



# News & Views

Always Seeking Safety Excellence  
through  
Growth, Challenge, & Change



## Upcoming Chapter Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 2006  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Brady's Landing  
8505 Cypress, Houston, TX 77012

**Topic:** System Safety

**Speaker:** RICHARD R. BOURLON, P.E., CSP, ALCM

### Speaker Information:

Richard Bourlon resides in Dallas, TX and is the current ASSE Region III Vice President. ASSE Region III consists of 15 Chapters and 8 Student Sections throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Richard has ASSE member for 19 years and has more than 20 years experience in safety engineering, industrial hygiene and risk management consulting including fire/life safety and systems safety for the rail transportation industry. He has earned several awards including the Region III Safety Professional of the Year Award, the Southwest Chapter Safety Professional of the Year Award and the Charles V. Culbertson Outstanding Service Award recipient.



**Special Guest:**

**Gregory Smith**



## Houston Downtown Section of GCC ASSE

The Houston Downtown Section meets January through October on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings will reunite on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1001 Louisiana Street. If you would like more information or would like to assist in the planning of 2007 please contact one of the following:

- Chair: Mike Farris, CSP  
Contractor Safety Specialist  
El Paso E&P Company, L.P.  
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- Vice Chair: Larry Myers  
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- Secretary /  
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## Revised Chapter By-laws

The Chapter By-laws have been revised by the Executive Committee and are posted on the website. Now is your chance to vote on the by-laws! Go to the website to review the by-laws between now and January 4th. At the General Chapter meeting in January, YOU (the membership) will be voting on the revisions.

## Gulf Coast Chapter Membership Survey

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, an email with a link to the Gulf Coast Chapter Membership Survey was sent out to the membership. The information you provide will help the Executive Committee identify your needs. In return the Executive Committee will be able to better serve the membership. The final results of the survey will be communicated through the chapter website, newsletter, and meetings. When you receive the survey please take a few minutes to complete it.

We ask that you complete the survey by January 15, 2007. Since many may have been on vacation, a reminder email will be sent in the next week. The survey should only take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Help the Executive Committee improve the Chapter with your feedback.



## President's Message – Tara Falin, ASSE Gulf Coast

It's a New Year!

Welcome back and happy New Year, Gulf Coast Chapter Members! At the December meeting, we had an outstanding speaker, Robert Stokes, who discussed the Texas Worker's Compensation Reform. We also had approximately 64 attendees. Thanks to Robert and everyone who attended the meeting.

Wow...I can hardly believe it's a new year! Along with that goes the tradition of the New Year's resolution. I am willing to bet that many of you made a New Year's resolution. Why is it that January 1<sup>st</sup> makes people motivated to do better, be better, or just plain start over? We can set a new goal any day and time, but since New Year's comes just once every twelve months, the desire to change becomes stronger.

Many of us use New Year's resolutions to get our lives back on track after the holiday season; others just like the idea of a new beginning. What ever your reason is for setting goals in January, if they help you make lasting professional and personal changes, it is worth the tradition. The real question is...how do we get from "I want to..." to "I did it!"?

As HS&E professionals, we are always developing plans for work projects, but do we ever take the time to develop a personal plan for ourselves? While interviewing with a potential employer several years ago I was asked, "where do I see myself in 5 to 10 years?" During the interview, I shot out my most confident answer, but I hadn't really given the question much thought. Several years later at the ASSE Professional Development Conference, I listened to a presenter discuss the importance of developing your own five year strategic plan. As I listened to the presenter, it brought me back to that same interview question. At that time, I had an idea of where I wanted to be, but I still hadn't put it on paper and I wasn't really working towards my ultimate goal. How do we expect to get to where we want to be without a plan or road map to guide us?

Gulf Coast Chapter members, it is a new year, and not too late to make your road map. Whether your resolution is professional or personal, I encourage each of you to establish goals that will allow 2007 to be a successful year for you.

Over the summer, the Executive Committee spent time developing the Chapter Strategic long term (3 year) and short term (2006-07) plans to help guide us through the year. Even though it is a new year, the chapter year is just getting warmed up. Over the next six months, there will be many more opportunities for you to get involved in the Chapter. Some of the events that will be available to you are: Vendor's Night, Youth Rules Rally, Golf Tournament, and many more. Due to your requests, the General Chapter meeting will now be located in the Cypress room at Brady's Landing. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

*Tara Falin*  
ASSE GCC President

## NASA, OSHA & GCC Partner to Protect Teens at Work

This year the Gulf Coast Chapter has partnered with the local OSHA offices and NASA/Johnson Space Center's Safety and Test Operations Division to sponsor a "2007 Teen Safety-on-the-Job Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest". This contest is open to high school students (ninth - 12th grade) in the eighteen counties covered by the Gulf Coast Chapter. The contest is a call for action for teens to address their peers about "Teen Safety-on-the-Job" through a 30-second PSA. The contest opens December 1, 2006 and entries must be submitted by March 1, 2007. Student teams are limited to 5 teens and must be supervised by a teacher, advisor or parent. The PSA videos will be judged and the top three entries will be awarded Grand, First and Second Place cash prizes in the form of a savings bond. The winning teams school will also receive a prize.

