

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



ASSE



AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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September Meeting

Oil Spill Safety and Health

The MC252 (Deepwater Horizon) well has been shut-in since July 15. Following the completion of cementing operations on the well on August 5, pressure testing was performed which indicated there is an effective cement plug in the casing. Although the exact amount of oil released will never be known, the response efforts and successes were incredible. The number of people, vessels, equipment, and capital fielded to address this catastrophe was awesome. Regardless of how you feel about BP and the risks of off shore drilling, the response was impressive. ATC will discuss their role in the cleanup (health of cleanup workers).

Our Speaker is yours truly. Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP, ARM. Matthew is Branch Manager of the ATC Associates in Augusta Georgia. He has an M.S. in System Safety and a B.S. Industrial Hygiene. He has over 23 years of experience in safety, health, and environmental compliance, including 20 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

DINNER MEETING - 5:30 pm

STEAK NIGHT

Tuesday, September 14th, 2010

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

Free for Members and Guests

(hosted by ATC)

MANDATORY 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

Methamphetamine Houses

The [Georgia Meth Project's](#) ad campaign is graphic and scary and it's meant to be. It's precisely the arrogance of youth and the air of invincibility that the Georgia Meth Project hopes to scare out of teenagers, by giving them the terrible facts about meth and bombarding them with messages on TV, radio, the internet and even on billboards.

One of the little known facts about Meth is the way it can ruin your real estate investment. Smoking meth creates a vapor of the meth for inhalation, that also will condense on permeate the surfaces in a home. Most of this activity happens in low income housing, but ATC has recently been involved in two cases that involved high dollar properties. It's bad no matter where it happens, but it's just another reason to watch for signs of this in your home or rental property.

The problem arises because the clearance level is set VERY low. Georgia has not established a state regulation on this, but the EPA has recommended a clearance value of $1\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ (1 microgram per square centimeter). This can be achieved in homes where only smoking was conducted, but oftentimes the houses also become meth kitchens. The meth vapors and fumes evolved during the manufacturing process are much higher and will permeate many surfaces and spread to many rooms.

Samples are collected by wetting a gauze pad with methyl alcohol and wiping surfaces using 10cm x 10cm (100 cm²) template. Samples are taken of walls, floors and ceilings. Analysis cost can be reduced by compositing the samples (walls floors and ceiling on a single sample, but if you fail (and many do) you won't know which surface needs more attention.

Surface washing and sealing are permitted, but this leaves the contaminant in the wall system. Sometimes it's better to just remove the drywall and start from the studs again. That is a risk tolerance and cost question each developer or owner has to make on their own.

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

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

Practice Specialties

Did you know that ASSE has practice specialty groups within the membership? There are 13 of them

Practice specialties	
Academics	International
Construction	Management
Consultants	Mining
Engineering	Public Sector
Healthcare	Risk Mgmt/Insurance
Industrial	Transportation
Hygiene	
Public Sector	

Many of us add a little extra to our membership renewals to be in one of these groups. The sector specific newsletter and meetings at the PDC are great to get a little more out of your membership.

ASSE's Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) recently surveyed the practice specialty membership to find out what motivates members to volunteer in practice specialty, branch, common interest group, advisory committee and standards development activities. Some of the replies are below:

- A chance to influence for the better some aspect of worker and consumer safety.”
- “Knowing that my actions make a positive difference for the professionals in my chapter, branch, etc.”
- “My principal motivator is enhancement of credentials. Second is enhancement of ASSE.”
- “Ability to influence industry standards and practices, learning current cutting-edge concerns and supporting
- industry to do better. In my litigation work, certain standards sometimes come into play. Being involved in their
- development can prove useful in obtaining work and interpreting the standard to a particular set of facts.”



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www.atcassociates.com

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A Century of Safety

The American Society of Safety Engineers will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2011.

To commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Society, we look forward to:

- Celebrating the accomplishments and professionalism of its members
- Building on its leadership in protecting people property and the environment and
- Launching its vision for the future of the safety profession

The Society 's 100th year theme is:

Your Safety is our Business. Your Future is our Mission.

As part of our ongoing efforts to prevent work injuries and illnesses, ASSE and the ASSE PR Committee have developed an interactive online/computer game to teach teens/young workers about workplace safety and the safety, health and environmental profession...oh yeah, and destroy zombies!

