



ASSE NEWS



American Society of Safety Engineers – Colorado Chapter – December, 2005

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NEXT MEETING:

DATE: TUESDAY – December 13, 2005

PLACE: Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80237

TIME: 11:00 Registration
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 Program

DIRECTIONS:
I-25 to Belleview Rd. Exit
East on Belleview Rd. to Syracuse
North on Syracuse to Garcia's.

COST: \$15.00 with reservation by **5:00 P.M. Friday, December 9th.** **\$20.00** at the door without a reservation.

For Reservations call: 303-615-7588
Or Email: SemonisckMF@TREXPROJECT.com

PROGRAM: SAFETY- OFF THE JOB
PRESENTER: Holli Merchant of EHS Documents Inc.

In this presentation, Holli Merchant, CIH, CSP focuses on the other 95% of injuries and illnesses. The accidents that occur off the job. In 2003, there were 101,000 unintentional deaths in the United States. Of that total, 4500 were in the workplace. The other 95% happened at home, in the community and on the nation's roadways.

This presentation focuses on what we can do as Safety Professionals to reduce off the job fatalities and injuries. We will discuss what can be done as a community to reduce fatalities at home and on the road. We will talk about what your employer can do to address this issue and why they should. And finally and most importantly we will discuss what you can tell your children, parents and friends about reducing fatalities at home.

This is an issue that affects all of us in the profession and in the community but rarely receives the attention that it warrants. Remember, if you want people to be safe at work, help them be safe at home.

COLORADO CHAPTER NEWS:

The Executive Board held a meeting with the Northern Colorado Section on November 3, 2005. One topic of conversation was a report from attending board members on The Leadership Development Conference in Chicago and the Regional Operating Committee meeting in Albuquerque. Additional items included: planning for a one day PDC, upcoming speakers, increasing member involvement and updating chapter bylaws.

NOCO NEWS:

The Northern Colorado chapter is planning on holding a quarterly meeting on February 8, 2006. The location is to be determined. Please contact Brian Moore at mooreb@ci.loveland.co.us or Bonnie King at bonnie.king@ars.usda.gov for more information about the NOCO Section.

ASSE NEWS:

ASSE REPORTS ON THE LATEST STANDARDS ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

ANSI Z117.1 Updates

Since the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the revised ANSI Z117.1 standard "Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces" in February 2003, the ASSE has received much positive feedback from those members and SH&E professionals who have incorporated the standard into their safety practices. As secretariat of the Z117 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) for Confined Spaces, the ASSE is pleased to learn that the Z117.1-2003 standard has helped to reduce confined space injuries and has provided safer rescue operations nationwide. And those who participated in the ASSE's technical audio conference call "The Return of Z117.1" this past July, know that interest in this standard continues to grow.

Z117.1-2003, a voluntary national consensus standard, establishes the minimum safety requirements to be followed when entering, exiting or working in confined spaces at normal atmospheric pressure. It also features definitions as well as specifications for identification, evaluation, emergency response, rescue (both horizontal and vertical), permit and non-permit requirements, atmospheric testing, isolation, decontamination, lockout/tagout, warning sign requirements and personal protective equipment. In addition, biological hazards and training procedures are addressed, and an appendix provides sample permits, surveys and evaluations.

It is important to note that the Z117.1-2003 standard does not apply to underground mining, tunneling, caisson work, intentionally inert confined spaces or to other similar tasks that have established national consensus standards. Z117.1-2003 is performance-related, and it is not intended to replace existing standards or procedures. Its purpose is to support those standards that meet the performance objectives defined within Z117.1-2003.

Government agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have referenced the Z117.1-2003 standard, and the ASSE and ANSI are working together to have this standard recognized in other areas. The Z117 ANSI ASC also plans to meet within the next year to discuss future revisions to the standard.

For more information on the Z117.1-2003 standard or to purchase copies of it, please visit the following website links:

<http://www.asse.org/Z117.htm>

<http://www.asse.org/shoponline/books/standards/3384.htm>

ANSI A10.4 Updates

After a fourteen-year revision process, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the revised ANSI A10.4-2004 standard "Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators—

American National Standard for Construction and Demolition Operations” on May 25, 2004. Based on the success of this standard within the last year, the ASSE, its members and SH&E professionals all agree that ANSI's approval was well worth the wait. Twenty-three states currently recognize the A10.4-2004 standard, and thanks to the efforts of organizations such as the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund, recognition of this standard has increased at national, state and local levels and within private-sector construction and demolition industries.

