



ASSE News

Colorado Chapter

January 2010

Meeting Notices:

January Chapter Meeting January 12, 2010

- Board Meeting 10:30-11:30am
- Lunch & Learn 11:30am-1:30pm

Speaker: Mary Ann Heaney, CIH, CSP

Subject: Combustible Dust: The Basics You Need to Know

Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St.
Denver, Colorado.

11:00 a.m. Meeting Registration
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:00 p.m. Guest Presentation

RSVP to: hmerchant@ehsdocuments.com

Combustible Dust: The Basics You Need to Know

This presentation provides a the basics needed to assess and address combustible dust issues in any industry. It also provides a summary of recently proposed OSHA legislation.

Mary Ann Heaney, CIH, CSP
President
ohsm, llc.

Mary Ann has over 25 years experience in the safety, industrial hygiene, and environmental fields. She is currently the President of ohsm, a consulting firm which provides support to the manufacturing, mining, environmental, and construction industries. She holds a MS in Industrial Hygiene from Texas A&M. Her experience includes management of corporate industrial hygiene, safety, medical monitoring, and workers' compensation programs for the US's second largest open pit copper mine and smelter (Phelps Dodge Corporation); Arizona Public Service; and Union Pacific Corporation. Mary Ann is a Past President of the Rocky Mountain section of the AIHA and has served on numerous national technical committees. Her projects involving combustible dust include grain, coal, carbon black, wood chips, bioaugmentation materials, corn stover, and metals.

2009 Executive Board

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NoCo Section Chair

Clyde Serna

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Message from the Chapter President

November 20, 2009

Hello everybody,

I wanted to say hello and Happy Holidays to all our Colorado Chapter members. I also wanted to say thank you for all of the job opportunities that you have all been sending my way. I know there are a lot of health and safety professionals that are out looking for work during this down economy and I appreciate any leads that I can pass on. I think it is extremely important for those of us who are currently employed in the safety field to continue to support our colleagues with job opportunities, contract work. and mentorship.

Thanks again,

Holli Merchant, CIH, CSP
2009/2010 Colorado Chapter ASSE President

Northern Colorado Chapter Section Update

December 15, 2009

The Northern Colorado section met on December 1, 2009 and the meeting was a success. We had a very good turnout.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at Platte River Power Authority in Fort Collins. The speaker will be Diane Stober. The topic will be "Stages of Change". Please watch for more details on this exciting presentation.

Our section will be looking to fill the position of secretary beginning in July, 2010. If you are interested in becoming more involved with ASSE and our section, please contact one of the officers and we can provide you with more details.

Interested in hosting an intern?

The Environmental Health undergraduate program at Colorado State University invites internship announcements from ASSE members. CSU's Environmental Health bachelor's degree, one of only 33 nationwide, includes course work in environmental health & safety, industrial hygiene, air & water quality, toxicology and epidemiology. Students then complete a 300-hour internship during their senior year.

If you would like to know more about hosting an EH intern, contact:

Erin Reichert, M.S.
Undergraduate & Internship Coordinator
Dept. of Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences
Colorado State University
970-491-7910 – direct line
Erin.Reichert@colostate.edu
<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/erhs/undergraduate.htm>

As section President, I would like to take a few moments to express how proud I am to represent our membership and how appreciative I am of the work and contributions of my fellow officers.

If you have any suggestions for future topics/ speakers, please contact us.

We wish you and your families a safe and Happy Holidays!

Clyde Serna
Safety Consultant
7501 E. Lowry Blvd.
Denver, CO 80230
970-266-1801

ASSE Members On The Move

Ed Davis Joins the Associated General Contractors of Colorado as Safety & Stormwater Director

AGC Colorado is proud to announce that Edward Davis, CSP, ARM has joined the AGC as Safety & Stormwater Director. Ed assumed his duties on July 1, 2009.



Davis previously served as Construction Safety Specialist from 2001 – 2009 at Pinnacol Assurance, and at Liberty Mutual Insurance Group from 1991 – 2000 as a Loss Prevention Consultant. He has a B.S. in Industrial Education Technology and Communications, and is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP).

Ed will focus on AGC's successful safety programs including safety education and training, OSHA CHASE Partnership, Group Dividend Work Comp Insurance program, safety council meetings, and safety auditing & consulting for members. Ed will also assume responsibility for AGC's effort to address growing stormwater regulations.

The AGC is excited to have Ed on board providing his expertise to members of the construction industry.

Lane McKnight Named Pinnacol's Southern Colorado Construction Safety Specialist

Pinnacol Assurance has announced the promotion of Lane McKnight, CSP, ARM, OHST to Construction Safety Specialist. McKnight will be servicing Pinnacol's largest construction accounts in southern Colorado. He will also be working closely with the Associate General Contractors, the Colorado Homebuilders, the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute, and the Colorado Roofing Association safety dividend groups.