Go to
www.dontbeazombieatwork.org
to play the game

More info is available at:
<http://www.asse.org/newsroom/100/toolkit.php>

Sea World

The federal job safety agency fined SeaWorld Orlando \$75,000 for three violations uncovered while investigating the death of a trainer who was grabbed by a killer whale and dragged underwater in February.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration categorized the most serious violation as "willful," or showing indifference or intentional disregard for employee safety. That citation, carrying a \$70,000 penalty, was for exposing workers to drowning hazards when interacting with killer whales.

The second citation, deemed serious, was for failing to install a stairway railing system next to the stage in Shamu Stadium. That citation carried a \$5,000 penalty.

The third citation, which did not carry a penalty, was for failing to have weather-protected electrical receptacles at the stadium.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Man is the only animal that blushes...or needs to.

-- Mark Twain

Good News from a Bad Economy

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The number of workers who died on the job fell by 17 percent last year to the lowest level in nearly two decades, as workers logged fewer hours during the recession, the Labor Department said Thursday.

The 4,340 workplace fatalities recorded in 2009 was the smallest total since the Bureau of Labor Statistics first began tracking the data in 1992. It's the second straight year that fatal work injuries have reached a historic low, following a 10 percent drop in 2008.

High unemployment and layoffs in more dangerous industries like construction played a major role in the decrease, the agency said. The construction unemployment rate is 17.3 percent, nearly double the overall jobless rate of 9.5 percent.

Workers on average logged 6 percent fewer hours last year than in 2008. Employees in construction worked 17 percent fewer hours in 2009 than the previous year.

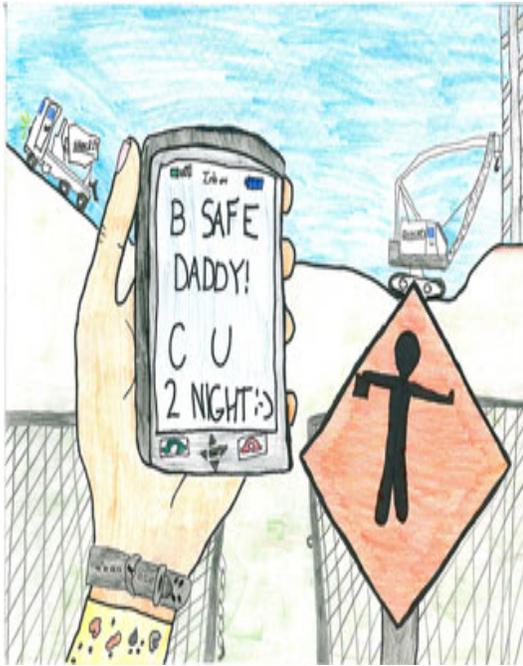
Labor Secretary Hilda Solis called the decrease encouraging and pledged to continue her agency's stepped-up enforcement of workplace safety laws.

"As the economy regains strength and more people re-enter the work force, the Department of Labor will remain vigilant to ensure America's workers are kept safe while they earn a paycheck," Solis said.



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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



2010 Safety Poster Contest

Age 9-10 First Place

Taylin Crosen, 9 - Winchester, VA

Newsletter Stuff:

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

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.



Small Fine, No Problem???

Companies are often tempted to agree to a minor, non-serious violation, pay a small fine of a few hundred dollars, and write it off as the cost of doing business. You promise not to do it again or fix any deficiency, and hopefully you can get on with life. However, most attorneys will advise their corporate clients not to "plead guilty" too fast and explore all opportunities for contesting even minor violations. The problem with agreeing to and accepting a citation and a fine is that it's often not the end of something bad, but merely the beginning. Once OSHA has inspected you at least one time and found something wrong, the agency may well be your pen pal for life. It'll surely check up on you to see if you're corrected what it found wrong. And if it's still not satisfied, it can level repeat or failure-to-abate violations against you with significantly higher fines that will sting a lot more.

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 SPEAKS

Speaking last month at the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Professional Development Conference and Expo, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels outlined the measures that the agency is taking to improve workplace health and safety. Michaels' address, entitled *Modernizing OSHA*, discussed:

- The shift to and focus on enforcement
- The Severe Violator Enforcement Program
- Evaluation of state's safety plans
- OSHA Listens, stakeholders meetings, and web chats to invite public participation
- Eventual implementation of Injury and Illness Prevention Programs
- Accurate reporting and the disadvantage of incentive programs
- Penalty increases
- The Protecting America's Workers Act
- PEL updates
- More attention to "Hard-to-Reach workers".

Read the entire speech at

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=SPEECH ES&p_id=2221



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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?
