

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



# ASSE



## AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### January 8th Meeting

### Predict and Prevent Workplace Injuries

Come see first-hand how our collaborative team of safety experts and the world's leading artificial intelligence and predictive modeling researchers – including members from the group that helped build the Watson super-computer that beat Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter on Jeopardy – are designing cutting edge analytics tools to predict workplace injuries so they can be prevented. This presentation will outline the predictive methodologies we have developed and their real-world application across diverse worksites such as construction, heavy manufacturing, mining, and oil and gas, among others.

While this is a complex topic, we will break it down into its simplest elements using everyday language and real-world analogies. In fact, many of the insights from this analysis are very intuitive and can have an immediate impact on your safety performance and overall business.

Cary Usrey has been a Process Improvement Leader at Predictive Solutions since March 2007. In this role, Cary is responsible for implementing solutions and best practices for customers seeking to prevent worker injuries. He coaches customers through an assessment, goal-setting, and goal measurement process that is designed to maximize safety improvement and widespread organizational engagement, from the field to leadership. Cary's career as a safety professional spans twenty years and includes roles in both construction and general industry. Cary has graduated with his Associate's Degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Trinidad State Junior College in Colorado, is an active member of the Central FL chapter of the ASSE, and served six years on the Board of Directors for the VPPPA (Region II). Cary has been a speaker for many years including appearances for the ASSE, VPPPA, NSC, as well as other local organizations.

## Tuesday, January 8th, 2013

**5:30pm-7:30pm**

**MANDATORY RSVP** at the website [www.asseaugusta.org](http://www.asseaugusta.org)  
or call the ASSE Voicemail at 706-790-6551 x2773 (ASSE)



# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## IH Corner PEL or TLV

Permissible exposure limits are set by OSHA to protect workers against the adverse effects of exposure to chemical substances. In the world of gas detection, PELs limit the amount or concentration of a substance in the air and generally are based on an 8-hour time-weighted average exposure.

A threshold limit value, set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, is the limit of exposure to a chemical substance that a worker can be exposed to, day after day, without adverse health effects. TLVs are estimates based on the known toxicity of a chemical substance in humans or animals given the currently available analytical and technological resources. To determine TLVs, ACGIH uses committees to review various published literature in disciplines such as industrial hygiene, toxicology and occupational medicine. TLVs are then developed as recommendations or guidelines and are intended to be interpreted and used by a person trained in the discipline of industrial hygiene.

PELs are legal limits, meaning OSHA can enforce their use and any non-compliance in the United States. In contrast, TLVs are recommendations. Although ACGIH is a well-known and respected scientific organization, its TLVs are not legal limits. TLVs generally are more stringent than PELs. But TLVs are based solely on health factors, not economic or technical feasibility.