The A10.4-2004 standard defines minimum safety requirements for those whose occupations require the use of personnel hoists or employee elevators. It applies to the design, construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alterations and repair of hoists and elevators that are:

- Not an integral part of buildings
- Installed inside or outside buildings or structures during construction, alteration or demolition operations
- Used to raise and lower workers and other personnel connected with or related to the structure

These personnel hoists and employee elevators may also be used to transport materials under specific circumstances, as defined in the standard. The standard also provides safety guidelines for elevator cages, frames, platforms, fastenings, doors, counterweights, speed control and stopping devices.

The A10.4-2004 standard does not apply to:

- Permanent elevators that are temporarily installed in hoistways during the construction of buildings and that incorporate a part of the permanent elevator to be installed later.
- Hoists for raising and lowering materials that have no provision for carrying personnel.
- Counter-balanced or endless-belt manlifts.
- Mine hoists.
- Wire-rope-guided or non-guided hoists.

In cases of practical difficulties, unnecessary hardships or new developments, the enforcing authority may grant exceptions to the literal requirements of the A10.4-2004 standard. These exceptions may permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is evident that equivalent safety and permanent installation are secured.

Although the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recognizes the A10.4-2004 standard, the A10 Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) suggests that the standard be used as a supplement to OSHA's regulations, as it may cover topics that the administration does not address.

The A10.4-2004 standard is approximately 60 pages in length and is divided into 29 specific sections.

For more information on the A10.4-2004 standard or to purchase copies of it, please visit the following website links:

<http://www.asse.org/shoponline/books/standards/3804.htm>

<http://www.asse.org/3804links.htm>

AS THE WORKFORCE AGES & LABOR POOL SHRINKS, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS URGE EMPLOYERS TO MODIFY WORKPLACE SAFETY EFFORTS NOW

As those born between 1946 and 1964, the large 'baby boomer' generation, ages so to does our workforce while the labor pool shrinks. Currently, workplace injury rates for older workers are the lowest of any age group, but their fatality rate is the highest. To accommodate the aging workforce and to work to reduce fatality rates, businesses should design a safe workplace for this aging, but valuable, workforce, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) note, or be faced with a negative economic impact.

"Businesses must act now to accommodate and provide a safer work environment for the aging worker, a valuable and experienced group, or their bottom line will be impacted negatively" ASSE President Jack H. Dobson, Jr., CSP, said today. "There are easy and economical ways to do this that in the long run will save time, increase output and contribute positively to the business."

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) workplace statistics for 2004 show that those 64 and older had the lowest number of workplace injuries, but the fatality rate for those 55 and older rose by 10 percent. In 2003, workers 65 and older 'continued to record the highest fatality rate of any other age group, more than three times the rate of fatalities for those aged 25-34,' according to the DOL. Most of these fatalities were transportation-related, from falls, from being struck by an object and from homicides.

As baby boomers begin to retire over the next few years, the DOL notes the workforce will shrink as those born from 1965 to 1985, a time with a declining birthrate, enter the workforce. According to American Demographics magazine, currently there are 76.9 million baby boomers in the U.S. The majority of boomers live in California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

"As the percentage of the workforce aged 55 and over increases, injury rates for the whole work population decreases while productivity increases," ASSE member Dr. Joel M. Haight, P.E., CSP, researcher and faculty member at Penn State University, said. "An estimated 3.9 million occupational injuries and illnesses were treated in hospital emergency departments among all industry and occupation groups for workers aged 15 and older. The highest numbers of these injuries and illnesses occurred among workers aged 25-44.

"Data suggests there is no age-related safety performance issue between the 25-54 year age group and that of the over 55 years age group, according to 2001-02 statistics," ASSE member and Colorado resident Alma Jackson, R.N., MS, COHN-S states in her paper titled 'Health and Safety in an Aging Workforce.' "Older workers are not more prone to injury and illness than other workers. Older workers have fewer avoidable absences, a lower turnover rate, and fewer work-related accidents.

