

NEWS & VIEWS

A Monthly Newsletter

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Questions about the Gulf Coast Chapter, please contact: Patricia Reed, CSP - President

Questions about the newsletter or website, please contact: Jimm Cooper, VP of Communications

Interview with ASSE Past-President Michael Thompson

Article provided by the:
ASSE Council on Practices and Standards
<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties>

This interview with ASSE President Michael W. Thompson is adapted from the ASSE Oklahoma City Chapter’s monthly newsletter. In the interview, Thompson provides background on his own safety career and offers his insights on the future of safety.

What is your safety philosophy?

I believe that when asked, everyone will say they are for safety, and then they will point to someone else to take care of it. If we can bridge that attitude with the reality that safety and good business performance are connected, then we can achieve cultural change.

What do you believe is the future of safety?

Safety will always be one of the higher requirements in the Maslow Hierarchy of needs. SH&E professionals will continue to be technically oriented and people-focused. Safety will continue to evolve depending on the context of this question.

For some, safety is about security in their personal lives. Safety by definition will be viewed in a more holistic way. SH&E professionals will find that being generalists will become difficult as the world continues to differentiate its global economy.

SH&E professionals must network and be better connected into the business that employs them. They must also be solutions-oriented and have multiple educational credentials.

What is the biggest change you have seen in safety?

Moving beyond the perception that we are “Compliance Cops” within our respective organizations is a challenge for many SH&E professionals. Yet many have bridged this and are a dynamic part of their respective employer’s business. Other SH&E professionals seem to be trapped in a victim mentality and are unable to break out of it. We must be seen as a positive partners and contributors to business.

Claiming OSHA regulations as a justification for SH&E program compliance is no longer enough. We are showing that we can create solutions that meet the workforce needs and also are compatible with business.

What is the most memorable moment in your safety career?

It is impossible for me to pinpoint any one moment. Careers are made through work experiences and continuing professional education.

I lost my father to an industrial illness, and this

Article continued on Page 4



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Hello Gulf Coast Chapter members and welcome to November!

I would personally like to thank all members and visitors who showed up to our October General Chapter meeting on the Combinatorial Effects of Misuse/Abuse of OTC or Prescription Medication. A special thanks also goes out to all who showed up to the Section meetings held during the past month.

As I write this month's message, I am sitting in a Personal Security for Semi-Permissive Environments course i.e. Travel Security Awareness Training at a resort in Singapore. The course facilitator (an ex-Navy Seal) is covering topics related to safety and security from the time we deplane to hailing a taxi to checking in the hotel while in a foreign country. Having travelled abroad several times for work and personal vacation, recent events and heightened security efforts makes me wonder – "exactly how safe are we when we travel abroad?" We have so many things that we take for granted on our side of the world but, do we really have a sense of how things operate in other parts of the world? And most importantly as outsiders/visitors to other parts of the country, do we know what's accepted and what's not accepted abroad in terms of culture, tradition, communication

and workplace ethics.

In all of our differences there were similarities and commonalities with the meeting of the minds with those QHSSE professionals from the Eastern Hemisphere and with those of us in the Western Hemisphere. Those commonalities included: priority setting; regulatory compliance; enforcement and monitoring; acting locally but thinking globally; green initiatives and foot printing. Most importantly on the social and professional front we talked about how to rebound from the global economic crises we are currently facing, high fuel costs we faced last year and how we are dealing with the high unemployment rate and what these things mean to our industry.

As we approach Thanksgiving this month, I want to take this time to thank all the volunteers within the chapter and all the sections. It is these individuals that have an impact on our Chapter and who makes a difference. I would also like to give thanks to our young men and women who are serving in the military to protect and preserve our freedom.

By the time we have our monthly meeting in November, I will once again be travelling for work but this time, it will be up to Calgary and Edmonton, ahhh.. the colder temperatures. In all my future travels, I

have made a note to myself and I will be sure to incorporate some of the tips I picked up in this Travel Security Awareness Training class.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to mark your calendars and come out to our **November 5th** meeting at 11:30am at Brady's Landing. We will have Jogen Bhalla, Vice President at AMOT and James Thompson, Senior Risk/Reliability Engineer with ABS Consulting present on "**Controlling Plant Ignition Sources**".

