

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



ASSE



AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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January 14th Meeting Employee Risk Potential Esteban Tristan Select International

Determining whether a potential employee may have a high propensity for causing workplace risk can be tricky, not to mention navigating the rules associated with screening and hiring could make imposing new risk revealing criteria downright scary

Tuesday, January 14th, 2014

5:30pm-7:30pm

MANDATORY RSVP at the website www.asseaugusta.org
or call the ASSE Voicemail at 706-790-6551 x2773 (ASSE)



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IH Corner Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics

There is a considerable amount of day-to-day variation in exposure even in the same job done by the same person. As such, we should use statistics that will consider the variability of the data to determine whether the exposure exceeds the Occupational Exposure limit. Typically a 95% upper confidence limit is calculated and applied to sample result. Here's an example.

The following sample set was taken from a single worker over three consecutive days: 307, 152, 23 mg/m³ with an OEL of 500 mg/m³. Most people would think this is great news. I have three samples all below the OEL. However, the variability of the data increases the standard deviation and expands the confidence interval. In this case, the UCL value is greater than the OEL. This is potentially an overexposure.

What does this mean? You should sample often to increase the sample set and get the confidence interval as narrow as possible, i.e. better defined. Many IHs try to avoid this by sampling the worst case scenario. This can provide a little comfort, but the rules of the statistics still apply. The key is to only group samples into your standard deviation that are truly representative of the process/task you are trying to evaluate.

Whatever you do, don't be a "Dart Throwing Pump Monkey"!

Need a good IH? Give me a call, I know a few.

Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP
Cardno ATC
706-722-3310

President's Message

How comprehensive is your company's safety and risk program? I'm sure you have the basics covered like employee training, workplace hazard evaluation, environmental control measures, emergency response and much, much more. I think we all can agree that the well-intentioned industry leaders have put much thought into their programs and gone great lengths to include all risks that may pose threat to the organization. One area businesses tend to shy away from is determining risk associated with employee recruiting and screening. In fact, determining whether a potential employee may have a high propensity for causing workplace risk can be tricky, not to mention navigating the rules associated with screening and hiring could make imposing new risk revealing criteria downright scary! Enter Esteban Tristan from Select International, our January Speaker.

Mr. Tristen is going to present a tool that his company developed that helps measure an applicant or employee's propensity for workplace risk. This presentation will be great for EHS professionals but you may also want to invite your friends in HR and recruiting to the meeting.

I hope to see you there!

Rob Loose



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Quote of the Month

The distinction between the past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion.

Albert Einstein

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Drug Testing

More American workers are testing positive for certain drugs despite the overall decrease in drug use over the last 25 years, according to Quest Diagnostics.

Quest Diagnostics assessed over 125 million urine samples from truck drivers, train operators, airline and nuclear power plant workers, among others from 1988 to 2012.

According to the study, the number of overall positive drug tests in the U.S. general workplace dropped from 10.3 percent in 1992 to 4.1 percent in 2012. However, it revealed that positive results for several drugs have risen, including opiates like hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone and oxymorphone and amphetamines like Adderall®.

<http://newsroom.questdiagnostics.com/index.php?year=2013&s=30649>

Call for Speakers

We are seeking nominations, referrals, suggestions, ideas, recommendations, proposals, hints, etc for speakers for the ASSE meetings. Please contact any of the board members with your thoughts!!!

Newsletter Stuff

If you are not receiving this from matthew.parker@cardno.com please send an email to him to request it.

Membership Stuff

Ready to join? Don't know how? You can apply online:

<http://www.asse.org/membership/becomeamember.php>

Next Meeting

February 11, 2014 Topic TBD

OSHA Standards That Really Don't Exist!