Need a good IH? Give me a call, I know a few. 706-722-3310

Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP  
Cardno ATC

## Presidents Message

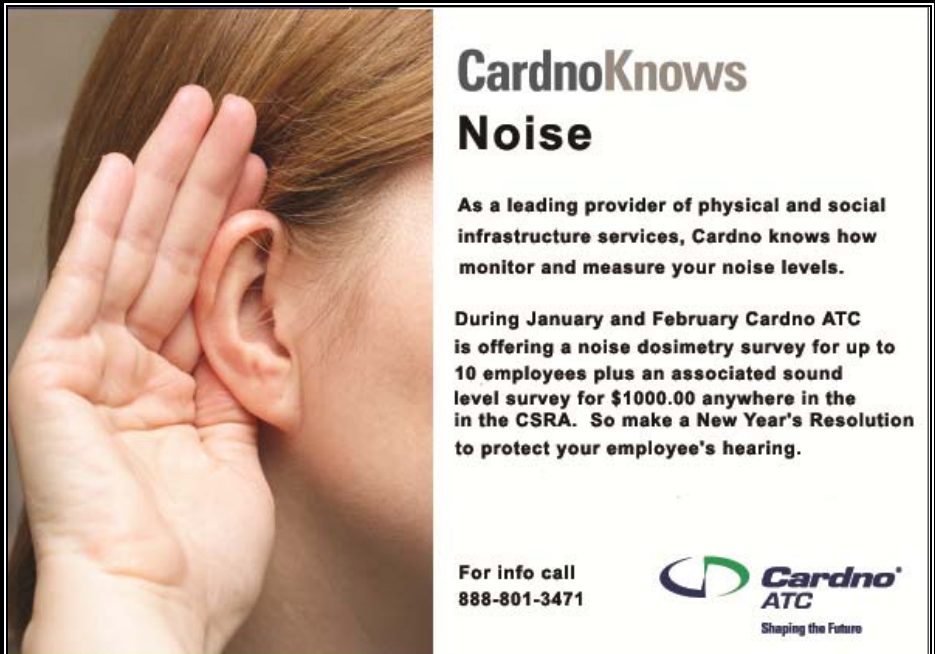
As we enter a new year let us remember that the more we strive toward safety and environmental improvements, the greater the rewards of chosen field. I urge everyone to come be a part of the Augusta chapter experience and bring a colleague to share the wealth of our collective "genius." In order to better serve our members we are sending out a survey. Please complete it so that your voice will be heard as we continue to make plans to be the professional association that represents your needs.

Tim Nelken  
*Practice Safety Today*

## Quote of the Month

"The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Ronald Reagan




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During January and February Cardno ATC is offering a noise dosimetry survey for up to 10 employees plus an associated sound level survey for \$1000.00 anywhere in the in the CSRA. So make a New Year's Resolution to protect your employee's hearing.

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 **Cardno**  
ATC  
Shaping the Future

## OSHA's Focus on Enforcement

Under the current Administration, enforcement actions taken by federal OSHA have been on the rise. Overall inspections have increased to some extent. As OSHA's own data at [http://www.osha.gov/dep/2010\\_enforcement\\_summary.html](http://www.osha.gov/dep/2010_enforcement_summary.html) shows, inspections have increased 6.2 percent between 2006 and 2010. More significant is that, as OSHA itself states, "OSHA is identifying and eliminating more serious hazards in the workplace, as well as identifying more employers who have intentionally violated OSHA standards and ignored their duty to provide a safe and healthful workplace under the OSH Act."

# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## ASSE Commends OSHA for VPP Review

In a letter to Assistant Secretary David Michaels, ASSE commended OSHA for its report, *Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Review*.

[http://beta.asse.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/0812-vpp\\_report\\_nov\\_2011\\_rev\\_7-11-12.pdf](http://beta.asse.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/0812-vpp_report_nov_2011_rev_7-11-12.pdf)

ASSE said the report was thoughtful, frank and helpful and that the report validated the value of VPP. ASSE supported most of the report's recommendations, including continuing to provide exemptions from programmed inspections for participants, expanded use of special government employees, the reporting of participants' best practices, and establishing a cooperative way to identify effective lagging indicators, leading indicators, and outcome measures to track VPP performance. ASSE urged caution in pursuing the recommendation to place participants on inactive status in case of a fatality, urging a more nuanced, cooperative approach



## Future Meetings

February 12<sup>th</sup> (topic/speaker TBD)  
March 12<sup>th</sup> (topic/speaker TBD)



## Seeking Exemptions from OSHA Standards?

Organizations who seek exemptions from OSHA standards can now consult the agency's new variance webpage, which aims to educate the public on the variance approval process, according to an OSHA press release.

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=23049](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=23049)

A variance allows an employer to deviate from OSHA standards under special conditions, including noncompliance because of lack of resources. Employers can also be exempted if they can prove that their safety measures are as good as, if not better than, those outlined by OSHA.

The updated site also seeks to improve the public's access to related and relevant information, including a list of denied and approved variance requests. Employers can consult these cases and learn from them accordingly. Before, OSHA posted only requests that were approved.

