

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



ASSE



AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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September Meeting Fire Resistant Clothing

Our speaker this month is David Osbon from UniFirst. He will be speaking to us regarding the requirements for fire resistant clothing in NFPA 70E and will address the new types available. UniFirst manufactures Armorex FR protective clothing to help guard workers from the debilitating effects of burn injuries. Every garment is engineered to prevent burning of the fabric away from the point of high heat contact...and to be almost immediately self-extinguishing upon removal of an ignition source. Armorex FR uses only the most comfortable, tested, and proven FR protective fabrics available, such as new Tecasafe® Plus, innovative CXP Nomex®, and traditional Indura® Ultra Soft®.

DINNER MEETING - 5:30 pm,

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

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

\$7.50 Members

\$10.00 NonMembers

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.

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IH Corner

NIOSH Re-Appointment

AIHA offered its congratulations to Dr. John Howard on his reappointment to lead the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for another six-year term. Cathy L. Cole, CIH, CSP, AIHA President, said "I believe I am safe in saying that never in the history of the Institute has a director been as successful and respected by partners and stakeholders as Dr. John Howard. This applies to one and all—professional associations, labor, industry, employers, and workers. He has been more than a Director of NIOSH; he has been a partner and friend to AIHA and many others."

Some of these accomplishments were:

- Establishment of a "Research to Practice (r2p)" office to foster transfer and diffusion of NIOSH-generated knowledge to partners and stakeholders.
- Access to NIOSH research and results through the use of the internet and electronic communications means resulting in increased stakeholder contact with and input provided to NIOSH scientists.
- Positioning of NIOSH as one of the key partners in the National Nanotechnology Initiative by recognizing the early potential importance of nanotechnology.
- Assurance that policy decisions of the Institute were grounded in and based on sound science.

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

Matthew Parker
706-722-3310

matthew.parker@atcassociates.com

President's Message

The children are all starting back to school and this means the Augusta ASSE chapter will also be starting back up with our monthly meetings.

We have hopefully an action pack and very informative first few months of meetings set up. In September David Osbon from UniFirst will be talking about FR clothing and the newest types available. This will be a great meeting for those of us with NFPA 70E standards to meet. October the speaker will be presenting on Machine safety. Andrew Steltmann from OMRON STI will join us. November's meeting will be a change from our usual pace. We will be having a day time meeting at Bobby's BBQ in Aiken. This meeting will be entitled: "You Don't Have A Safety Problem, You Have A Leadership Issue".

I encourage you all to bring one new member to the meeting this year. Our chapter continues to grow but, new members are always welcome. Please contact Jim Dickson for a membership application if you know of someone who is interested in joining.

We have had our monthly meals at \$5 for many years. The cost for many other ASSE chapters is much higher. Stan has done a great job of organizing the catered meal for us but, due to members not pre-registering for meal we have had to order more food than we anticipate. This creates also has us wasting some of the food because it can not all be consumed before it spoils. The board has decided to raise the price to \$7.50 per member and \$10 for non-members.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Maria Neis
President, Augusta ASSE



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FATAL INJURY RATE DROPS, BUT....

The lowest total of workplace fatalities in the 17-year history of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 5,071, still shows room for improvement, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said after BLS released its preliminary CFOI summary for 2008 today. The preliminary total of 5,071 means the fatal injury rate for U.S. workers in 2008 was 3.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, versus the 4.0 final rate of 2007, when 5,657 fatal work injuries were reported. However, economic factors likely played a role in the fatality decrease. Average hours worked at the national level fell by one percent in 2008, and some industries that have historically accounted for a significant share of worker fatalities, such as construction, experienced larger declines in employment or hours worked," the agency explained. Therefore, the updated 2008 counts scheduled for release in April 2010 have the potential to be larger.

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EXPANDING THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

A Senate Bill aims to reform workplace safety.

The Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA) of 2009 was introduced last month in the Senate. The bill aims to broaden the scope of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, tighten whistleblower security and toughen penalties for safety violations. PAWA of 2009, which has a companion bill in Congress, H.R. 2067, also boosts OSHA's enforcement abilities and its capacity to create a safer workplace for workers. PAWA of 2009 covers 8.5 million employees in state, local and federal sectors. Also included are workers in the airline and railroad industry, and Department of Energy contractors. Highlights of the bill include:

- Removal of the requirement that an employee must die before criminal penalties can be imposed
- Increase of civil penalties and indexing them to inflation
- Felony prosecutions for willful violations
- Investigation of all deaths and serious injuries (when two or more employees are hospitalized)
- Workers' rights to refuse hazardous work; to challenge OSHA when it fails to penalize employers, issue and classify citations; and to get a hearing when OSHA withdraws or modifies its decision
- Whistleblower protection and alignment with other whistleblower laws
- A provision that employees' time with OSHA inspector must be compensated
- Removal of "unclassified citation" through which employees sidestep the severe impact of "willful violations."

HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS

The U.S. Department of Labor has withdrawn a proposed rule that would have affected how federal agencies conduct occupational health risk assessments. Among other measures, the controversial rule would have required the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration to publish an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking for all regulatory actions regarding toxic substances or chemicals in the workplace (BI, Dec. 15, 2008). Critics argued that the Labor Department under former President George W. Bush pushed the proposal through with little public input. They also argued that it would have stalled new work safety regulations. In Monday's Federal Register, the Labor Department said that, based on a careful review, it decided the proposed rule is unnecessary and it is more useful "to continue describing its internal risk assessment policies through guidance rather than through promulgation of a regulation." *Editors Note: Unfortunately this rule would have limited some junk science regulations and rules based on fear instead of fact.*

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Picture of the Month



**Once, Twice,
Three Times a Ladder???**

Upcoming Meetings

October 13, 2009- Andrew Steltmann from OMRON STI to talk about machine safety

November 11, 2009- Robert Greenwood to speak on "You Don't Have A Safety Problem, You Have A Leadership Issue" NOTE: This meeting will be held at Bobby's BBQ in Aiken as a luncheon.



**The 16th Annual Georgia
Safety, Health and Environmental Conference
Savannah - October 20 - 22, 2009**

"Catch the Spirit!"

On Line registration and information for the combined GEORGIA SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE and the GEORGIA EMPLOYER COMMITTEE STATE CONFERENCE is available at www.georgiaconference.org email jimmy.mize@dol.state.ga.us with questions

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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?
