

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



ASSE



AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Chapter Officers

President

Maria Neis – Virginia College
(706) 726-6791
the4yankees@yahoo.com

Vice President

Harold Steen, Halocarbon Products
(803) 278-3500 ext. 215
hsteen@halocarbon.com

Secretary

Tim Nelken; MCG
(706) 721-9643
tnelken@mail.mcg.edu

Treasurer

Jack Gilmore; Retired
(803) 649-1358
jackgmo@gforcecable.com

Membership

Jim Dickson
(803) 279-9451
cjdickson@bellsouth.net

Government Affairs

Tim Nelken; MCG
(706) 721-9643
tnelken@mail.mcg.edu

Programs

Stan Norton; Industrial Rubber
(706) 790-6550
snorton@rubberstore.net

Public Relations

Richard Dorman; Thermal Ceramics
(706) 560-4018
rdorman@thermalceramics.com

Past-President

David Coley – Standard Aero
(706) 771-5228
David.Coley@StandardAero.com

Newsletter Editor

Matthew Parker, ATC Associates
706-722-3310
matthew.parker@atcassociates.com

March Meeting **Emergency Response**

It was February 7th, and I remember saying to my wife that the Doctors Hospital Helicopter seemed to be busy. I heard it and others flying over the house a number of times. It turned out to be the victims of the Imperial Sugar Combustible Dust Explosion. While OSHA investigators traced it back to a bucket elevator in a silo the CSB believes it was a conveyor belt recently enclosed. Investigators say it created a confined, unventilated space where sugar dust could accumulate and reach explosive levels; which is exactly what happened when an unknown source ignited the sugar dust causing a violent explosion followed by several secondary explosions.

This month's presentation is not about the cause or the prevention of similar accidents, but it is about the emergency response to a catastrophic accident. Are you ready for one at your facility? Come hear the ESH Manager from Imperial Sugar in Savannah speak about the accident and the Emergency Response lessons he learned.

DINNER MEETING - 5:30 pm,
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

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

\$7.50 Members

\$10.00 NonMembers

Please RSVP at the website www.asseaugusta.org
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.

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IH Corner Hierarchy of Controls

Controlling exposures to occupational hazards is the fundamental method of protecting workers. Traditionally, a hierarchy of controls has been used as a means of determining how to implement feasible and effective controls. One representation of this hierarchy can be summarized as follows:

- Elimination
- Substitution
- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Personal protective equipment

The idea behind this hierarchy is that the control methods at the top of the list are potentially more effective and protective than those at the bottom. Following the hierarchy normally leads to the implementation of inherently safer systems, ones where the risk of illness or injury has been substantially reduced.

Elimination and substitution, while most effective at reducing hazards, also tend to be the most difficult to implement in an existing process.

Administrative controls and personal protective equipment programs may be relatively inexpensive to establish but, over the long term, can be very costly to sustain.

Engineering controls are used to remove a hazard or place a barrier between the worker and the hazard.. The initial cost can be high are frequently lower over the long term, Need a good industrial hygienist? Give me a call, I know a few.

Matthew Parker,
MS, CIH, CSP, ARM,
706-722-3310

President's Message:

Last month we had an awesome turnout for the meeting. This was probably the largest turnout in many years! It was nice to see so many new faces.

This month our speaker will be Doug Sikes talking about Emergency Planning and Lessons Learned. Doug was involved in the Imperial Sugar incident and is sharing what was learned from the incident to help all of us plan ensure we have a solid plan in place. This is sure to be another great topic.

We will not be meeting in April. This means that we need to nominate for the Board again. We will be holding our elections at our final meeting in May. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please see one of our current Board members. We are all willing to mentor anyone who is willing to take on this leadership position.

We have gone high tech as well. Our website www.asseaugusta.org is a great way to see who our speaker will be, RSVP for the meal and see past presentations. Share this link with your friends as well.

One of our goals as a chapter this year is to increase membership and bring those who have not come for some time to the chapter meetings. If you know of someone is interested in joining our chapter please have them contact Jim Dickson or myself.