The student team members will receive an invitation to attend the kick-off event in Washington DC for the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week at the Perkins Building, headquarters of the Department of Labor, on Monday, May 7, 2007. Additionally, the students will receive their prizes at a ceremony on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at the Johnson Space Center during Occupational Safety & Health Professionals Day. ASSE member's teen family members are encouraged to enter.

Companies who wish to support this event can sponsor the event by contacting Cindy Lewis at (713) 387-2030.

For more information, see the website [www.asse-gulfcoast.org](http://www.asse-gulfcoast.org) and click on the 2007 Teen Safety-on-the-Job PSA Contest link. Questions about the contest can be directed to Cindy Lewis, Youth Worker Safety Committee, (713) 397-2030, [cllewis@houston.rr.com](mailto:cllewis@houston.rr.com).

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Rules! Rally, Job and Career Fair

The 4th Annual Youth Rules! Rally, Job and Career Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall B (1st Floor) from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. This year the addition of a career fair has been added to encourage teens to find out more about their opportunities for careers in the Houston area.

Volunteers will be needed to help manage the 6,000 teens who are expected to attend the event. Companies who have job opportunities for teens, or are interested in getting information out about careers in the oil and gas, construction, or other industries can register for a booth at no cost. Sponsors for the event are always welcome. This event continues to grow each year and receive national recognition.

If you are interested in volunteering, sponsoring or exhibiting please contact Cindy Lewis, Youth Worker Safety Committee, (713) 397-2030, [cllewis@houston.rr.com](mailto:cllewis@houston.rr.com). watch the News & Views and the GCC website for information to be added as the event gets closer.



## Call for Presenters

### Texas Chemical Council & Association of Chemical Industry of Texas 2007 Environmental, Health & Safety Seminar

#### Call for Presenters

The TCC/ACIT Environmental, Health & Safety Seminar Committee is currently soliciting presentation ideas and speakers for their annual seminar, June 4 – 7, 2007 in Galveston, Texas.

If you would like to be considered as a speaker at the seminar, please send a short summary of your proposed topic along with your contact information to [lee.haring@Lubrizol.com](mailto:lee.haring@Lubrizol.com)

You may visit [www.ehs-seminar.com](http://www.ehs-seminar.com) to view past seminar session topics.

This TCC/ACIT seminar is the premier training and educational event of its kind on the Gulf Coast, attracting attendees from the chemical, refining and support industries. If you have information to share that will benefit the EHS performance of our industry, we encourage you to consider being one of our presenters.

Typical session tracks include:

Security • Safety Culture • Sharing Best Practices • Environmental - Air, Water & Waste

Contractor Management • Industrial Hygiene • Facility Siting Issues • PSM

Employee Health and Wellness • Hazard Recognition

Turnaround Safety • Emergency Response

Legal / Regulatory Update • Lessons Learned • Mechanical Integrity • EHS Management

Managing Reactive Chemical Hazards • Safety Critical Procedures

OSHA VPP • Employee Safety

EHS Training • Field Safety • Responsible Care/Outreach • Safety Systems



# Council on Practices and Standards

## COUNCIL ON PRACTICES AND STANDARDS

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(SH&E) Profession

### HEXAVALENT CHROME NEW OSHA STANDARD OVERVIEW

Cr(VI) is the metallic element chromium in its positive-6 valence (hexavalent) state and has seen wide spread, long-term use in industry for its ability to inhibit the formation of rust. It is commonly found in paints, inks, plastics, welding rod and in all chrome products such as plumbing fixtures and car bumpers and is commonly alloyed with other metals to improve corrosion resistance. Exposure to CR(VI) is possible during the following activities which may occur at your facility:

- Welding, brazing and thermal cutting of stainless steel and other chrome containing metal or surface coatings
- Abrasive blasting/grinding/polishing stainless steel or chrome containing metal or coatings
- Applying and removing chromate containing paints and coatings
- Chrome plating operations

Cr(VI) enters the body by being inhaled as a dust or fume. It may also be swallowed or absorbed through skin contact with liquid.