Lane joined Pinnacol Assurance in 2001 after working for four years as the safety and health coordinator for ICG Communications. He works closely with policyholders, business associations, and their agents in the development and implementation of flexible loss control plans that result in reduced losses for those customers. A skilled trainer, McKnight enjoys integrating technology and innovation into training and informational resources to provide more effective solutions for today's loss prevention challenges.

McKnight has a bachelor's degree in industrial technology/occupational safety from Iowa State University. He is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) with Construction and Ergonomics Specialty designations, as well as an Occupational Health and Safety Technologist (OHST). He also holds an Associate in Risk Management (ARM) certification and is an authorized OSHA Outreach trainer for both construction and general industry.

Please e-mail notices of your professional achievements (new job announcements, promotions, professional certifications, company safety awards, etc.) to coloradoasse@gmail.com for inclusion in upcoming chapter newsletters.

MACTEC Receives 16 Safety Awards From National Safety Council

December 3, 2009 - Alpharetta, GA - MACTEC has received 16 safety awards from the National Safety Council (NSC). Allen Kibler, President of MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc., made the announcement.

According to **Howard J. Gordon**, MACTEC's Corporate Director of Environment, Safety and Health and **Colorado Chapter ASSSE member**, the company was recognized at the recently held 2009 NSC Congress and Expo for an exceptional safety record resulting in no recordable occupational injuries or illnesses on various projects documenting over 700,000 hours of work.

Some of the 16 projects given awards include:

- Florida Department of Transportation Pavement Management, Ashburn, VA
- Illinois State toll Highway Authority South Tri-State Tollway Road Bridge Design, Chicago, IL
- Lowry Air Force Base Environmental Investigation Design/Build, Denver, CO
- University of Nebraska Agricultural Research * Development Center, Lincoln, NE
- US AFCEE Defense Logistics Agency Title II Services, Warner Robins, GA

The National Safety Council is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, international public service organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health. Members of NSC include more than 45,000 businesses, labor organizations, schools, public agencies, private groups and individuals. Founded in 1913, and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1953, the primary focus of the NSC is preventing injuries on highways and in homes, workplaces and communities.

SOURCE: MACTEC

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ASSE Pushes For More Workplace Safety Coverage

By Bob Vavra
Plant Engineering
11/30/2009

The American Society of Safety Engineers has written to U.S. Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey, urging her committee to keep public sector occupational safety and health coverage provisions in the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA).

In his letter to Rep. Woolsey, the chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, ASSE President C. Christopher Patton noted that more than eight million public sector state and municipal workers are not provided federal occupational safety and health protections due to the fact that the Occupational Safety and Health Act only requires such coverage in states with their own occupational safety and health plans.

"ASSE supports providing all public sector employees with federal OSH protections," Patton said. "We strongly urge you to keep the provision that would provide this coverage in the PAWA bill now under consideration. Don't turn your back on the workers who deserve this coverage."

As noted in the letter, this is a key concern of ASSE members. An investigation by the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Board (CSB) into the 2006 Daytona Beach municipal water treatment facility that took the lives of two workers found Florida's lack of OSH coverage for its public sector workers contributed to those deaths. In response, ASSE Florida members led ASSE to provide the resources needed to help pass legislation in 2008 establishing a task force charged with determining how to best protect Florida's workers that reinforced the need to provide the state's public sector employers to meet federal OSH Act standards, without any enforcement provisions or resources to support the requirement. A bill requiring these protections failed to pass in 2009. The bill passed the House, Patton notes, but not the Senate due to Florida's budget crisis.

"The reality is that the only effective way full public sector worker OSH coverage will be achieved any time soon is through your leadership at this unique time in history when Congress is in a position to consider reforms to the OSH Act," Patton said. "Public sector workers' lives depend on your unwavering commitment to their safety and health. We don't want to see more lives lost when Congress has the power to protect these workers."

It's Always Been Dangerous. Now It's Illegal.

By John Ingold and Jason Blevins

The Denver Post

Posted: 11/29/2009

Don't post to Twitter while merging onto Interstate 25.

Don't steer with your knees while Googling for directions.
Don't sneak in a behind-the-wheel response to an e-mail, not even at a stoplight.

The tweet is gone. If you text and drive, cops in Colorado starting Tuesday are going to bust you.

"It's extremely dangerous," Colorado State Patrol spokesman Ryan Sullivan said. "Hopefully . . . by people knowing it's against the law, it will keep people from doing it."

A new law taking effect Tuesday bans texting while driving for all drivers. The law also bans all cellphone use — texting and talking — for drivers younger than 18. The legislature passed the laws during its session this year in the hopes of cutting down on accidents caused by cellphone-distracted drivers.

The new cellphone sins are primary offenses, meaning misbehaving drivers can be pulled over specifically for committing them.

First-time offenders face a \$50 fine. A second ticket runs \$100.

"My hope is that it saves lives, particularly the lives of teenagers," said state Rep. Claire Levy, a Democrat from Boulder who sponsored the measure in the legislature. "I think it will make our highways safer."

