



News & Views

Always Seeking Safety Excellence
through
Growth, Challenge & Change
1939-2004



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

General Chapter Meeting

Thursday, November 4th, 2004
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Brady's Landing
8505 Cypress, Houston

Topic: Root Cause Failure Analysis (RCFA) a
Tool for Reducing Recurring Accidents

Speaker: Michael Eisenbise

Construction Division Meeting

Thursday, November 4th - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Brady's Landing - 8505 Cypress, Houston
Topic: Combined with General Chapter

North Section Meeting

Monday, November 1st - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn North - I-45 & 1960
Topic: TBA

West Section Meeting

Wednesday, November 10th - 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Cameron Headquarters
Speaker: Rusty Cornelius **Topic:** Community Liaison -
Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency

Michael Eisenbise Bio

Michael Eisenbise has 30 years of safety, environmental, and reliability experience. Eisenbise is a CMRP. He is a member of ASSE, and served as president of the ASSE in Victoria, Texas. He is a member of ASME, AFE, an Executive Board Member of SMRP and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Rusty Cornelius (West Section)

Mr. Cornelius will share information on the role of "Houston TranStar", the greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center, in coordinating an integrated emergency management response to crises events in the greater Houston/Harris County area.

ASP/CSP Exam Prep Workshops



Presented by
Langlois, Weigand & Associates

November 15 -17/18-20, 2004
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

Houston Area Contractor Safety Council
1301 W. 13th Street, Deer Park, Texas.



ASP Safety Fundamentals Prep Workshop - **\$550**
Monday-Wednesday, November 15-17, 2004

CSP Comprehensive Exam Prep Workshop - **\$600**
Thursday-Saturday, November 18-20, 2004

Registration is limited to the first 25 students for each workshop. A TI-36X scientific calculator is included in the cost of the course. Those interested in registering should contact: Bob Gaither, ASP/CSP Review Chair at gaithr1@chevrontexaco.com or 713.954.6142 no later than November 11, 2004.

Profession Succession Planning

Last June I had the privilege of representing the Gulf Coast Chapter at a reception thanking major contributors of the ASSE Foundation. The purpose of the reception was to meet the Foundation Board of Trustees, fellow donors, and most importantly scholarship recipients. I met individually with several students and was moved by their sincere gratitude in receiving a scholarship. Most notable of my conversations was meeting with a young lady by the name of Kaila Benton-Vitz, an undergrad from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Kaila was the recipient of this year's Gulf Coast Past President's Scholarship (\$1,000). Kaila was visibly touched as she explained how much the money meant to her and what a huge help it would be in helping to fund her education.

During the 2003-4 Foundation year the Gulf Coast Chapter made the largest donation of any chapter by contributing \$3,800 to the foundation. The donation from the chapter brought the Gulf Coast Past President's Scholarship to the endowment stage (\$25,000) to ensure that an annual stipend of \$1,000 could be awarded annually. The Foundation was able to grant the scholarship to Kaila as a result of the Past President's endowment status. The \$3,800 contribution only reflects the amount given by the chapter and not the other numerous gifts given by individuals of the chapter. The Chapter as a whole as well as the individual donors should be commended in making the endowment possible.

At this year's PDC the Boston Chapter donated over \$15,000 to the Foundation leaving those of us in the Gulf Coast area to ask what more we could do. During the past summer months the executive committee unanimously adopted a strategic plan that outlines short and long term goals. This plan which was presented to the membership at the September meeting commits the chapter to make a \$25,000 donation to the Foundation by next years PDC in New Orleans (June 2005). The goal is ambitious to say the least as no chapter has ever endowed a scholarship with a single donation.

I am asking that the chapter unite in its contributions to the Foundation in order to reach our \$25,000 goal. The chapter has already contacted a handful of individual donors of recent past to ask if they would support this lofty goal. All have been extremely supportive! In fact, this week a donation in the amount of \$665 was received by Mr. Frank Perry. We have also received a challenge from Mr. Joe Machac; he will make a matching contribution in the amount of \$1,000 if we can collect the same amount by December 1st.

I implore each of you to give serious consideration in helping the chapter in any way possible to meet our goal. We will institute asking for donations at chapter meetings again and I look for other gracious members to help out by matching contributions or utilizing their company's matching programs. The monetary gifts we give now are the investment we must pay to ensure qualified and competent individuals to succeed our positions and endeavors in the safety, health, and environmental arena.