Maria Neis

Augusta ASSE Chapter President

E-mail contact: mariakatrina.neis@vc.edu (work) or
the4yankees@yahoo.com (home)



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WORKPLACES WITH HIGH INJURY AND ILLNESS RATES IN OSHA SIGHTS

OSHA has notified approximately 15,000 employers that injury and illness rates at their worksites are considerably higher than the national average. In a letter sent to those employers, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA David Michaels explained that the notification is an active step to encourage employers to act now to improve safety and health conditions in their workplaces. To view letter and list of worksites, visit OSHA's Freedom of Info Act Web page at https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/foia/ho t_16.html

2010 ASSE REGION IV CONFERENCE

This year's show will be in downtown Baton Rouge, at the historic Capital Center Hilton. The conference features 16 educational sessions with nationally-recognized speakers and industry experts. For info and registration go to: <http://region4.asse.org/pdc.php>

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SOLIS SPEAKS IN CONGRESS: STRONGER ENFORCEMENT PRAISED

Solis told the House Education and Labor Committee today that the U.S. Department of Labor is both helping the economy recover and improving American workers' lives by strengthening basic workplace protections, and training workers for new and better jobs.

"In an especially difficult economy, a responsive Department of Labor is essential to assisting and standing up for workers," said [U.S. Rep. George Miller](#) (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. "Thanks to Secretary Solis, the Department of Labor is playing a central role in our nation's economic recovery and laying the groundwork for a stronger middle class."

"In a labor market where jobs are difficult to find and workers are glad to have the jobs they hold, it is too easy for workers to be exploited," Solis continued. "We are strengthening our efforts to be vigilant in protecting the rights and safety of workers by hiring additional enforcement personnel and reviewing and improving our regulatory efforts."

The Recovery Act and the department's new priorities have allowed agencies to increase their capacity to protect workers' health and safety, pay, and benefits after nearly a decade of cuts. For example, additional resources have allowed the department to hire an additional 250 investigators to ensure compliance with our nation's wage and child labor laws.

"Especially in this economy, every dollar an employer steals from a worker is a dollar a family loses to pay for basic necessities," Miller said.

Solis outlined five key priorities for her department:

- (1) Significantly reduce fatalities resulting from the most common causes at workplaces covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and mining sites.
- (2) Reduce the number of repeat violators of minimum wage, overtime, and workplace safety laws.
- (3) Raise labor standards low-wage trading partners in order to create a more balanced playing field for American manufacturing employees. Create a program to help workers injured on the job return to work so that they can continue to be productive members of America's workforce.
- (4) Increase opportunities for America's workers to acquire the skills and knowledge to succeed in a knowledge-based economy.

"The Department has outlined these high-priority goals to focus our agencies on the most critical needs affecting the safety, health, and economic security of workers," Solis said.

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



When pigs fly..or lawnmowers

The Georgia Safety, Health and Environmental Conference

and

The Georgia Employer Committee Annual Statewide Conference

Savannah International Trade and Convention Center
Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2010*

*Pre-conference Workshops on September 7, 2010

For info go to <http://www.projectsafageorgia.org/>

OSHA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON RECORDKEEPING RULE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is extending the comment period on the proposed rule to revise the Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting (Recordkeeping) regulation to March 30, 2010.

OSHA published a proposed [rule](#) to revise its Recordkeeping regulation on January 29, 2010. The proposal would restore a column to the OSHA 300 Log that employers would use to record work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The proposed rule will not change existing requirements for when and under what circumstances employers must record MSDs on their injury and illness logs.

Four stakeholders requested an extension of the comment period, in part because of the severe February snowstorms that shut down workplaces for more than a week. The 15-day deadline extension ensures that stakeholders have a full 60 days to submit comments on the limited rulemaking. Comments may be submitted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>,

Upcoming Meetings

April 13, 2010

No meeting
Spring Break

May 11, 2010

Department of Homeland Security
Commander Deas and
Inspector Mullens

Newsletter Staff:

If you are not receiving this newsletter directly from matthew.parker@atcassociates.com, Send me an email and I will add you to the distribution list

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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?