As the 2009-2010 President, I urge each of you to get involved in the activities that will be offered throughout the year. Just like anything in life, you will get out of the Chapter what you put in. The Executive Committee is enthusiastic and eager to work with everyone to ensure that we have a good year. If you have any suggestions for us or would like to volunteer on a committee, please let one of the Executive Committee members know. Thanks again and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Patricia Reed

ASSE-GCC President

Please be sure to visit our website at www.gulfcoast.asse.org for more information and chapter/section updates.

General Chapter Meeting Topic

Controlling Plant Ignition Sources

Presentation by Mr. Jogen Bhalla, Vice President at AMOT and Mr. James Thompson, Senior Risk/Reliability Engineer with ABS Consulting

Thursday, November 5, 2009 | 11:30am-1:00pm | Brady's Landing Restaurant | 8505 Cypress, Houston, Texas 77012

Please join us at the upcoming meeting as we welcome:

Mr. Bhalla who has 25+ years of process instrumentation and control experience in the oil and gas, chemical and petrochemical industry. He got involved in controlling ignition sources and runaway engines after the BP refinery Texas accident in 2005 and have been working with OSHA and Cal OSHA to develop standards and increasing awareness on this potential detonation source that has killed more than 25 and injured 190 people in the industry.

Mr. Thompson who has over 30 years of industrial experience in operations and process safety management (PSM) with DuPont and INVISTA. He has worked on developing and implementing PSM programs for over 15 years and was a practice leader for DuPont, where he was prominent in PSM activities at the corporate level, served as the leader of the corporate PSM operating procedures/training team, and as a member of the corporate PSM strategy team, the corporate PSM leadership team, the process technology team, the PHA team, the facility siting team, and the PSM auditing team.

Gulf Coast Chapter Upcoming Events

ASP Examination Prep Workshop

Monday March 1 - Wednesday March 3, 2010
Houston Area Safety Council – Deer Park
Cost: \$575

CSP Examination Prep Workshop

Thursday March 4 – Saturday March 6, 2010
Houston Area Safety Council – Deer Park
Cost: \$625

Course instructed by Langlois & Weigand and Associates. For registering or to get more information, please contact James Taylor, CSP at: 281-686-4534 or at james.d.taylor@usa-spaceops.com.

Newsflash. *As one of the top largest area trade organizations within the Houston area, the Houston Business Journal (HBJ) ranked the American Society of Safety Engineers Gulf Coast Chapter in fourteenth place among 100 companies!*

caused me to reorient my education goals. I vowed to make a difference in other people's lives.

This experience partly explains my passion for SH&E and my philosophy associated with servant leadership. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in safety engineering, I entered the paid business world through Chevron.

Early in my career, I was engaged in a fatality investigation. As the root cause specialist, I supported senior management as they struggled with this fatality at their worksite. I witnessed a transition from their view that safety was something they did as a part of a scheduled and discreet activity once a month. They brought me into their team and ongoing conversations as part of their business decision-making. I learned from them as I helped them come to grips with the sometimes abstract issues of SH&E within the business context.

My active engagement with the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has benefited me in ways far greater than my own contributions to ASSE. I do not have to justify my viewpoint to others, as it is me who must live with me. I always ask myself, "Have I participated actively with my employer, my management and fellow colleagues to achieve an incident- and injury-free workplace and community?" Have I got it right yet? No, but therein sits my personal and professional challenge.

What are the most important issues in your specific industry?

I work in the energy business. Today with the advent of even more technology and the application of these technologies to secure energy for our global economy, we must remain technically viable. This means risk assessment; technical, business, community, environment skill sets and competencies pose opportunity to SH&E professionals.

Professional development is a constant requirement—the median age is approaching 50.

Some economic predictions suggest huge retirements in the industry and with that goes the considerable capabilities of these individuals to get the job done safely. The aging workforce and the younger replacement workforce will present challenges to SH&E professionals.

Resource availability is also in constant tension. We seek these limited resources to conduct our SH&E activities just as other departments within the business. All SH&E professionals must be able to justify via a business model the programs they propose.

Biography

Michael W. Thompson is a Health, Safety and Environment Manager for BP America E&P Digital and Communications Technology Business Unit in Houston, TX. He has over 20 years of progressive assignments in HSE and five years of manufacturing and general man-

agement experience in electronics. Thompson is a member of the Gulf Coast Chapter and is Past President of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

His other professional memberships include:

- Committee Member, Boy Scouts of America Risk Management and Insurance Council
- Committee Member, Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) Tools to Enhance Hazard Identification
- Advisory Board Member, East Carolina University
- National Environmental, Safety and Health Training Association
- Co-Chair, NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Oil and Gas Extraction Subsector Council
- Committee Member, Risk Management Committee, Sam Houston Council Boys Scouts of America
- Society of Petroleum Engineers
- Advisory Board Member, Texas Engineering Extension Service

Thompson holds a bachelor of science degree in safety engineering from Texas A&M University with continuing education in business management. He is also a Board-Certified Safety Professional in Comprehensive Practice.