Not that anyone will admit to unsafe driving currently. An informal sampling of metro-area drivers last week found very few who confess to typing on tiny keyboards while driving, even though a AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety survey released last summer showed more than 20 percent of drivers type and steer.

The few who exposed their driver-seat texting typically requested anonymity.

"I try not to, but have I done it? Absolutely," said one woman cradling her lime-green-encased iPhone as she unbuckled her son from the back seat in a grocery parking lot. "We all got cellphones in the first place because we wanted to be connected while on the move. But there are boundaries."

"I do check my messages at stoplights," said Charlotte, who didn't give her last name. "But never when I'm driving. I'm not coordinated enough."

If Shan Sethna of north Denver must text while behind the wheel, he holds his phone between 11 and 1, in his line of sight. Now, he said, "that means I'm more visible to the law."

"I'd rather quit than text unsafely. I can just as easily wait for stoplights or pull over," Sethna said.

But for drivers accustomed to always being in contact, the new law poses greater challenges than just ignoring the phone for a few moments — like, where, exactly is the line between deal-making and law-breaking?

Dialing is allowed

Dialing for a phone call is explicitly allowed under the law. But what about looking — for instance at e-mails — and not touching? What about texting when stopped for traffic or at a light?

And how will police be able to differentiate between what is legal and what is not?



"I might have a hard time not checking it at stoplights," said Kevin, who declined to offer his last name while checking his e-mail in his parked car. "Just taking a quick look. Will that be illegal?"

Sullivan, the State Patrol spokesman, said yes, if it's done in a lane of traffic. **The only way to be in the clear is to be pulled over onto the shoulder or parked.**

The roadway, Sullivan said, is a place to concentrate on driving and nothing else.

"When you're still in a lane of traffic, you shouldn't be texting, you shouldn't looking at an e-mail," Sullivan said.

Judgment call by officers

The other distinctions — dialing or texting? — will be left to officers' best judgment, Sullivan said.

"You can usually tell when somebody is dialing a few numbers versus when somebody is sending a text message and their focus is entirely on that phone," he said.

Levy acknowledged the law will have "difficult enforcement aspects" that may take some time to sort out but said she hopes the threat of punishment will inspire drivers to quit a dangerous activity once and for all.

Colorado is among 20 states and the District of Columbia that have banned texting while driving for all drivers, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the bans come at a time of growing concern nationwide about the dangers of mixing cellphones and cars. President Barack Obama has banned federal employees from sending text messages while driving government vehicles.

"It's the length of time people need to take their eyes off the road to read a text message," said Wave Dreher, a spokeswoman for AAA Colorado, which is part of a nationwide campaign by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety to ban text ing-and-driving in every state.

CDOT alerts via Twitter

The bans, though, also come at a time when government agencies — including those responsible for roadway safety — are using ever more advanced ways to get information directly to people. The Colorado Department of Transportation, for instance, is one of several agencies in the state that will beam road construction and traffic alerts to cellphones via Twitter.

CDOT spokeswoman Stacey Stegman said it's up to the recipients of that information to be responsible in how they view it. Meanwhile, CDOT is launching a series of public service announcements — created by Colorado high school students — to highlight the new cellphone laws and encourage people to follow them.

But changing practiced behavior, even with a new law, won't be easy.

"I don't do it a bunch, but if it's something important, yeah, I'll break the law," said Denver tile artisan James Greiner, one of few who openly acknowledge daily texting and driving. "What are you going to do? Don't lie."

Upcoming Education & Professional Development:

SEMINARFEST

February 14-20, 2010
Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel

[SeminarFest](#) is an excellent opportunity to earn up to 5.0 CEUs/COCs in one week. With over 50 seminars ranging from one to three days in length, [SeminarFest](#) offers essential technical, management, and skill development topics for the Safety, Health, and Environmental professional. Whether you join us for one day or the full week, this event will satisfy your continuing education needs in safety and health. [Click here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Webinars

Visit www.asse.org/education/schedule.php for details on upcoming professional development seminars, workshops, and webinars.

Focus on the Leading Indicators to Transform your Safety Culture

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 - 11:00am – 12:30pm CST

Hazard Communication: OSHA's Proposal to Align the Standard with the Globally Harmonized System

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 - 11:00am – 12:30pm CST

Occupational Eye and Face Protective Devices - A Live Webcast on the ANSI/ASSE Z87.1-2003 Standard

January 7, 2010 - 11:00 - 12:30 CST

Complacency - The Silent Killer

January 13, 2010 - 11:00 - 12:30pm CST

Implementing the New NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Requirements

January 20, 2010 - 11:00am - 12:30pm CST

Job Postings:

Check out www.coloradoasse.org/jobs.php for details on local job listings or visit www.nexsteps.org. With just a few clicks of the mouse, job seekers can easily post their resume on Nexsteps for employers to view, and receive automated notifications when jobs are available that match your interests. There is no cost to post your resume or search available positions. Employers can post listings for available positions, search resumes online and setup a resume agent to alert you when new resumes are posted that match your criteria. Job posting prices vary.

