



News & Views



Always Seeking Safety Excellence
through
Growth, Challenge & Change
1939-2005

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

General Chapter Meeting

Thursday, February 2nd, 2006
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Brady's Landing
8505 Cypress, Houston

Topic: *Communicating with Your Non-English Speaking Workforce*

Panel Speakers:

Greg Smith – Construction
Rixio Medina – Industry
Lawrence Schulze - Consulting and Academics
Marion Rifkind - Translation Services

They will all be addressing the challenges, pitfalls, good, bad, and ugly attempts at communication.

Meeting cost is \$17.00 per person and is open to anyone
no reservations required.

North Section Meeting

Monday, March 6th - 11:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn North – Richey Rd. & I-45
Topic: *(still being confirmed)*

All ASSE members are welcome to attend. An all you can eat Buffet lunch is included along with all the good information you will get from our presenter for only a \$12.00 fee.

Point of Contact – Bob Tucci at 713-488-7710 or rtucci@reliant.com.

Please ensure your ASSE personal profile information (e-mail, address, phone number) is up to date. Access the Members Only section of www.asse.org to make changes or contact Nancy O'Toole at 847-699-2929.

In Brief

The application deadline for the ASSE Gulf Coast Chapter academic scholarships is March 1, 2006. If you are interested in applying and need an application form, contact Tara Falin at 713-924-9444 or tara.falin@bakeroiltoils.com.

The ASSE Professional Development Conference (PDC) Committee is seeking speaker submissions for the upcoming 2006 PDC. The 2006 PDC will be held August 6th – 9th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin, Texas. Anyone interested in speaking should go to the Region III website at www.region3.asse.org and complete the required "Speaker Submission Forms". If you have any questions contact Gerry Luther by e-mail at region3pdc@calicheltd.com

Congratulations is in order to honor Mark Briggs' achievement of Certified Safety Professional (CSP) in December 2005. Mark is with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration Houston South Area Office and has been involved with several joint OSHA/ASSE initiatives.

Speaker Bio

Gregory L. Smith, CSP, is President of Construction Safety & Health, Inc. (CSHI) in Austin, Texas, a company that serves all areas of safety including consulting, training and education, and auditing. Mr. Smith has more than 27 years of diverse experience in the safety field, working in both general industry and construction environments performing tasks ranging from job site inspections to safety video production. He holds a B.S. in Industrial Hygiene and Safety from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and will be completing a M.S. in that discipline from the same institution in 2006. He is a Professional Member of the American Society of Safety Engineers (Past President of the Gulf Coast Chapter), a member of the Gulf Coast American Industrial Hygiene Association, and Assistant Administrator for the ASSE Construction Practice Specialty. Mr. Smith has been involved as an OSHA Outreach instructor teaching "Train the Trainer" classes in both Construction and General Industry for the Region VI OSHA Education Center (TEEX) in Mesquite, Texas; and in their development of youth safety courses for online delivery. Mr. Smith is also an adjunct professor for Texas A&M-Commerce teaching safety courses at the Armed Forces Safety Center in Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

Bios continued on Page 3

President's Message – Lawrence Schulze, ASSE Gulf Coast

Ah, a new year. The grass is growing, the flowers a blooming. Wait, its January not the spring, but you'd never know that by the weather we're having.

So are you ready to get your safety fix in 2006?

We've got great topics for you, especially the non-English speaking communication issue. As many of you may recall the sad news that a 3rd shift maintenance worker was killed by being drawn into a hydraulic motor; he could not read or speak English.

I had the opportunity to participate in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National occupational Research Agenda (NORA) town hall meeting that was sponsored by the UT School of Public Health here in Houston. The morning was devoted to general topic. Three members of the Gulf Coast Chapter made presentations to NIOSH, David Dedrick of the Linbeck Group (how workers get hurt in the construction industry of the Contractors Safety Council of Texas City), Ron Sokol (process safety management compliance), and yours truly (implications of an aging worker population in the petrochemical process industry and applicability of anthropometric resources to changing worker and patient demographics in healthcare). I also took a stab at NIOSH to get funding (again) for an occupational safety engineering program here in Houston. The NORA focus going forward is to concentrate on research that has field application. What a novel idea! It was interesting to find out that NIOSH is not certain which of the 8 research areas (manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, etc.) the petrochemical process industry belongs. After talking to NIOSH Director Howard, the petrochemical process industry may now become the 9th research area.