As a result OSHA has implemented a new standard which regulates occupational exposure to Chromium (VI) or Cr(VI). OSHA: 29CFR 1910.1026 and OSHA: 29CFR 1926.1126 limits the PEL to 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air and has established this PEL to reduce the potential for adverse exposure risks by classifying CR(VI) compounds as occupational carcinogens. If the exposure exceeds the PEL, there is a notification requirement for all affected employees through a posting or individual letter.

This became effective 27 Nov 2006 for 20 or more employees and 30 May 2006 for 19 or fewer employees.

For more information look at OSHA's Website :

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hexavalentchromium/index.html>

And checkout the ASSE presentation of "Hexavalent Chromium Standard - Requirements of the Standard and the Impact on SH&E Professionals Call Support" presented by David O'Connor.

[http://www.asse.org/callsupport/cc07hexv/support\\_materials.html](http://www.asse.org/callsupport/cc07hexv/support_materials.html)



# Governmental Affairs

## NIOSH Releases Five Health Hazard Evaluation Reports

-  
From NIOSH –

### New Health Hazard Evaluations

- **Evaluation of cancer occurrence in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector.** NIOSH investigators responded to a management request to determine if there was an excess of cancer cases among current and former workers at a power plant. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2003-0097-3018.pdf>.
- **Evaluation of noise exposure in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector.** NIOSH investigators responded to a management request to determine if a risk for hearing loss was posed by noise from conveyor belts and baggage inspection equipment in the checked baggage screening areas of an international airport. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2005-0197-3010.pdf>.
- **Evaluation of diesel exposure in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector.** NIOSH investigators responded to a joint union/management request to assess equipment-generated diesel exhaust during move/load/unload operations at four marine terminals. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2003-0246-3013.pdf>.
- **Evaluation of silver iodide exposure in the manufacturing sector.** NIOSH investigators responded to a management request to assess exposure to silver iodide during the manufacturing of cloud-seeding flares. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2004-0239-3014.pdf>.
- **Evaluation of styrene and other process-related exposures in the manufacturing sector.** NIOSH investigators responded to an employee request concerning potential long-term effects from exposure to smoke and chemicals generated while manufacturing polystyrene and cutting polyethylene sheeting and expandable polystyrene foam. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2005-0243-3016.pdf>.

Also, *Occupational Safety and Health* provided a nice summary of these reports at <http://www.ohsonline.com/Stevens/OHSPub.nsf/frame?open&redirect=http://www.ohsonline.com/stevens/ohspub.nsf/d3d5b4f938b22b6e8625670c006dbc58/9dc24b511f8ebd918625723e0052f721?OpenDocument>

### More Truck Drivers Buckling Up

A November report by NHTSA and FMCSA show that commercial motor vehicle drivers are getting better at buckling their seat belts. For FY 2006, safety belt usage by heavy vehicle operators improved to 59 percent, a 5-point increase over FY 2005. The report is available at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/safety-belt/exec-summary-2006.htm>



## Governmental Affairs

December 6, 2007 NESHAP for Boilers and Process Heaters EPA is promulgating amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters. After promulgation of this final rule, the Administrator received petitions for reconsideration of certain provisions in the final rule. Subsequently, EPA published a notice of the reconsideration and requested public comment on proposed amendments to the NESHAP. After evaluating public comments, EPA will adopt the amendments it proposed. The final rule is effective February 5, 2007.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-20637.htm>

### **U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) Wants Views on Family and Medical Leave Act**

-  
From DoL –

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**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that it is seeking information and comment from the public on the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and its implementing regulations. The request for information (RFI) will be published in the Federal Register on Friday, Dec. 1.

"The department has had the FMLA on its regulatory agenda for a number of years," said Victoria A. Lipnic, assistant secretary for the department's Employment Standards Administration. "We've realized we need some fresh information and fresh thinking on the issues that have developed over nearly a dozen years since the regulations were implemented. We'd like more input from the public, which is why we put out the request for information."

Written comments on the RFI should be submitted to Richard M. Brennan, Senior Regulatory Officer, Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3502, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to: [whdcomments@dol.gov](mailto:whdcomments@dol.gov). Comments of 20 pages or less may be submitted by FAX machine to (202) 693-1432, which is not a toll-free number. Comments should be received by no later than 5 p.m., February 2, 2007.

For more information on the request and for general information on the FMLA, please visit the Internet at [www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmlacomments.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmlacomments.htm). Information is also available by calling the Department of Labor's toll-free help line at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).

(cont.)



## ASSE Foundation 2007 Scholarship & Grant Program

The **2007 Scholarship & Professional Development Grant Program** is available to students pursuing degrees in occupational safety, health and the environment and members/safety professionals wishing to advance their professional credentials in safety. This year the Foundation is offering over \$105,000 in scholarships and grants.