"To increase workplace safety, employer fixes – environmental changes – can cost next to nothing yet the return on investment is very high," said Jackson.

In the Society for Human Resource Management's (SHRM) 2004-05 workplace forecast the top demographic trends identified are: 1) the aging workforce; 2) eldercare; 3) having both childcare and eldercare responsibilities; 4) changing family patterns; and, 5) an increase in the unskilled workforce.

"Management needs to be prepared to accommodate the number of changes older workers may face such as physical, sensory and perhaps some mental impediments," according to ASSE member Bruce Tulgan, Founder and President of RainmakerThinking Inc., a New Haven, CN-based workplace research firm. "As we age we get shorter and heavier, he said, our muscle strength decreases and by age 65, the mean maximum aerobic power – the level at which oxygen uptake levels off – is about 70 percent of what it was at age 25. Hearing and vision is also diminished as one ages.

Most experts agree that despite the aging process and its risks, older workers are not likely to take it easy on the job. "Even though older workers face additional obstacles to performing their job, they bring experience and knowledge and an excellent work ethic to the job making them a valuable part of the work force," Tulgan said. "Equipment, facilities, and work processes can be improved to account for the limitations of the aging workforce and to take advantage of their experience and capabilities."

Knowing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, the following are suggestions from ASSE members that can increase workplace safety for an aging workforce:

- Improve illumination, add color contrast
- Eliminate heavy lifts, elevated work from ladders and long reaches
- Design work floors and platforms with smooth and solid decking while still allowing some cushioning
- Reduce static standing time
- Remove clutter from control panels and computer screens and use large video displays
- Reduce noise levels

- Install chain actuators for valve hand wheels, damper levers or other similar control devices – this brings the control manipulation to ground level – helps reduce falls
- Install skid resistant material for flooring and especially for stair treads – helps reduce falls
- Install shallow-angle stairways in place of ladders when space permits and where any daily elevated access is needed to complete a task – helps reduce falls
- Utilize hands free volume adjustable telephone equipment
- Increase task rotation which will reduce the strain of repetitive motion
- Lower sound system pitches, such as on alarm systems, as they tend to be easier to hear
- Lengthen time requirements between steps in a task
- Increase the time allowed for making decisions
- Consider necessary reaction time when assigning older workers to tasks
- Provide opportunities for practice and time to develop task familiarity

Implementing these changes would not only help older workers, but would benefit all workers. ASSE resources on this issue include ASSE's Professional Safety Journal December 2003 article titled 'Human Error & the Challenges of an Aging Workforce' by Dr. Haight, his ASSE 2005 Professional Development Conference (PDC) presentation titled 'Designing for an Aging Workforce' and Alma Jackson's PDC presentation titled 'Effective Safety Training for an Aging Workforce', all available for downloading at www.asse.org/newsroom under news releases.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

SeminarFest 2006

Jan. 22-28, 2006 — Las Vegas, Nevada

The early registration deadline for SeminarFest 2006 is approaching. Register by Dec. 21 to save on this comprehensive educational opportunity, featuring 45 seminars in one location. Attend one or several seminars—each is individually priced, and discounts increase the more seminars you attend. Register online today to make sure you won't miss out.

SAFETY 2006

June 11-14, 2006 — Seattle, Washington

Early registration for ASSE's annual Professional Development Conference opens December 15th, 2005. For more information, the special "SAFETY 2006" website link is: <http://www.safety2006.org>

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE CALLS:



**How to Empower and Communicate
With Your Spanish Speaking
Workforce**
Technical Audio Conference Call
Wednesday, December 14, 2005
11:00 am - 12:30 pm CST

Contact ASSE at 847.699.2929. for more info!!

REGULATORY NEWS:

FYI: STOP USING THE SUBSIDIARY LABELS

Due to a recent change enacted by the Department of Transportation, beginning October 1, 2005, the use of a subsidiary hazard DOT label is no longer permitted. All DOT hazard class labels must display the hazard class number in the lower corner of the label, including subsidiary hazard labels.