Kaila Benton-Vitz

College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Major: Safety Sciences

Award: \$1,000

NEW COMPENSATION SURVEY FINDS EDUCATION PAYS

A recent American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) membership compensation analysis survey found the average member salary in 2003 to be \$74,000 with half of the respondents receiving a bonus of between \$1,000 - \$5,000. Also, the majority of those surveyed anticipate a salary increase this year of about 4.6 percent, or between one and five percent of their current salary base.

The survey done by Block Research, Inc. found that professional ASSE members (those with a P.E., CSP, CIH, CHP, CRSP or IOSH-RSP or BA from an accredited college plus 10 years of safety experience) earn nearly \$10,000 more. The survey also found that having a Bachelor's Degree adds nearly \$12,000 to one's salary and a Master's Degree nearly \$20,000 compared to high school only. A Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation adds \$10,500 to a salary. In addition to salary and bonuses, 61 percent are reimbursed for professional development, with the annual amount spent per employee ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

The survey found that safety, health and environmental (SH&E) practitioners with 10 or more years of experience earn about \$20,000 more than those with less than five years' experience. As responsibility and stature within a company increases, so too, does salary - rising from \$57,410 for entry-level positions to \$97,760 for executive-level positions. Survey results found the electronics and finance industries ranked the highest in terms of compensation for SH&E practitioners, with education and agriculture ranking the lowest.

The 34-question survey developed by ASSE was sent to a randomly selected group of 2500 members and professional members. Of the 1624 returned surveys, respondents represented all business categories with more than half from the manufacturing, construction, insurance, services and public administration sector. The median age of the respondents was 46-50 years of age and 93 percent work full time, with seven percent self-employed. In the majority of the companies represented by respondents safety and health functions are grouped together, with environmental functions handled separately. Fifty-one percent surveyed say they are responsible for 100percent of their company's safety, health and environmental budget.

To purchase a copy of the ASSE Compensation Survey contact ASSE's customer service department at 847-699-2929 or customerservice@asse.org and check www.asse.org for additional information.

ASSE KICKS OFF 3rd ANNUAL NAOSH KIDS' SAFETY- ON- THE- JOB' POSTER CONTEST

Young artists needed! In an ongoing effort to educate children on the importance of workplace safety and health, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) today kicked off its third annual ASSE kids' 'Safety-on-the-Job' poster contest for ASSE members' children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The contest runs today through Feb. 14, 2005, Valentine's Day, and is broken down into four age categories.

The winning poster will best illustrate workplace safety and be featured on the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week poster distributed worldwide. NAOSH week, a week dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of workplace safety and preventing injuries, runs this May 1 -7.

"Children are not aware of what their parents do when they go to work each day," ASSE President Gene Barfield, CSP, said. "This contest helps ASSE members' children understand how their parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles, work day in and day out identifying hazards and implementing safety advances in all industries and at all workplaces to help the millions of people who go to work, return home safely every day. It's also a fun contest. "Also of major importance," Barfield added, "is the fact that children will soon be entering the workplace themselves. They need to be aware of what constitutes safety on the job for their own protection. You're never too young to learn."

The poster contest is open to ASSE members' children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews between the ages of 5 and 12. There are four age categories with a winner selected from each age group which include: 1) ages 5 -6; 2) ages 7 -8; 3) ages 9-10; and, 4) ages 11-12. An independent panel of judges will select the four winning entries that best illustrate the theme "Safety on the Job." Each age group winner receives a \$1,000 savings bond. All entrants receive a prize.

For the ASSE kids' "Safety-on-the-Job" poster contest rules and entry form please go to the www.asse.org/naosh05 web site or contact customerservice@asse.org. The winning entries will be announced in March 2005. Posters will also be displayed at ASSE's annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition to be held in New Orleans June 12-15, 2005.

Government Affairs

OSHA Signs Strategic Partnership with the Army

OSHA has entered into a partnership with the U.S. Department of the Army that is designed to improve safety and health for the civilian workforce at 21 military installations. "We are committed to help Federal Agencies improve workplace safety and health," said OSHA administrator John Henshaw. "This partnership with the Army is an excellent opportunity to share the knowledge and best practices in both agencies to further improve safety and health among civilian personnel at Army installations."