Door Prize for November General Chapter Meeting donated by Live Oak Safety.

Happy Thanksgiving!

SECTION NEWS



Downtown Section

Next Section Meeting:

Thursday, January 28, 2010, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Meetings are held 4th Thursdays from January through October at Birraporetti's Restaurant, which is located at 500 Louisiana Street in the Theater District and is connected to the downtown tunnel system.

For more information, please contact Downtown Section Secretary: Leslie McGaha at 832-266-6242.

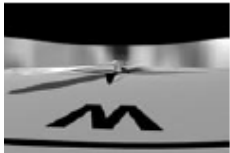


Construction Section

Next Section Meeting:

Luncheon meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of every odd numbered month.

For more information about upcoming meetings; contact Construction Section Chair, Tom Scott at 281-485-6381 or riskcp@texas.net.



West Section

Next Section Meeting:

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 11:30am—12:30pm

Luncheon meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Park Ten, 16290 Katy Freeway, Houston Texas in the 2nd floor conference room.

For more information, please contact Henry Jackson at 281-675-9136.



North Section

Next Section Meeting:

Meetings are held 1st Monday of each odd numbered month from September through May, plus June.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 2, 2009
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Topic: tba
Speaker: tba

Ramada Inn North, 16510 I-45 North, Houston, 77090
(Located between the Richey Road & FM 1960 exits)

For more information, please contact North Section Chair, Bob Tucci at 713-488-7710.



Student Section

Calling All Students!

The student sections:

- College of the Mainland (COM)
- Greater Houston Area Student Section (GHASS)

both typically schedule their meetings around the students' semester schedules.

For more information about:

- COM, please contact Jeff Oakley at:
 - joakley@com.edu
- GHASS, please contact Alfred Baber at:
 - alfredb1979@yahoo.com

For more information, about student sections contact Cindy Lewis at (713) 397-2030 or BusyTX-Gal@comcast.net.

Section Meetings, like the General Chapter Meeting, are open to ANYONE. Members are encouraged to bring co-workers, management, vendors and other guests.

For more information on any of the Gulf Coast Chapter Meetings visit our website at: www.gulfcoast.asse.org or contact Mike Lastie, VP Membership Services at: mlastie@icusafety.com



2009-2010 Executive Committee Members

- Patricia Reed, CSP — President
- Jimm Cooper — Vice President of Communications
- Mike Lastie, CSP — Vice President of Membership Services
- Bruce Pettengill — Treasurer
- Jeffery Daggs, CSP — Secretary

Committee Chairs

- Cindy Lewis — Immediate Past President & Nominations
- James Taylor, CSP — ASP/CSP
- Mike Berno - Awards & Honors
- Yaneira 'Yani' Saud, CSP — Seminars
- Michael Potts — Boy Scout Fair
- Robert Gussman — Science & Engineering Fair
- Chad Robl — Hospitality
- Bryan Walters — Governmental Affairs
- Jay Spivak — Parliamentarian
- Kacie Rose — Public Relations
- Norman Stuart — Programs



Gulf Coast Chapter
 American Society of Safety Engineers
 P. O. Box 570728-509
 Houston, TX 77257-0728
www.gulfcoast.asse.org



You want to be exposed?
The Gulf Coast Chapter will
hold its' Awards and Honors
Banquet on Thursday,
June 3, 2010



We are looking for Sponsors for this fabulous event. Sponsorship includes one year advertisement within our General Chapter newsletter, which reaches over 1500 members.

For more information on what's involved with sponsorships, please contact Mike Berno, Awards & Honors Chair at: 713-478-7577 or mike.berno@uticanational.com.

There is a SPY amongst us!

If you know of someone who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities in the HSE field, please nominate them for the Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award.

Monsanto is proud to sponsor the **Edgar Monsanto Queeny Safety Professional of the Year Award** and convey it annually to the outstanding safety professional selected by the American Society of Safety Engineers.

For more information on nominating someone for a SPY, please contact Mike Lastie, VP of Membership Services at: mlastie@icusafety.com or by calling him at 281-827-6601.

