavorings (e.g., naturally occurring diacetyl or diacetyl in fragrances) as well as substitutes used in place of diacetyl (e.g., diacetyl trimer). The information received in response to this document will assist the Agency in developing a proposed standard addressing occupational exposure to diacetyl and food flavorings containing diacetyl. Comments are due April 21, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-1125.htm>

### **OSHA Announces VPP Revisions**

OSHA has announced changes to its Voluntary Protection Programs. ASSE addressed this issue in 2004 in a statement that can be found at <http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs/govtaffairs/federal/ngcomm136.php>. The changes will allow small, mobile employers in construction to participate more easily by not requiring a safety health plan for each work site but not eliminating the overall requirement. OSHA states:

*OSHA did recognize that requiring individual, comprehensive site implementation plans might be an unnecessary and burdensome condition of participation, and the Agency eliminated this feature in the subsequent 2006 Demonstration Program. Moreover, OSHA decided to build additional flexibility and sensitivity to construction workplace conditions into the 2006 Demonstration by having applicants develop a unique Participation Plan. This plan was limited to addressing elements of the applicant's participation that differed in substance or emphasis from the traditional VPP requirements, such as different employee involvement strategies, baseline hazard analysis, and emergency response and evacuation procedures. The Participation Plan has been a valuable feature of the 2006 Demonstration and is now made part of the mobile workforce way to participate (VI.C.1.b.).*

OSHA also recognized the need for safety and health professionals to implement these systems:

*g. Affording adequate resources to those who have responsibility and authority. This includes such resources as time, training, personnel, equipment, budget, and access to information and experts, including appropriate use of certified safety professionals (CSP), certified industrial hygienists (CIH), other licensed health care professionals, and other experts as needed, based on the risks at the site; and*

The rulemaking can be found at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-165.htm> and OSHA's press release at [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=17270](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=17270)

### **OSHA Releases Revised Compliance Officer Manual**

OSHA has revised its Field Operations Manual for its compliance officers. The updated manual can be found at [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive\\_pdf/CPL\\_02-00-148.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-00-148.pdf). The trade press has reported some gripes that the changes have not been clearly noted.

### **OSHA Interpretation May Help Respirator Manufacturers**

The following is from OH&S online at: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/01/19/19-osha-letter-may-be-big-help-to-respirator-manufacturers.aspx?recipid%3B=>

OSHA may have given respirator manufacturers an important assist with a letter ([http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27334](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27334)) dated Jan. 9 that was addressed to Daniel K. Shipp, president of the International Safety Equipment Association. Posted by

OSHA Jan. 14 among a batch of letters of interpretation, this one was signed by Acting OSHA Assistant Secretary Thomas Stohler. ISEA specifically asked on May 19, 2008, for OSHA to take a position on whether the OSH Act and OSHA regulations preempt state court tort law claims, and Stohler answered yes. The question is whether his letter influences state judges to reject hundreds of thousands of state court claims, more than 325,000 asbestos and silica claims filed since 2000 against respirator manufacturers, according to ISEA. Shipp's letter (<http://www.safetyequipment.org/DOLpreemption08may.pdf>) requesting the opinion said MSA, Moldex-Metric, North, and Sperian Protection experienced a 500 percent increase in silica claims between 2002 and 2004....

Asked how the letter will affect state court cases, he answered, "We don't know. You never know with something like this until a judge gets hold of it." But because OSHA is the federal agency with authority to regulate safety in the workplace, and its regulations require protective respirators to be NIOSH-certified, with no leeway for manufacturers to alter approved engineering specs, drawings, respirator markings, instruction manuals, packaging, or labels without NIOSH approval, then OSHA's word on the issue has weight.

### **MSHA/NIOSH Propose Criteria for Approving Coal Mine Dust Personal Monitors**

This proposed rule would revise requirements that MSHA and NIOSH apply when approving sampling devices that monitor miner exposure to respirable coal mine dust. The proposal would establish criteria for approval of a new type of technology, the "continuous personal dust monitor," which would be worn by the miner and would report exposure to dust levels continuously during the shift. The proposal also would update application requirements for the existing "coal mine dust personal sampler unit" to reflect improvements in this sampler over the past 15 years. The rulemaking is limited to approval requirements. Comments are due March 17, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-534.htm>

### **MSHA Final Rule on Belt Air Fire Retardant Belt Materials**

MSHA has published a final rule addressing the recommendations of its Technical Study Panel (Panel) on the Utilization of Belt Air and the Composition and Fire Retardant Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mining. The Panel was established under the MINER Act of 2006. According to MSHA, it is consistent with the panel's recommendations and includes requirements for flame-resistant conveyor belts; training Atmospheric Monitoring System operators; levels of respirable dust in belt entries; airlocks along escapeways; minimum and maximum air velocities; approval for the use of air from the belt entry to ventilate working sections; monitoring point-feed regulators; smoke sensors; standardized tactile signals on lifelines; replacing point-type heat sensors with carbon monoxide sensors; and belt conveyor and belt entry maintenance. The effective date was December 31, 2008. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30639.htm>

### **MSHA Final Rule on Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines**

MSHA has published a final rule setting requirements for refuge alternatives in underground coal mines and the training of miners in their use. It includes testing and approval requirements. The final rule implements provisions of the MINER Act of 2006. It also includes MSHA's response to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Report on Refuge Alternatives. The final rule is effective on March 2, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30669.htm>

### **New Addenda to Energy and Labor Departments MOU**

OSHA has published an Addenda to the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Labor and the Department of Energy concerning the transfer of employee safety and health authority from DOE to OSHA in (1) the construction of the Theory and Computing Sciences building at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and (2) the operations of six existing buildings and support facilities at the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The MOUs may be found on OSHA's site at <http://www.osha.gov> under the "D" for Department of Energy Transition Activities. The effective date of these changes is January 2, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E8-31135.htm>

### **EPA Extends Compliance Dates for SPCC Rule**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is extending the compliance dates for all facilities and establishing new compliance dates for farms subject to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule as part of EPA's multi-phased strategy to address concerns with the current regulation. Specifically, this amendment extends the dates by which the owner or operator of an SPCC regulated facility must prepare or amend and implement its SPCC plan.