OSHAtraining.com

Seat Belts on Forklifts: How many times have you heard someone state that forklift operators must wear their seat belt (a.k.a. an operator restraint system) because "it's required in the OSHA standards"? While forklift manufacturers' manuals recommend this practice, you will not actually find a requirement for seat belt use in the federal OSHA standards for powered industrial trucks; in fact, there is no mention of operator restraints in that standard at all! This is due to the fact that the old ANSI/ASME standard that OSHA adopted as the basis for their forklift standards did not require the use (or installation) of a seat belt at that time. However, you should be aware that ASME standard has since been revised to require the use of an operator restraint device, and most manufacturers provide retrofit kits so seat belts can be installed on the older lifts. Therefore, OSHA often uses paragraph (5)(a)(1) (the General Duty Clause) of the OSH Act of 1970 (employers must protect employees from recognized hazards) to cite employers who do not require seat belt use. See this OSHA letter of interpretation (https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=22105&p_table=INTERPRETATIONS).

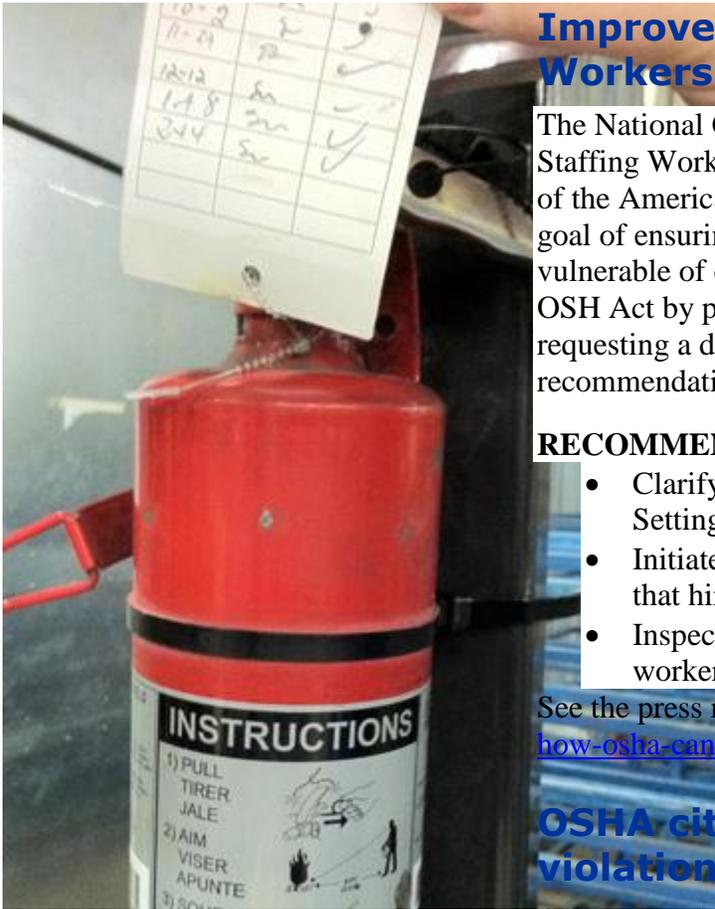
Fall Arrest Required on Portable Ladders: It is very common to hear people say that OSHA standards "require" employees on portable extension or step ladders to wear a fall-arrest harness with lanyard connected to an adequate point of attachment if they are working at a height over 6 feet. The rationale here is that Subpart M of the federal OSHA construction standards requires employees be provided with some form of fall protection when exposed to potential falls of 6 feet or more. However, when you refer to the scope and application section of Subpart M, you will see that it actually excludes work regulated by Subpart X (ladders). And the federal OSHA ladder standards do not require fall arrest systems to be used by workers on portable ladders; that is because the ladder standard is predicated on the employee using the ladder properly (not over-extending, not standing too high on the ladder . . .). Here is another OSHA letter of interpretation that provides additional clarification on this subject.