OSHA Proposes Revised Rule on Hexavalent Chromium

OSHA has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for occupational exposure to Hexavalent Chromium in the October 4, 2004, Federal Register. OSHA is proposing three separate standards that cover exposure to hexavalent chromium (CrVI) in general industry, construction, and shipyards. The Agency is accepting public comments on the proposed standards until January 3, 2005.

"The risks involved in the occupational use of hexavalent chromium can be serious and potentially life threatening," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. Hexavalent chromium (CrVI) compounds are widely used in pigments, metal plating, and chemical synthesis as ingredients and catalysts. CrVI can also be produced when welding on stainless steel or CrVI-painted surfaces. The major health effects associated with exposure to CrVI include lung cancer, asthma, nasal septum ulcerations and perforations, skin ulcerations (or chrome holes), and allergic and irritant contact dermatitis.

OSHA is proposing to lower its permissible exposure limit (PEL) for hexavalent chromium and for all CrVI compounds in construction, shipyards, and general industry from 52 to one microgram of CrVI per cubic meter of air as an 8-hour time weighted average. The proposed rule also includes provisions for preferred methods for controlling exposure, respiratory protection, protective work clothing and equipment, hygiene areas and practices, medical surveillance, hazard communication, and recordkeeping.

Comments, whether submitted by mail, fax, or electronically, must be sent by January 3, 2005. Three copies of written comments must be sent to the Docket Office, Docket H054A, Room N-2625, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20210.

Professional Development



Safety Management I & II Workshops October 10-14, 2004

ASSE Headquarters has finalized plans to deliver the Safety Management I and II seminars in Houston at the Hyatt Regency Houston on **October 10-14, 2005**.

For more information on these seminars or the Certificate in Safety Management program please contact Trudy Goldman at 847-768-3405, or log on to <http://www.asse.org>



Society of Petroleum Engineers
Gulf Coast Section

Society of Petroleum Engineers Meeting November 10th 2004, 11:00 -13:00

Society of Petroleum Engineers – Gulf Coast Section
Safety & Environment Study Group Luncheon
Presentation

Topic: æ (Zeta) Lubricator/Riser Monitoring and
Safety System

Speaker: Ken Newman, President CTES

Location: Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer

**Event Contact: Gaurav Sharma
713-260-8459**

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Greg Smith, C.S.P.
 President

Thanks a Million!!

Our highly successful Awards and Honors Banquet would not be a reality without the continued support of local vendors. The ASSE GCC Executive Committee would like to sincerely thank these vendors for their support of chapter activities.

ABOUT AMBER HAGERMAN

In January 1996, nine-year-old Amber Hagerman was riding her bicycle on a warm Saturday afternoon when a neighbor heard the girl scream. The neighbor saw a man pull Amber off her bike, throw her into the front seat of his pickup truck, and drive away at a high speed.

The neighbor called police and provided a description of the suspect and his vehicle, but couldn't recall much else. Arlington Police and the FBI interviewed other neighbors and searched for the suspect and vehicle. Local radio and TV stations covered the story in their regular newscasts.

Four days later, Amber's body was found in a drainage ditch four miles away. Her throat had been cut. Her kidnapping and murder remain unsolved.

A concerned citizen contacted a Dallas area radio station, suggesting the idea that Dallas radio stations should repeat news bulletins about abducted children just like they do severe weather warnings.

The idea was presented to the Association of Radio Managers (ARM) composed of general managers of the major radio stations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The general managers agreed that such a program would provide an important public service and might help save the life of a child.

The Dallas Amber Plan was started in July 1997 to help safely recover missing children that police believe have been abducted. Since then, the program has successfully recovered eight children and expanded to other cities and states nationwide.

IN MEMORY OF ALL ABDUCTED CHILDREN

Although the Amber Plan is named after Amber Hagerman, this national program is dedicated to all children nationwide who've been abducted.

How often does it happen? According to the U.S. Department of Justice, up to 4600 children are abducted by strangers every year (about 12 children nationwide every day).

Several families and friends of abducted children have established their own non-profit organizations or foundations with extensive websites to assist, support, and educate all parents and children.

The Amber Plan's goal is the safe recovery of every abducted child.

More information about the Amber Plan visit http://www.amber-plan.net/the_plan.htm

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