

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



# ASSE



## AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### General Meeting

**5:30P.M. March 10, 2009**  
**Pandemic Flu Preparation**

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in very short time. It is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be. But wherever and whenever a pandemic starts, everyone around the world is at risk.

Michelle L. Dunham, MSPH, MSM, Senior Research Scientist, serves as an Industrial Hygienist in the Health Sciences Branch within the Occupational Safety and Health Cooperative Programs Division, and is a faculty member of the OSHA Training Institute as Georgia Tech. Ms. Dunham has a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Master of Science in Public Health with an emphasis in industrial hygiene, and a Master of Science in Management. She has over nine years of experience working in both the public and private sector with a focus on assisting employers in program and training development. Ms. Dunham has extensive experience conducting safety and health training on topics including: hazard communication, personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, bloodborne pathogens and biological diseases.

**DINNER MEETING - 5:30 pm,**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

**Industrial Rubber and Supply Classroom**  
**3326 Mike Padgett Hwy Augusta, Georgia**

**\$5.00**

**RSVP Required !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Please call the ASSE Voicemail at 706-790-6551 x2773 (ASSE) or email any of the board members.

Take Bobby Jones Expressway (I-520) to exit 9 (Mike Padgett Highway). Turn towards downtown. Industrial Rubber and Supply is the first building on your right.

# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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## IH Corner

### *Health and Safety on Introduction of New Chemicals into the Workplace*

• Many chemicals have the potential to cause injury, illness or damage, if used under certain conditions.

• The likelihood or chance that harm may occur depends on how and under what conditions the chemical is being used.

• Perform a process review to identify the hazards of the process and any new hazards being introduced.

• Be sure to consider physical hazards (for example: flammability, reactivity, explosivity) as well as health hazards.

• Check for chemical warning labels.

• Check the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer for physical, health and environmental hazards.

• Check the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)) and search for the chemical name

Review the manufacturer's exposure control and protective measure recommendations and compare with your planned use of the chemical.

• If uncertain, contact a qualified professional, such as an industrial hygienist, to help you determine if your intended use of the chemical is safe.

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

Matthew Parker  
ATC Associates

## President's Message

We will be having our meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Dunham from the Georgia Tech Research Institute will be our guest speaker. She will be talking about Pandemic Flu Preparedness. The meeting at the Richmond County Fire Station training area has been postponed until May.

At this meeting we will need to vote on a proposed dues increase. Enclosed is some information on why ASSE is asking for our support. Please come prepared to vote on this at our meeting. Based on our vote outcome this is how we as the chapter will have our delegate vote. In a message from Marge Krumpolz she stated: "The request for a change in society membership dues would increase them from the current \$120 per year to \$130 per year the first year, \$140 the second year, and \$150 the third year on renewals after August 1, 2009. This would be a \$30 increase over three years. This is well under the value received by members for their dues". This has already passed in the ASSE Finance Committee as well as with the Board of Directors.

"For the benefit of our professional Society and the safety profession, it is critical that the dues increase passes with the following as a justification summary.

- The consumer price index has grown by more than 20% and costs have escalated.
- Expense controls have been in place by keeping staffing levels flat, increasing employee contributions for benefits, assessing low cost alternatives and utilization of technology to lower costs. We have cut back on face-to-face meetings; issue electronic newsletters in lieu of paper, cut back on capital expenditures and assess lower cost paper alternatives.
- We need to support our services to ensure Safety Professionals have a voice in government, standards, professional practice and professional recognition; are recognized by their respective employers as being valuable assets to their organizations and are provided with professional development growth opportunities.
- Support the vision, mission and goals defined by our Strategic Plan".

I have been approached by an outside firm to conduct a Basic Electrical Safety with application of NFPA 70E in Augusta. This is an 8-hour course to offer continuing education. If anyone is interested in this please let me know and I would be happy to share the information with you.

If you have been coming to the meetings and are not a member, why not consider joining? Do you know of someone in a safety role who could benefit from our organization? Please contact Jim Dickson if you are interested for a membership application.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!  
Maria Neis

## Quote Of The Month

**Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them.**

**Henry Commager**

# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## Darwin and Safety

Did you know that Feb. 12, 2009 was Charles Darwin's 200th birthday? And the man credited with the theory of evolution now shares his name with an annual list of people whose unsafe acts accidentally led to their deaths. And many of these occurred at work.

According to its Web site, "The Darwin Awards salute the improvement of the human genome by honoring those who accidentally remove themselves from it."

Among this year's awards:

- The man who thought it would be fun to use a pressurized hose for an inappropriate purpose
- A ski lift operator who did pull-ups on a piece of moving equipment
- The building demolition worker who hadn't considered his own fate while tearing down a structure around him, and
- The man who found out the hardest way that body piercings and electronic control testers don't mix.

You can read these and more 2008 Darwin Award winners (losers?) [here](#).

## Obama's OSHA

"Change is coming to America," a confident President Obama announced. Indeed, Americans and the rest of the world are waiting to see what the new administration has to offer. On the safety front, however, experts have already anticipated how the new OSHA will impact safety. According to Washington lawyer Baruch Fellner, who has collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, America can expect "a much more activist and interventionist OSHA on both the enforcement and regulatory fronts."

The changes safety advocates expect to see at OSHA include:

1. Increase in targeted investigations
2. Harsher penalties for injury cover-ups
3. More protection from repetitive motion injuries
4. A shift to enforcement of standards and away from cooperation programs such as VPPP
5. New laws such as Protecting America's Workers Act which pushes for higher penalties for safety breaches and a maximum 10-year prison term for employers with "willful OSHA violations" that cause worker deaths
6. More regulatory standards - critics contend there were too few written during the Bush administration.

"The agency will reestablish itself as a leader in safety and health as opposed to an agency that is doing the bare minimum to get by," predicted AFL-CIO safety director Peg Seminario. However, the road ahead may not be an easy one. A limited budget, staff shortage and the financial crisis may slow down OSHA's efforts to effect "sweeping change."

Read <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/business/story/475442.html> for the complete article.

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## Picture of the Month

The Largest Commercial  
Security Provider In the CSRA



The Home of  
Value Added Security Services  
706-738-3113  
erniesizemore@bellsouth.net



**Just Plain Cute**

## Membership Stuff

Ready to join? Don't know how?

You can apply online:

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

List your humble newsletter editor as your sponsor.

## Does OSHA allow written programs to be kept in an electronic format?

Various OSHA standards require employers to have written safety programs. Would a company satisfy such a requirement by keeping the documents solely in an electronic format?

Yes, says OSHA.

ESIS, Inc., a global risk control services company, asked OSHA whether it's acceptable to keep required written safety programs in electronic form only.

Traditionally, programs such as those for bloodborne pathogens, hazard communication and permit-required confined spaces have been kept in separate binders where employees can refer to them, as required by OSHA standards.

In its request for clarification of OSHA rules, ESIS also noted that keeping forms on a company intranet can provide significant benefits in consistency, ease of use, and accuracy in maintaining and updating these materials in a timely manner.

OSHA agreed that companies could benefit by keeping these programs on an employer's Intranet, as long as the program meets all other requirements of the standard in question.

Employers must make sure employees know how to easily access the electronic records.

OSHA's Standard Interpretation Letter on this topic is available [here](#).

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# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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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