This year they have added five new awards including the CNA Foundation Scholarship, the George Gustafson HSE Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Texas Safety Foundation, the Southwest Chapter Roy Kinslow Scholarship, the Medina Professional Development Grant and the Texas Safety Foundation Professional Development Grant.

A list of awards, criteria, applications and program rules are available on the website at [www.asse.org/foundation](http://www.asse.org/foundation). Awards will be announced on or around April 1, 2007. Please pass this information on to anyone who may have an interest in the program.

## ASSE GCC Featured Web Page of the Month

Usually I feature a ASSE Gulf Coast Chapter (GCC) Web page. But this month I would like to show you a very useful section in the National ASSE Website. This month's feature is the **ASSE.org Site Map**. This page will provide ASSE information on topics like:

- ASSE News
- Member & Chapter Services
- Prof Development & Education
- ASSE Foundation
- About ASSE
- Publications & Standards
- Government Affairs
- Annual Conference & Exposition
- Practice Specialties

Use this link to go directly to the page or copy and paste this address in to your browser.

<http://www.asse.org/sitemap/list.html>

Hope you find this useful.

Jay Spivak

ASSE GCC VP/Communications



# Seminarfest 2007



## SeminarFest is your chance to earn up to 5.0 CEUs/COCs or 7.0 CM Points in one week.

With 45 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.

### Here's How it Works

SeminarFest 2007 offers 45 seminars at one location, the Flamingo Las Vegas. You may register for seminars as needed to complete training and earn up to 5.0 CEUs/COCs or 7.0 CM points. Each seminar is individually priced and discounts are given as you increase the number of seminars you select. Please refer to the [fee schedule](#) for details.

### Go Beyond Quality Education

Our special events create networking opportunities to help you make the most of your SeminarFest experience. Please refer to the center page of this brochure for a full schedule of networking opportunities.

### Highlights include:

- Two receptions
- Three complimentary lunches
- Two luncheon presentations

**Register Today!**

**[www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org) or call 847.699.2929**

# Region 3 Student Professional Development Conference

## Calling all Students

Join us for the ASSE Region III

## Student Professional Development Conference

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK

March 30-31, 2007

For more information, contact

Steve Gray

[sgray@bicinsurance.com](mailto:sgray@bicinsurance.com)

Rebecca Ginsburg

[Rebecca.Ginsburg@shell.com](mailto:Rebecca.Ginsburg@shell.com)



## Awards & Honors Banquet Sponsors

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# *HIH*



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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.



## Upcoming Events

### January 2007

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – Thursday**

General Chapter Meeting  
Topic: System Safety  
Brady's Landing  
8505 Cypress, Houston  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

#### **8<sup>th</sup> – Monday**

North Section Meeting  
Topic – Hexavalent  
Chromium Standard  
Ramada Inn North  
1-45 – Houston  
11:30 am

#### **17<sup>th</sup> – Thursday**

Downtown Section  
Topic: TBA  
1001 Louisiana Street  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

### February 2007

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday**

General Chapter Meeting  
Topic: Safety Program  
Implementation  
Brady's Landing  
8505 Cypress, Houston  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

#### **15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday**

Downtown Section  
Topic: TBA  
1001 Louisiana Street  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

#### **Vendor's Night**

Date and Time: TBA  
Brady's Landing  
8505 Cypress, Houston

### March 2007

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday**

General Chapter Meeting  
Topic: H&S MS  
Brady's Landing  
8505 Cypress, Houston  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

#### **5<sup>th</sup> – Monday**

North Section Meeting  
Topic – TBA  
Ramada Inn North  
1-45 – Houston  
11:30 am

#### **15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday**

Downtown Section  
Topic: TBA  
1001 Louisiana Street  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

#### **30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> –Friday & Saturday**

Region 3 Student PDC  
Oklahoma State University

#### **31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday**

Youth Rules! Rally  
George R. Brown  
Convention Center, Hall B  
(1<sup>st</sup> floor)  
9:00 am – 2:30 pm



## Chapter Officers & Committee Chairs

### General Chapter

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CoPS Chair - Vacant

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Randy Thomas, CPS - Treasurer  
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### Construction Practice Specialty

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Chris Mack, CSP - Vice-Chair  
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Travis Tipton - Secretary

Bill Blayney - Treasurer  
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### Downtown Section

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Larry Meyers - Vice Chair

Michael Hundley  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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832.676.3612

### Greater Houston Area Student Section

President - Vacant  
Vice President - Vacant  
Secretary & Treasurer - Vacant

### ASSE Gulf Coast Chapter

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### Region III

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