The Gold Coast Safety Times
The Newsletter of the American Society of Safety Engineers
Gold Coast Chapter
July-August 2014

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UPCOMING CHAPER EVENTS and MEETINGS

Congratulations to our new Chapter Board Members.
See page 8 for details.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held in September.
Stay tuned for details!

Upcoming Executive Board Meeting
July 11th@ 9:00am
Palm Beach County Risk Management
Meeting Room 100 Australian Ave., Room 1-470, West Palm Beach

The Gold Coast Safety Times is published periodically to members of the ASSE Gold Coast Chapter. This newsletter is compiled by the Chapter Secretary based upon contributions from members. To make a contribution to the newsletter or for questions, comments or additional information, contact Kathleen Clair at: katieclair@yahoo.com

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ASSE Gold Coast Chapter

Check us out on the web at: www.goldcoast.asse.org
President’s Message

Dear Gold Coast Members –

Our 2013 – 2014 Chapter year has officially come to an end. It’s hard to believe that 2 years ago we had an average meeting attendance of between 6 and 8 and were considering dissolving the chapter. What a difference a few years makes! I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the incredible job done by our now official Past President, Brian Berke for getting us going in the right direction. Under his leadership, meeting attendance increased to between 25 and 30, and membership has grown to 90+ members.

In addition, special thanks should go to all of you who either participated in leadership or attended meetings on a routine basis. Without you none of these results would have been possible. As your new President, I look forward to working with you as we continue to make our Chapter a model for others to follow.

Although we have filled the essential board positions as required by ASSE, we still have many opportunities for you to get involved. There is no better way to give back to our profession, than supporting your local Chapter with your time and talents. If you have any interest in serving, please let me know and I will gladly find a way to use you.

Our 2014 – 2015 meeting schedule will be announced very soon with our first meeting taking place in September. I hope to see you there. In the meantime, please visit our website for updated information at: www.goldcoast.asse.org.

If I can be of service to you or you have any comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to call or email me.

-Scott

Scott Marting CSP, ARM
President, Gold Coast Chapter
561-233-5432

Looking for a job?
You can now create custom job alerts at ASSE!

www.asse.org
OSHA Announces New Interactive Training Webtool on Identifying Workplace Hazards

Assistant Secretary Michaels unveils new resource at annual safety engineering conference

WASHINGTON – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today released a new interactive training tool to help small businesses effectively identify hazards in the workplace. Employers and workers can virtually explore how to identify common workplace hazards in the manufacturing and construction industries. Users of the new training tool will learn not only hazard identification skills but also learn about hazard abatement and control.

"Hazard identification is a critical part of creating an injury and illness prevention program that will keep workers safe and healthy on the job," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. "This new tool not only educates employers about how to take control of their workplaces and protect workers, it also demonstrates that following well-established safety practices is also good for the bottom line." Assistant Secretary Michaels announced the new tool today at the American Society of Safety Engineers conference in Orlando, FL.

Through the hazard identification tool, users can play from the perspective of either a business owner or an employee as they learn to identify realistic, common hazards and address them with practical and effective solutions. The tool explains the key components of the hazard identification process, which include information collection, observation of the workplace, investigation of incidents, employee participation and prioritizing hazards.

OSHA developed the tool in conjunction with its Training Institute to assist small business owners in effectively identifying hazards in their workplace. The hazard identification training tool can be found on OSHA's website at www.osha.gov/hazfinder. To view the game trailer, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj_IqaWSbKo&feature=youtu.be. For additional compliance assistance resources visit www.osha.gov.
ASSE LIVE WEBINARS

- **Optimizing the Intersection of Health and Work**
  July 23, 2014 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM CENTRAL

- **The Transformational Leader: From Hands and Feet to Hearts and Minds**
  July 30, 2014 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM CENTRAL

- **Disaster Psychology – The Myths of Panic**
  August 13, 2014 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM CENTRAL

- **From Deep Lead to Deep Safe… where few have gone before**
  August 27, 2014 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM CENTRAL

For more information on these webinars please go to: [http://www.asse.org/education/virtualclassroom.php](http://www.asse.org/education/virtualclassroom.php)

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**NEWSLETTER SAFETY TOPIC**

**How to Reduce Worker’s Comp Costs**

Take these steps before, during, and after claims are filed to reduce workers’ comp costs.

Workers’ compensation costs keep rising. But fortunately, there are many measures your organization can take to reduce costs **Before a Claim Is Ever Filed** to reduce upfront spending on workers’ compensation:

- **Implement an effective safety program.** This reduces your workers’ comp costs in at least two ways. First, it lessens the likelihood of a claim by reducing the chances that workers will be injured. Second, it makes you more attractive to insurers and third-party administrators, giving you the opportunity to shop around for the best price.

- **Make sure your insurer is legit.** Most employers focus tightly on claimant fraud (workers filing false workers’ comp claims), but claimant fraud accounts for less than 2 percent of all fraud cases in the workers’ compensation system. Far more common—and more costly—is insurer fraud.

  The most common type of insurer fraud is premium theft (or embezzlement). Some agents pocket premiums and then provide false certificates of insurance. Other times, companies are set up to look legitimate and collect premiums—but never pay on claims.
Another type of insurer fraud is insider fraud, which occurs when claims managers, claims administrators, outside investigators, and agents manipulate policies and claims for personal gain. As a control against this type of fraud, you can check with the state to make sure that accurate data are being reported about your company. You should also review your reserves regularly to make sure they’re not being “padded.”