Remember Vendor's Night on Thursday, February 23, 2006. The vendors are excited and so are we. If you want your children to enter the NAOSH week safety poster competition, all entries must be received at ASSE headquarters by February 14, 2006. If you are interested in presenting a poster at the ASSE PDC in Seattle, the deadline is January 31, 2006.

Help Wanted – Newsletter Editor

All positions within the ASSE Gulf Coast Chapter are staffed by volunteers. The many programs we support could not, would not continue if not for the time and effort of these dedicated members. **Chris Alcorn**, our previous Newsletter Editor has resigned due to a change in employment. The effort needed to pull this months newsletter together is another reminder of the dedication that Chris and all our volunteer staff share. If anyone is interested in filling the vacancy of the Newsletter Editor for the GCC please contact Dave Conklin at 713-420-2314 or david.conklin@elpaso.com.

Technical Q & A Bulletin

The ASSE Technical Question and Answer (TQA) Bulletin is dedicated to bringing safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals cutting-edge information that impacts SH&E management. This bulletin is published quarterly, and it provides concise answers to technical issues that are of interest to SH&E professionals and can be found at http://www.asse.org/prac_spec_tqa.htm. The Bulletins posted in 2005 are below:

TQA Bulletin #24 (12/05) We have a concrete truck that will drive into our manufacturing plant to pour new concrete. It will be approximately 25-30 feet inside of 20-foot-tall overhead door...

TQA Bulletin #23 (10/05) We are developing machine-specific lockout procedures. If a procedure has multiple energy sources that are either electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic or mechanical...

TQA Bulletin #22 (08/05) At a recent Safety Committee meeting, our Chief Financial Officer expressed concern about implementing a Safety Suggestion Box.....

TQA Bulletin #21 (04/05) We have a surface that is 6.5 feet off the ground that an employee stands on to clean a specific part.....

TQA Flyer #20 (01/05) This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking of fall protection...

Speaker Panel Bios (cont.)

Rixio E. Medina is the Vice President of Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Protection for CITGO Petroleum Corporation in Houston, Texas. He has over twenty six years experience in the petroleum and refining industries. He received a Master of Science degree in Industrial Security from Central Missouri State University (1982) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology-Fire Protection and Safety (1977) from Oklahoma State University. Medina is a professional member of ASSE and has served as the Vice President, Council on Professional Affairs. In 2003, Medina was appointed by President Bush to serve as a Board Member on the United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board in Washington, D.C. Previously he was appointed by the Secretary of Labor to serve two terms as safety representative on the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH). He is a Certified Safety Professional in Comprehensive Practice and a Certified Protection Professional, Board Certified in Security Management.

Dr. Lawrence Schulze is an Associate Professor at the University of Houston. He is also a Professor of Ergonomics at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya, Spain, where he is responsible for teaching in the area of Occupational Ergonomics, a Visiting Professor for the Department of Industrial Engineering at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia (S.A.), where he was a Fulbright grantee Specializing in Safety, Anthropometry, Human Factors and Ergonomics, and a visiting Professor at the Costa Rican Institute of Technology. He is a frequent speaker at Ibero-American conferences focused on Occupational Health and Occupational Risk Prevention. His recent research has focused on the understanding of international safety symbols and communication in multi-lingual and multi-cultural work environments.