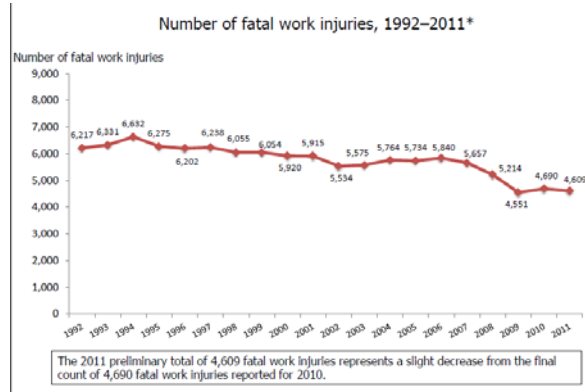
The new webpage also provides background information on variance rules and application procedures. Read the press release or visit the variance site for more information.

## 'New' OSHA Not Achieving Goals

The good news in the latest numbers about workplace fatalities is that they are down. What may raise some eyebrows, however, is the size of that decline.

Last year, 4,609 workers died from work-related injuries, according to the preliminary 2011 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)). That is slightly down from 4,690 in 2010 and slightly up from 2009, when 4,551 workers died.

As you can see from the graphic below, workplace fatalities have essentially plateaued during the tenure of the "New" OSHA, following several years of steep decline at the end of the Bush administration. That is ironic because the goal of the "New" OSHA, with its aggressive approach to enforcement, has been to sharply reduce injuries, both fatal and non-fatal.



# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## Picture of the Month



**Human Counterweights**

## Air Movement, Improves Workplace Safety

Slippery conditions are often caused by the same thing that makes it hard to get a grip on a frosty beverage in the summertime: condensation. Concrete slabs often begin to sweat anytime there's a change in temperature or humidity. The options for dealing with this phenomenon range from air conditioning your entire facility to increasing air movement with highly efficient large diameter, low speed overhead fans — guess which one's more affordable.

Industrial facilities worldwide have seen the condensation-busting effect of large diameter, low speed fans. These aptly-named fans range in size up to 24 feet in diameter and use their immense size, rather than speed, to efficiently move air throughout an entire space, from high ceilings to the floor, and wall to door

Utilizing the same principles that make them an ideal solution mold issues, large diameter, low speed fans also improve employee safety by drying wet surfaces to reduce slip and fall risks.

## OSHA GHS Webinar

On August 13, OSHA and the Society of Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) hosted a free webinar to help employers understand the requirements of OSHA's revised Hazard Communication Standard in the United States. The archived presentation has now been viewed by more than 8,000 participants. Developed as part of OSHA's alliance with SCHC, the webinar explained changes to the Hazard Communication Standard to align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). During the webinar, OSHA staff provided information that answered questions from chemical manufacturers, downstream users, and other interested parties. Topics included changes expected in training, labeling, and safety data sheets and compliance assistance opportunities.

To access the webinar, click

<https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1006847> and submit your e-mail address and information (if needed). You will receive a link with instructions on viewing the presentation or downloading the reference materials. To learn more about the revised Hazard Communication Standard and GHS, see OSHA's Hazard Communication page and read the *QuickTakes* special issue on GHS.

## PPE Use Still a Challenge

The need for safety equipment when performing hazardous tasks is undisputed. Yet U.S. workers continue to take risks by failing to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when it is needed.

In a Kimberly-Clark Professional survey released last year, 82 percent of safety professionals said they had observed workers in their organizations failing to wear required PPE during the past year. Respondents also cited compliance as the top workplace safety issue in their facilities—further underscoring the significance of these findings.

"High levels of noncompliance have been an issue since we began conducting these surveys in 2007," said David Matela, Director, Safety Product Management, Kimberly-Clark Professional. "Even though it is mandated by OSHA, the vast majority of workers who have experienced on-the-job injuries were not wearing PPE. Increased compliance is crucial to creating Exceptional Workplaces that are healthy, safe and productive."

### Membership Stuff

Ready to join? Don't know how? You can apply online: <http://www.asse.org/membership/becomeamember.php>

### Newsletter Stuff

If you are not receiving this from [matthew.parker@atcassociates.com](mailto:matthew.parker@atcassociates.com) please send me an email

## 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.

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

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