In order to address communication issues, all DOT hazardous material shipping papers will require additional information. The subsidiary hazard class or classes, or subsidiary division number or numbers, must be entered inside the parentheses immediately following the primary hazard class or division number.

OSHA Seeks Comments on Safety Product Certification Proposal

OSHA is requesting comments on a proposal to permit certain manufacturers to self-approve their own products. As proposed, Supplier's Declaration of Conformity would be available only to information technology manufacturers and for their products. OSHA currently does not permit this self-approval, but instead has long required approval of this equipment by Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, which are third-party testing and certification organizations. The request for information (RFI) provides 90 days for public comments, and the information gathered will provide a basis to determine whether to accept, reject or modify the proposal. Details on the RFI and procedures for submitting comments are in today's *Federal Register*.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

IN WAKE OF BP TRAGEDY, CSB CALLS FOR SAFER PLACEMENT OF TRAILERS

On a unanimous vote, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has issued two new urgent safety recommendations calling for the safer placement of trailers for workers at petrochemical facilities throughout the United States.

The recommendations stem from CSB's investigation of a March 23 explosion and fire at BP's Texas City, Texas, refinery that killed 15 workers and injured more than 170. The explosion took place in the refinery's isomerization unit, which was undergoing a restart at the time of the accident.

CSB says its investigation found that all of the fatalities occurred in and around a group of nine trailers involved in maintenance work unrelated to the restart. Some trailers were as close as 121 feet from the unit, and more than 40 trailers were damaged in the incident.

"We are calling on the industry to establish minimum safe distances for trailers to ensure the safety of occupants from fire and explosion hazards," CSB Chairman Carolyn Merritt said. "The tragedy at BP's Texas City refinery warrants changes in safe siting practices across the nation."

Recommendations Directed to Trade Organizations

CSB directed the urgent recommendations to two leading national trade organizations, the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association (NPRA), which represent most major domestic oil and petrochemical producers.

API develops recommended safety practices that influence operations at thousands of petrochemical facilities around the country. The first recommendation calls on API to develop new industry guidance "to ensure the safe placement of occupied trailers and similar temporary structures away from hazardous areas of process plants."

CSB noted that the existing safety guidance, API Recommended Practice (RP) 752, does not prohibit the placement of trailers in close proximity to hazardous process units. The guidance, titled "Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Buildings," is widely used by U.S. oil and chemical companies to assess siting hazards, a regulatory requirement under OSHA's Process Safety Management standard.

As currently written, API 752 allows individual companies to define their own risk and occupancy criteria for trailers. Prior to March 23, BP had defined trailers used for short periods of time as posing little or no danger to occupants and approved the location of the trailers at the Texas City facility.

According to findings accompanying CSB's urgent recommendation, the explosions in Texas City injured workers in trailers as far as 480 feet from the source of the release, and trailers up to 600 feet away were heavily damaged. After the incident, BP announced it would relocate trailers at least 500 feet away from potential hazards and move nonessential workers into office space outside the refinery.

"In many cases, trailers are positioned for convenience during maintenance and are not essential for facility operations," Merritt said. "They can be easily relocated to safe distances." Merritt noted that the permanent buildings in refineries and chemical plants are often heavily reinforced to resist blast and fire damage, while most trailers and temporary structures provide little protection for occupants.

API Will Consider Developing New Industry Guidance

In a statement, an API spokesperson said that the organization will convene a task force to consider CSB's recommendation.

"All API recommended practices and guidance documents are the products of an extensive and open, deliberative process and are ultimately approved based on consensus within the industry," the spokesperson said.

There currently are no federal regulations or industry standards for establishing buildings' minimum safe distance from hazardous areas within refineries, according to API, and API RP 752 "is used by companies for guidance in assessing potential risks associated with process plant buildings."

"The purpose of API RP 752 is to assist companies' analysis efforts," the spokesperson said. "Companies then define their own risk and occupancy criteria for individual facilities. This recommended practice can be used by companies as a guide in addressing facility siting under [OSHA's] Process Safety Management requirements."