Marion Rifkind, a native of the U.K., majored in languages earning a Bachelor of Arts with honors in Russian and a minor in French from Manchester University, is the President of *Universe* Technical Translation Inc. She is also the former Executive Director of the CIS - American Chamber of Commerce - a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting East-West ties and which for a long time published a quarterly newsletter and organized monthly luncheons with such speakers as the President of Ex-Im Bank, the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, and officials of major oil companies, among others. Marion is the only translation executive who decided to contribute so much time and energy to promoting East-West ties. *(cont.)*

Ms. Rifkind began her career working for a London-based translation company. When the company received a contract from a major client to handle the technical translation of its documents into Russian, they sent her to Houston, telling her she'd be there for three months. That was in 1978. She liked the city so much she decided to set up shop with virtually no working capital. With a typewriter and a home office Marion started her own business. As the President, Ms. Rifkind focuses a large part of Universe's resources to serve their customers better. Some other clients with whom they hold Master Consulting Agreements include ExxonMobil, BP and Wood Group International, to name just a few.

OSHA Tidbits

OSHA Interpretations

There is a new e-mail notification system is designed to bring you a monthly update on OSHA Interpretations. Each month this system will e-mail you the previous month's interpretations released by OSHA on its public web page. A small description will be provided concerning the content of the interpretation and a hyperlink that will redirect you to the actual interpretation posted on the OSHA web site at www.osha.gov.

You can register for this e-mail notification system sponsored by the Houston Business Roundtable's Alliance in conjunction with the Houston Area Offices of OSHA.

If interested you can register at the below link:

<http://www.hacsc.com/2004/OSHAListManagement.htm>

OSHA Records

Everyone is reminded that the employer's annual requirement to post your OSHA Form 300As is soon to arrive. The OSHA 300As must be posted on or before February 1st and remain posted until April 30th. The OSHA 300A summarizes the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year.

Practice Specialty Overview

FROM: David Crowley, CSP, CET, CHMM
ASSE, Council of Practices and Standards
Region VIII, Assistant Regional Vice President

This is a timely update as part of my role as ARVP for CoPS for Region VIII. I was approached back in July to fill the role of ARVP for our Region. I haven't put much energy into this new role due to my commitments as Past President for the Greater Boston Chapter and my volunteer efforts with the New England Area PDC. Now that the PDC is over (it was held in late November and was a huge success), I will be sending out monthly correspondence to all key contacts for our region. Chapter Presidents should forward this information along to your newsletter editors (if you have one) as a means to pass along information about matters relating to practices and standards. Come to think of it, please feel free to pass this info along to ANYONE that can benefit by it!

What can you expect from me in my role? I will act as a liaison for the Regional VP to help facilitate interaction between the chapters + sections in our region on behalf of the Practice Specialties & Branches, Working Committees and the Standards Development Committee of CoPS. It is expected that the ARVP position I'll be serving in will increase awareness of CoPS within the membership and hopefully expand the value of CoPS for our entire membership. Please feel free use any of this information in your newsletter as a method of keeping your chapter members informed about the Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) and the value of their membership.

ASSE Region VIII Officers

Steven F. Kane, PE, CSP
Region VIII Vice President

Joseph M. Schwed, CSP
Region VIII, Deputy Vice President

David T. Crowley, CSP, CET, CHMM,
Region VIII, Asst. Vice President, Council on Practices & Standards

PRACTICES

As our members should already be aware, ASSE was founded in 1911 and is the oldest and largest professional safety organization. Its more than 30,000 members manage, supervise and consult on safety, health, and environmental issues in industry, insurance, government and education. ASSE is guided by a 16-member Board of Directors, which consists of 8 regional vice presidents; three council vice presidents; Society president, president-elect, senior vice president, vice president of finance and executive director.

As part of ASSE's structure, the Society has three council Vice Presidents – one for Council on Practices & Standards (CoPS), one for Council on Professional Affairs (CoPA), and one for Council on Professional Development (CoPD). The Vice President of CoPS is James D. Smith, CSP. Jim oversees the 13 practice specialties, 5 branches and several working committees. At Society headquarters, CoPS day-to-day efforts are headed up by Timothy R. Fisher, CSP, ARM, CPEA as Director of Practices and Standards as well as Rennie Heath, Manager of Practice Specialties.