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=23870

Hazard Communication Annual Refresher Training: While it may be a great idea to conduct annual refresher training on this complex topic, it is not actually required in the federal OSHA Hazard Communication standard; it only requires initial training, and then additional training in certain instances (such as, but not limited to, when new chemicals have been introduced into the work area). Truth is that most chemical inventories change enough every year to trigger this requirement, but annual refresher training is not a regulatory requirement.

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Picture of the Month



Recommendations for How OSHA Can Improve Health and Safety for Temporary Workers

The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Staffing Workers Alliance and the Occupational Health & Safety Section of the American Public Health Association are seeking to support the goal of ensuring that temporary workers, who are among our most vulnerable of employees, achieve the full protections afforded under the OSH Act by providing to OSHA the recommendations below, and by requesting a directive from federal OSHA that incorporates these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clarify Health and Safety Responsibilities in Dual Employer Settings
- Initiate a National Emphasis Program in high-hazard industries that hire temporary workers
- Inspect whether organizations have properly trained temporary workers.

See the press release at <http://www.coshnetwork.org/recommendations-how-osha-can-improve-health-and-safety-temporary-workers>

OSHA cites Environmental Company for lead violations at a Firing Range

OSHA has cited FCC Environmental LLC in Fairburn for nine health violations following an inspection at the Glock Inc. gun range in Smyrna. FCC Environmental was contracted by Glock to remove lead from its firing ranges. OSHA initiated the July inspection as part of the agency's national emphasis program on lead and has proposed \$44,000 in penalties.

"FCC Environmental failed to take the necessary steps to protect workers against a potentially significant health hazard," said Christi Griffin, director of OSHA's Atlanta West Area Office. "Exposure to lead can damage the blood forming, nervous, urinary and reproductive systems. Even short-term exposure can have damaging consequences. The employer must take action to implement and ensure proper safeguards are in place where workers may be exposed to lead."

The serious citations include the employer's failure to certify the workplace hazard assessment for cleaning the gun ranges and traps; conduct an initial workplace assessment to determine airborne lead concentration; and establish and implement a written compliance program for lead to reduce exposure by using engineering controls. Additionally, the employer failed to establish and implement a specific respiratory protection program for workers required to wear full face respirators; ensure shoveling, sweeping or brushing methods were not used to remove lead accumulation; provide clean changing rooms for workers exposed to lead above the permissible exposure limit; and more

Step 1 Get box cutter to cut wire wrap



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OSHA SEEKS PSM COMMENTS by March 10, 2014

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/09/2013-29197/process-safety-management-and-prevention-of-major-chemical-accidents>

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Chapter Education Assistance

The Augusta Chapter Educational Assistance Program provides money to individual members for educational assistance in the fields of environmental, safety or health. The money must be used for training, education or certification in these fields. The Chapter will issue annual awards to approved recipients in the amount of \$250 or \$500. The amount and approval will be determined by the Chapter Board of Directors. Any request must be accompanied by a complete and separate application questionnaire. Recipients must be an active member in good standing. Monies will be paid to the institution/organization providing the training or certification. The Application form is provided below

Request for Financial Award Questionnaire

By completing this questionnaire, I am applying for financial assistance, which may be awarded from the American society of Safety Engineers Augusta Chapter. I understand this award is to be in the amount of monies to be determined by the American society of Safety Engineers Augusta Chapter and will be donated once per year. Future awards will be considered by the American Society of Safety Engineers Augusta Chapter by separate applications.

Signature _____ Date _____

1. Are you an active member of the local ASSE & National ASSE? (*Attend a minimum of five (5) monthly meetings per year*)
2. Are you working in an Environmental, Safety & Health job at this time?
3. Are you pursuing certification or a degree in the Environmental, Safety & Health field?
4. What training/certification or degree are you pursuing?
5. Does your employer pay for any of your educational expenses? How much?
6. What is your current mailing address?

Home: _____ Business: _____

7. Please give a brief summary of your immediate and long term goals as related to the profession and professional development.

8. What institution/organization are you enrolled in for pursuing this certification or degree?