**During the Initial Claims Process**

Once a worker has an injury claim, take these steps to minimize costs:

- **Provide prompt medical attention.** Delayed medical attention for work-related injuries and illnesses can result in increased severity and complications, increasing the ultimate cost of a claim. For example, if a worker suffers a relatively minor back injury, it is better to treat that injury appropriately—sending the worker to the doctor and providing time off and restricted duty, if necessary, to ensure the worker’s full recovery. If you instead ignore the injury, you delay treatment and could end up creating a more serious back injury requiring surgery, extended recovery time, and possibly permanent disability.

- **Actively manage claims.** The sooner a claim is closed, the better off you’ll be. Maintain clear and frequent communication with your insurer, keeping on top of open claims and making sure the process does not stall. Look out for medical provider fraud—when providers submit claims for work they did not perform. Actively managing your open cases can help catch this kind of fraud.

As things get “back to normal,” you need to tie up all loose ends:

- **Get employees back to work.** It can sometimes be difficult to find restricted or light-duty options for workers returning from an injury, but it’s important to try.

- **Getting workers back on the job reduces your wage-replacement and medical costs.**

- **Maintain contact.** Keep in touch with workers who are out and their medical providers. And try to locate rehabilitation in the workplace. Employees who see themselves as productive and connected to their jobs, rather than as patients, are more likely to make a successful return to work.

- **Correct the problem that caused the injury.** To prevent future injuries—and future claims—address the hazard that caused the injury. Especially be aware of “smaller” claims, like slip, trip, and fall claims, which account for as many as one in five workers’ comp claims. These claims may not seem significant individually, but if they continue to occur, they can add up quickly.
ORLANDO, FL. (June 10, 2014) – The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) today awarded three members, Gary Barnett of Ocean New Jersey, Thomas Cecich of Apex, North Carolina and Don Jones, Sr. from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Fellow Honor, its highest distinction, recognizing their lifetime of commitment to worker safety and their leadership in the occupational health and safety field.

Barnett made his mark in the grain and food processing industry, and oversaw two ANSI standards and the finalization of two others. “Fifty years ago this month, I was notified that my ASSE membership application was approved,” he said. “I was so excited about being a member. It has been one of the best things that happened to me.”

Cecich retired from GlaxoSmithKline in 2003 as vice president of EHS global business support. He runs a consulting business and chairs the Center for Safety and Health Sustainability. “I can’t thank everyone who helped me achieve this honor, but I can thank you for being part of a professional body that helped me achieve much more than I could individually,” he said. Cecich will serve as ASSE president in 2016.

Jones, Sr. oversees the health, safety, security, and environmental compliance and management systems for BP BioFuels, and earlier played leading roles as president of the ASSE Greater Baton Rouge Chapter. He later served as ASSE president. “I am humbled to receive this honor and thank all that were an influence in my development as a safety professional,” he said.

Dr. David Kraemer, a professor and chair of Murray State University’s occupational health and safety program, was awarded the William E. Tarrants, Outstanding Safety Educator of the Year. For more than 40 years, Kraemer, who is retiring this year, inspired thousands of students in the safety profession.

“How blessed I’ve been to have spent my career investing in the lives of young men and women pursuing an occupational safety and health education, seeing them graduate and contribute in a positive way to this profession,” he said. “I can’t think of any better way to have spent the past 44 years.”

The awards were announced today during ASSE’s Safety 2014, which runs June 9-11. More than 4,000 occupational health and safety professionals registered to attended the three-day professional development conference and exposition, aimed at offering the latest in products, trends, issues, challenges and facing the industry.

Founded in 1911, the Des Plaines-based ASSE is the oldest professional safety organization and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Its more than 36,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members lead, manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor, health care and education. For more information please go to www.asse.org.
OSHA Issues Interim Enforcement Policy on Electric Power Generation Rule

Posted June 30, 2014

WASHINGTON – OSHA has implemented an interim enforcement policy for the new final rule on Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment, which becomes effective on July 10, 2014.

A memorandum issued to OSHA’s regional offices explains the interim policy, which is in effect until October 31, 2014. The policy delays enforcement of most new requirements for employers who are complying with the existing General Industry rule. For further information, read the memorandum.

The final rule revises the 40-year-old construction standard for electric power line work to improve workplace safety and health for workers performing electric power generation, transmission and distribution work. The new rule is more consistent with the corresponding general industry standard and makes some revisions to the construction and general industry requirements. In addition, the new standard for electrical protective equipment applies to all construction work and replaces the existing construction standard, which was based on out-of-date information, with a set of performance-oriented requirements consistent with the latest revisions of the relevant consensus standards.

Additional information on the final rule is available on OSHA’s Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Standard Web page.

Call for Nominations: 2015 Society Election

Serving in a Society Leadership position enables you to contribute your leadership and vision to the ASSE community, while further developing your personal leadership and business skills. ASSE is seeking qualified professional members to serve as candidates in the 2015 Society Elections. A variety of positions are available, depending on your interests, skill set, and experience level. Learn more about the positions available and how to apply at www.asse.org/elections.
CHAPTER NEWS

Congratulations to our 2014-2015 Chapter Officers!

Scott Marting – President
Bob Hutchison – President Elect
Karen Meyer – Treasurer
Kathleen Clair – Secretary
Tony Wegner – Membership Chairperson
Scott Marting – Vendor Chairperson

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A special thank you to our May Speaker:
Gary Lopez

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Thomas Quint
Soala Whyte
David Melton
Joaquin Mendiburo

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If you’d like to learn how you can become more involved as a volunteer with the Gold Coast Chapter please contact Scott Marting at smarting@pbcgov.org