This rule also establishes the dates by which the owner or operator of a farm must prepare or amend and implement its SPCC plan.

These amendments do not remove any regulatory requirement for owners or operators of facilities in operation before August 16, 2002, to develop, implement and maintain an SPCC plan in accordance with the SPCC regulations then in effect. Such facilities continue to be required to maintain their plans during the interim until the applicable date for revising and implementing their plans under the new amendments.

More information on the rule: <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/index.htm>

### **EPA Extends Comment Period on Request to Regulate Nanoscale Silver**

In November 2008, EPA issued a notice concerning a petition for rulemaking by the International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA) and others requesting EPA to classify nanoscale silver as a pesticide, require formal pesticide registration of all products containing nanoscale silver, analyze the potential human health and environmental risks of nanoscale silver, take regulatory actions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) against products containing nanoscale silver, and take other regulatory actions under FIFRA as appropriate for nanoscale silver products. Now EPA has extended the comment period for 60 days to March 20, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-622.htm>

A relevant Science Daily article on nanoscale silver can be found at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080909074102.htm>.

### **PHMSA Final Rule Harmonizes HazMat Regs with International Changes**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued a final rule revising the Hazardous Materials Regulations to maintain alignment with international standards by incorporating various amendments, including changes to proper shipping names, hazard classes, packing groups, special provisions, packaging authorizations, air transport quantity limitations, and vessel stowage requirements. The revisions harmonize the regulations with recent changes to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, Transport Canada's Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, and the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Also included are amendments addressing the safe transport of batteries and battery-powered devices consistent with recent changes to the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions. PHMSA is clarifying the prohibition against transporting electrical devices, including batteries and battery-powered devices that are likely to create sparks or generate a dangerous amount of heat. PHMSA is also modifying and enhancing requirements for the packaging and handling of batteries and battery-powered devices, particularly in air commerce. PHMSA developed these revisions in conjunction with the FAA to enhance the safe transportation of batteries and battery-powered devices. The effective date is February 13, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E8-31383.htm>

### **PHMSA Final Rule on Rail Tank Car HazMat Transportation**

PHMSA, in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has amended the Hazardous Materials Regulations to prescribe enhanced safety measures for rail transportation of poison inhalation hazard (PIH) materials, including interim design standards for railroad tank cars. Pending validation and implementation of the crashworthiness performance standard proposed in April 2008, the rule mandates commodity-specific improvements in safety features and design standards for newly manufactured DOT specification tank cars. The rule also adopts a 50 mph speed restriction for loaded rail tank cars transporting PIH materials; an improved top fittings performance standard; an allowance to increase the gross weight of tank cars that meet the enhanced standards; and adoption of the industry standard for normalized steel in certain tank cars. The effective date is March 16, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E8-31056.htm>

## **Local News and Events**

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

**March 12, 2009**

OSHA Roundtable on Confined Space, Excavation & Trenching presented by Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry will be conducted at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. For more information go to the website [www.pachamber.org](http://www.pachamber.org) in the Conferences and Events page.

## 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.

Congratulations to **Shivajee Sinha CIH, CSP, PE** of Alcoa in Pittsburgh, PA, for the completion of the AIHA Management Certificate Program. The program consists of three courses to improve leadership capabilities, management and communication skills, and the ability to understand and affect a company's bottom line. (Industrial Hygiene News, November 2008)

### 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	Thad Pajak	<a href="mailto:tpajak@ffic.com">tpajak@ffic.com</a>
Vice President	Kim Morrison,	<a href="mailto:morrisonkl@upmc.com">morrisonkl@upmc.com</a>
Treasurer	Doug Noble	<a href="mailto:dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu">dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Secretary	Kiena Nutter	<a href="mailto:disnutt@aol.com">disnutt@aol.com</a>
Programs	Gene Mattis	<a href="mailto:gene_mattis@pmagroup.com">gene_mattis@pmagroup.com</a>
Programs	Gary Gillespie	<a href="mailto:ggillespie@harleysvillegroup.com">ggillespie@harleysvillegroup.com</a>
Special Projects	Fran Sehn	<a href="mailto:fran.sehn@willis.com">fran.sehn@willis.com</a>
Special Projects	Cathy Davis	<a href="mailto:cathdavis1@comcast.net">cathdavis1@comcast.net</a>
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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.

### COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFERS BOAT SAFETY COURSE

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8, is offering America’s Boating Course on Saturday, February 28, at the Craftonian Hall, 48 Division Street, Crafton from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost for the course is \$30 and includes a light lunch.

The boat and water safety course topics include:

- Boating Law: boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.
- Boat Safety Equipment: personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first-aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.
- Safe Boating: bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe Personal Water Craft handling; general water safety.
- Navigation: the U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; Personal Water Craft "tunnel vision."

Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete America's Boating Course. This beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states, including Pennsylvania.

America's Boating Course is a joint project between the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons.

For more information, please contact course instructor Mr. James Feeny at 412-269-1892.

## 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](mailto:wayne@rjrsafety.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,  
Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP