

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS



# ASSE



## AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Site Tour - Richmond County's NEW Wastewater Treatment Plant

For this month's meeting, we will be responding to member suggestions and going on a field trip. The meeting will be held at the Messerly Wastewater Treatment Plant on Doug Barnard Parkway near the airport. We will be visiting the new state of the art facility that was just recently completed.

The plant receives approximately 34 million gallons of raw sewage every day. It is one of three in Georgia that uses the Modified Ludzak Ettinger (MLE) system which allows the operator to better manage the nitrogen cycle and reduce the discharge of related compounds to the river.

The Messerly Plant in partnership with the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy and the Phinizy Swamp Nature Center will show us how engineering, chemistry, and safety come together to protect the river and swamp, while handling the waste from 200,000 citizens and 850 miles of sewer.

## TOUR MEETING - 5:30 pm Tuesday, September 13th, 2011

Meet at the Messerly Plant Main Office  
1820 Doug Barnard Parkway

## No Meal

**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

### Voluntary Respirators

29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D is often used as a loophole to avoid a full respiratory protection program when allowing voluntary use respirators. Appendix D states that "If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard. You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the proper contaminant.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

But it's not that simple. 1910.134(c)(2) states that when respirator use is not required the employer must establish and implement those elements of a written respiratory protection program necessary to ensure that any employee using a respirator voluntarily **is medically able to use that respirator**, and that the respirator **is cleaned, stored, and maintained** so that its use does not present a health hazard to the user.

This paragraph appears to require medical evaluations and at least some training in addition to the Appendix D stuff for all voluntary use respirators except filtering facepieces.

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

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

## Presidents Message

Welcome to a new year for Augusta chapter ASSE. I look forward to serving as your president this year and building upon the successes of the previous year.

One of the changes over the last several years for local ASSE chapters is the formalized setting of goals for the upcoming year. These goals are due to ASSE national each August for the upcoming year. These goals are typically set by your elected and appointed executive board members with any available input from membership. The goals set for the Augusta chapter for the upcoming year are as follows:

- -Send Vice President to ASSE leadership conference
- -Offer a meeting that includes CEU's to members
- -Organize a community charity event
- -Nominating a Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award from the Augusta chapter

If you want to help, just provide some input for the above goals, or would like to recommend some goals for the chapter for next year; feel free to contact any of the executive board members or e-mail us at [asse@augusta.org](mailto:asse@augusta.org).

Do you know someone doing an exceptional safety, health, and environmental job? Let me know so I can nominate them for the SPY award (completely confidential if you are scared of them too)!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Messerly Wastewater treatment plant for a tour of their facility this Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Harold Steen, CSP, CHST  
President Augusta Chapter ASSE



# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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## Grain Elevator Company Pleads Guilty

Tempel Grain Elevators LLP pled guilty August 5 to violating OSHA regulations resulting in the death of 17-year-old Cody Rigsby, who suffocated after being engulfed in a grain bin in Haswell, Colo. The company was also sentenced to five years probation. Under a plea agreement with prosecutors, the company must pay Rigsby's family \$500,000 for his 2009 death and must pay fines to OSHA. The company must also implement safety provisions that include providing safety training and refresher training to its employees, and developing a procedure that includes harnesses and lanyards or similar safety equipment in anticipation of bin entry at any of its grain elevators. If Tempel Grain violates any of the terms or conditions of probation they would be potentially liable for up to another \$500,000 fine

## New OSHA Web Page on Hearing Loss

OSHA launched a new Safety and Health Topics page on Occupational Noise Exposure to provide resources to prevent noise-related hearing loss, which has been listed as one of the most prevalent occupational health concerns in the United States for more than 25 years. Approximately 30 million people in the United States are occupationally exposed to hazardous noise and thousands of workers every year suffer from preventable hearing loss due to high workplace noise levels. The new Web page provides information on the health effects of hazardous noise exposure and comprehensive information on controls to prevent hearing loss

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/index.html>



## The Largest Commercial Security Provider In The CSRA



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## Unusual Confined Space Issue

At the request of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, an occupational health hazard evaluation was conducted concerning a confined space issue within the set design of an operatic performance. Following one dance sequence and costume change, several dancers were to be placed inside flag-draped, military-grade human remains transfer cases (Figure 1) for 6 to 12 min, then exit the cases to begin the next dance sequence. Further, during one component, a performer was to dance on top of one of the cases with another performer inside of it.

After discussions with the operations manager and set design crew, two overarching concerns were identified as (1) the environmental conditions for the performer inside the casket and (2) the structural integrity of the transfer case under the load of the performer on top.

Environmental conditions of concern for the confined performer included breathing air quality and temperature inside the case; the ability to identify and respond to a possible medical emergency of the performer; as well as the risk of prompting a possible claustrophobic reaction in the performer.

Submitted by Michael Pennock, 3M-Atlanta

# ASSE AUGUSTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## OSHA Revises Whistleblower Policies

OSHA announced new measures that would enhance its Whistleblower Protection Program. According to OSHA, the updates will help strengthen OSHA enforcement capacities.

**Restructuring:** OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program will now be directly under the assistant secretary.

Twenty-five additional investigators have been hired.

**Training:** OSHA will conduct a national whistleblower training conference in September, among other training events.

**Program Policy:** OSHA will publish a new Whistleblower Investigations Manual with procedural updates.

**Internal Systems:** OSHA has revamped its data collection and audit system to ensure that complaints are properly handled

## Newsletter Stuff:

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

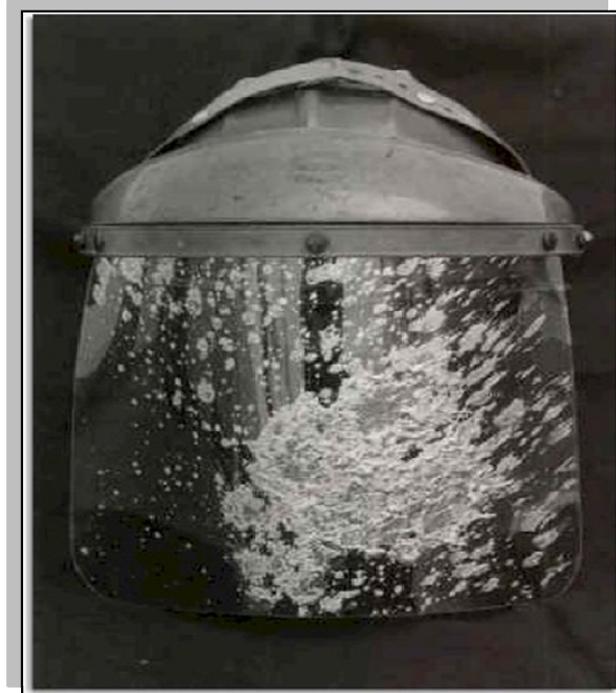
## Membership Stuff

Ready to join? Don't know how? You can apply online, list Matthew Parker as your sponsor:  
<http://www.asse.org/membership/becomeamember.php>



**INDUSTRIAL  
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SUPPLY, INC.**

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



“Mud in Your Eye”

## Georgia Company Fined for Combustible Dust

OSHA has cited Protech Environmental South Inc., doing business as U.S. Erosion Control Products Inc., following an inspection that uncovered 46 alleged safety and health hazards including worker exposure to heavy accumulations of combustible dust. Proposed penalties total \$55,250.

After receiving a complaint, OSHA began an inspection in August 2010 at the company's site in Willacochee, Ga. Serious citations were issued for violations that included exposing workers to explosion hazards resulting from inadequate dust control, exposing workers to dust without respiratory protection, failing to clean up thick dust accumulations, using unapproved electrical equipment and forklifts in locations that may include flammable or combustible materials, absence of a fire extinguisher in a straw storage area, and fire extinguishers missing from their mounts.

Additional serious citations included exposing workers to fall hazards, electrical hazards, obstructed exit routes, hazards related to the use of liquid propane gas, amputation hazards from a lack of machine guards, hazards from damaged forklifts, and hazards related to lack of eye protection and lack of a hearing conservation program.

"Combustible dust is a major safety and health hazard, and employers must recognize and correct hazards that expose their employees to death or serious physical harm," said Robert Vazzi, OSHA's area director in Savannah.

## 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_