CSB Urges 'Prompt Action' Until API Guideline is Ready

A separate urgent recommendation from CSB, directed jointly to API and NPRA, called on the organizations to immediately contact their members urging "prompt action to ensure the safe placement of occupied trailers away from hazardous areas of process plants" before the new API safety guidance is completed.

Under CSB procedures, the requested measures should be completed within 12 months, at which time CSB will consider closing the recommendation based on acceptable or unacceptable actions by the recipients.

The recommendations were only the second and third designated as "urgent" of more than 300 issued in CSB's 8-year history.

CSB's first urgent recommendation, issued on Aug. 15, called on BP to form an independent panel to examine its safety culture and oversight of its five North American refineries. BP on Oct. 24 announced formation of the independent panel, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency does not issue citations or fines but instead makes safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA.

The full text of CSB's resolution issuing the new recommendations is posted on the agency's Web site, www.csb.gov.

- Josh Cable

NEW - JOB POSTINGS:

PART TIME SAFETY INSTRUCTORS

Condor Geotechnical Services, Inc., established in 1986, is looking for part time safety instructors. Part time work may increase into full time. Courses offered: OSHA safety courses including: HAZWOPER, emergency response, confined space entry, excavation safety and OSHA Construction Safety. Condor also provides MSHA training.

Qualifications: Training experience or aptitude and interest. Condor will provide opportunity for applicants to interview/provide training during a real training session. Work experience on hazardous waste sites a plus. This does not need to be as part of a safety team, but familiarity with hazardous waste operations will be a plus. Work experience on construction/mining sites a plus, again, this does not need to be as part of a safety team.

Successful applicant(s) will have:

- Basic knowledge of OSHA/MSHA regulations. Be able to read and interpret regulations.
- Training skills: including the ability to keep students of all educational levels interested.
- Course development skills a plus.
- Work experience on hazardous waste sites and/or construction/mining sites a plus.
- A "can do!" attitude.

Please mail resume to:

Marian S. Fournier
Condor Geotechnical Services, Inc.
PO Box 149
Wheat Ridge, CO 80034

REGIONAL SAFETY MANAGER (10/17/05)

Oldcastle Precast, Inc., the leading precast concrete producer in North America seeks a Regional Safety Manager to oversee safety and health programs for its manufacturing operations in CO, ID, KS, MN, TX, and UT. Position requires strong regulatory knowledge of OSHA, workers' compensation, DOT, and environmental protection. This position is responsible for continuing safety program development and compliance. Position reports directly to Regional President and will be based in Littleton, CO. Position will likely involve 50% travel throughout region. Applicants must have proven leadership skills and experience working in a manufacturing setting. Qualified applicants who also possess business aptitude and/or education are strongly urged to apply. At this time only local candidates that do not require relocation will be considered.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Provides expertise on all safety and industrial hygiene issues.
- Serves as a resource to plant safety coordinators; works directly with safety coordinators to develop their skill sets.
- Provides oversight and approval for all incident investigations.
- Provides oversight for all claims related to workers' compensation, auto, and general liability.
- Ensures proper recordkeeping practices for company's intranet-based incident investigation and injury recordkeeping system.
- Maintains regional safety procedures and policies.
- Coordinates annual safety audit program.
- Implements corporate safety initiatives including fall protection, defensive driving, and silica exposure reduction; works in concert with V.P. of Safety and Environmental.
- Assists with D.O.T. compliance issues related to trucking operations.
- Assists other region administrative team members with initiatives.

Essential Skills:

- Strong analytical and technical skills.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of OSHA regulations and industrial hygiene methodology.
- Proven ability to work with all levels of management and hourly workforce.
- Ability to drive change, innovation, and implementation of corrective actions.
- Proven track record of adding value through safety and health programs.

Essential Experience & Education:

- Minimum 6 years safety and health-related management experience.
- Work history that includes manufacturing (construction experience may be considered).
- Work history includes supervision of employees.
- Bachelor's degree.

Desired Experience & Education:

- CSP
- Master's degree

Please submit all applications via e-mail: rick.jones@oldcastleprecast.com

Changing Your Contact Information

If you have a change of address, e-mail or telephone number and you want your ASSE friends to find you, please call the National office of ASSE at 847-699-2929 or e-mail them at customerservice@asse.org.