~ PRACTICE SPECIALTIES ~

Academic Practice Specialty
Construction Practice Specialty
Consultants Practice Specialty
Engineering Practice Specialty
Environmental Practice Specialty
Healthcare Practice Specialty
Industrial Hygiene Practice Specialty
International Practice Specialty
Management Practice Specialty
Mining Practice Specialty
Public Sector Practice Specialty
Risk Management/Insurance Practice Specialty
Transportation Practice Specialty

~ BRANCHES ~

Education & Training
Fire Protection Branch
Hospitality Branch
Manufacturing Branch
Oil & Gas

Technical Audio Conferences

Earlier this year SH&E professionals working in the transportation industry have indicated that one of their current greatest challenges addresses the overall issue of transportation safety, managing hazardous materials, and being in compliance with federal regulations. Transportation safety has become even more important in the United States due to the need to tie security and general transportation safety issues together. We believe this issue will have significant impact on virtually all SH&E professionals sometime in their careers.

"TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SECURITY RELATED ISSUES IN TODAY'S CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT" will address the challenges, concerns, best practices, member insights, and applicable standards addressing these issues. Our speakers are well-known and respected SH&E professionals with significant transportation SH&E experience. In addition, they will also touch on what appears to be an overriding issue for SH&E professionals, which is regulatory/enforcement activities in coordination with the increased need for security.

This program is only \$75 for members is recognized for [BCSP CoC credit](#) and includes the following:

1. Several articles about transportation related safety.
2. A 90 minute conference call presentation being given by Bobbie Athey, Carmen Daecher, and Paul Tamburelli.
3. The emphasis of the call will be on "Transportation Safety and Security Related Issues in Today's Challenging Environment"
4. A powerpoint presentation.
5. The ability to submit your questions via e-mail to the speakers and moderator.
6. Following the call you will receive a CD recording of the call.

If you would like to participate **contact the ASSE Customer Service Department at 847/699-2929.**

ASSE Transportation Prac. Specialty Members: \$65.00

Member Price \$75.00

AIHA/ACHMM \$85.00

List Price \$95.00

Standards

Below are some URLs you might wish to take a look at about the whole standards issue. These standards are written via the national consensus process by your peers. This is not meant to be a commercial to buy standards because ASSE does produce standards and does sell them to recoup some of the cost. If you are an SH&E professional working with hazards and exposures addressed by these standards it would be wise to have them and refer to them.

Below is an article reprinted on our website addressing the use of standards. The title is "[Safeguarding: Hoops, Health & Harmonization: Design Standards do it All](#)"

<http://www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/14097>

Here is a reprinted article addressing a common question - "Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary"

<http://www.occupationalhazards.com/articles/12790>

And, this discussion almost always results in a discussion about "Why Charge for Standards"

http://www.asse.org/safety_highlights_charge.htm

And - last-but-not-least - the ASSE Statement on the use of national voluntary consensus standards

http://www.asse.org/format_frames_main2.asp?bannerframe2=govern_affair_banner.html&mainframe2=ngposi3.htm

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Science Engineering Fair of Houston

Over 1,000 of the Houston area's most talented junior and senior high school students will be participating in the 47th annual Science Engineering Fair of Houston to be held March 23 - 27, 2006 at the Brown Convention Center (downtown Houston) in Hall C.

Each of the student's exhibits must be checked for conformance to established safety rules and regulations - nothing complicated (You will receive a copy of the rules upon request). **Your knowledge and expertise are needed to help accomplish this public service task.**

If you are able to spend an hour, or longer, of your time in this rewarding project - beginning 4 PM, or later, on Thursday, March 23, 2006, and ending around 8 PM, please contact Walter Chmielewski by email, by phone, or fill in and mail/fax this page to him at:

Walter Chmielewski
17303 Broken Back Dr.
Crosby, TX 77532-4026
seagulir@earthlink.net
281-328-5139

FAX: 281-328-5139
picks up after 4th ring
or enter *51 to access fax
when phone rings

SCIENCE ENGINEERING FAIR OF HOUSTON

I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP IN CHECKING STUDENTS EXHIBITS ON **THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006** IN Hall C of the Brown Convention Center.

TIME I WILL BE AVAILABLE: _____ PM TO _____ PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____


FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

COMPANY: _____

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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.

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