



News & Views

Always Seeking Safety Excellence
through
Growth, Challenge & Change
1939-2004



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

General Chapter Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 7th, 2004
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Brady's Landing
8505 Cypress, Houston

Topic: BCSP and CCHHEST Update

Speaker: Henry Smahlik
Hagemeyer North America

Construction Division Meeting

Friday, November 19th - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Brady's Landing - 8505 Cypress, Houston
Topic: TBA

North Section Meeting

Monday, November 1st - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn North - I-45 & 1960
Topic: TBA

West Section Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 13th - 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Cameron Headquarters
Speaker: Mike Thompson with BP
Topic: Hazard Recognition and Control

Speaker Bio

Henry Smahlik

Mr. Smahlik is a Certified Safety Professional and Certified Industrial Hygienist with 30 years of comprehensive EH&S experience in both domestic and international projects. He currently services as President, Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) and a Board Member-Council for Certification of Health, Safety and Environmental Technologists (CCHHEST). Mr. Smahlik is also Manager, Consulting and Training Services, Homeland Security Division, Hagemeyer North America. Henry is also a member of the Advisory Board to the Department of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University.

This presentation will describe the most recent updates to BCSP and CCHHEST and answer any questions about the same.

Vendors Night

Vendor's night sponsored by the Gulf Coast Chapter's of AIHA & ASSE is coming!



**Tuesday, October 26, 2004
Hobby Hilton
8181 Airport Blvd.
4:30 – 8:00 pm**

Members, be sure to bring plenty of business cards to enter all of the vendor's door prize drawings. Drawings will be held from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Vendors, if you are interested in obtaining booth space at the event please contact Kevin Roberts at krroberts@mdanderson.org or call 713-563-3730.

President Update - Mike Narvaez, CSP

Who Cares about Certification!?

In April of this year I completed one of my greatest professional accomplishments; I passed my CSP exam. In preparation I was aware of some of the pitfalls to come. Would I be able to find time to study? Did I have all the necessary resources? Who is Avogadro and why is his number so darn important? The one thing I did not anticipate was my own self doubt. Why was I subjecting myself to this punishment? Is my degree not enough? More startling, who really cares about certification? I offer the following individuals who care:

I am an Employee – Obtaining my certification is a requirement in my performance development plan, and my boss holds me accountable to obtain this goal. I seek company incentives or the fruits of statistical data that shows certified individuals earn more.

I am an Employer – My job descriptions mention safety certifications as a plus, or a requirement. Yes, I have and will hire non-certified individuals, but those who possess certifications have a better chance to be considered for an interview or the position.

I am a Boss - I strongly advocate to my staff the importance and need to obtain certification. This is done not only to validate that my staff is qualified to perform their job functions, but also to bring credibility to the department or company as a whole. I fight to get certified individuals more compensation for their accomplishment.

I am a Colleague – When I need advice or another individual to bounce an idea against; I seek certified individuals. I do this not because I doubt my knowledge, but so I can respond to those who question the idea as one that is agreed upon by an independent certified safety professional.

I am a Mentor – I am someone who has seen first hand the doors that certification has opened, and I want the same opportunities available to you. I seek co-workers, employees, or colleagues in need of encouragement or resources to help them succeed. I do this not only for the sake of other individuals, but for my own continued scene of accomplishment.

Who am I? I am you. Most individuals in the safety profession fit in some or all of the aforementioned categories. Whether directly or indirectly, certification plays an important role in a safety professional's life. Certifications are a necessary part of any profession to benchmark and validate the fundamental skills of professionals. Most importantly you don't need a certification to advocate its importance or recognize its benefits. So I ask again, who cares about certification? We do.

Chapter & Society News

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Instructor Refresher Course

November 1, 2004

Cameron Headquarters Facility
4646 West Sam Houston Parkway North
Houston, TX 77041
713/939-2211

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

100% of the net proceeds from this course will be donated to the GCC Scholarship Fund at the ASSE Foundation. **Cost is \$150 per person.**

This refresher course is designed for professionals who have previously been trained as a Hydrogen Sulfide instructor under ANSI Z390. This refresher is required every three years and will be lead by Frank H. Perry, CSP, PE.

Class size is limited to 20 participants. Reserving your space is easy by contacting Kevin Clothier at 713/996-4263 or kclothier@valeron.com.

ASP/CSP Exam Prep Workshops

Presented by Langlois, Weigand & Associates

November 15 -17/18-20, 2004

Houston Area Contractor Safety Council
1301 W. 13th Street, Deer Park, Texas.

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

ASP Safety Fundamentals Prep Workshop - **\$550**
Monday-Wednesday, November 15-17, 2004

CSP Comprehensive Exam Prep Workshop - **\$600**
Thursday-Saturday, November 18-20, 2004

Registration is limited to the first 25 students for each workshop. A TI-36X scientific calculator is included in the cost of the course.

Those interested in registering should contact:
Bob Gaither, ASP/CSP Review Chair at
gaithrl@chevrontexaco.com or 713.954.6142 no later than November 11, 2004

How Time Flies

ASSE Gulf Coast members we have just received a list of our fellow members who've been recognized by the National chapter for achieving 25 years of loyal and dedicated service to the society. One of those members gets special recognition for being a member for 40 years since he joined in 1965. He is **Robert Neff**.

The list of members with 25 years are:

Charlie Arndt	Lawrence Barnett	Paul Chamberlain
Dennis Cowan	Alfred Dibens	Edward Handwerk
Richard Kutz	Linda Lee	Jack McElligott
William Methner	E. Pankonien	Gregory Plate
Larry Russell	Phillip Schull	Steven Sellers
Donald Slack	Doyle Weldon	David Williams

We're inviting these Members to our Nov.4th meeting at Brady's Landing so that they can be recognized and to present them their certificate.

Southwest Chapter Golf Tournament Tangle Ridge Golf Club – Grand Prairie, TX October 18th –Shotgun start at 8:00 am

Sponsorship Information:

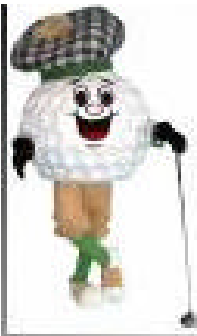
Title Sponsorship (exclusive \$1,500.00) :-Name on ditty bag items, name on leader board, name on all golf carts, free foursome, 1 year of recognition in website (www.sw-asse.org), one-half page recognition in newsletter for 9 months, hole sponsor of \$25,000 hole-in-one,

Platinum Level Sponsorship (\$1,000.00) - FREE entry for 3 golfers, 9-months of recognition on website (www.sw-asse.org), one-quarter page recognition in newsletter for 6 months, company name on sponsored hole.

Gold Level Sponsorship (\$750.00) -FREE entry for 2 golfers, 6-months of recognition on website (www.sw-asse.org), business card size recognition in newsletter for 6 months, company name on sponsored hole.

Silver Level Sponsorship (\$500.00) -FREE entry for 1 golfer, 3-months of recognition on website (www.sw-asse.org), business card size recognition in newsletter for 3 months, company name on sponsored hole.

Questions regarding the Tournament or Sponsorships can be directed to: Steve Gray ~ Vice President ~ (214) 869-3507 ~ sgray@mccmail.com



Safety Training Symposium Expo

Register by October 8 to attend ASSE's Safety Training Symposium & Expo, November 11-12 in Scottsdale, AZ and you'll save \$50 off the registration fee.

This event promises to be an intensive safety training experience. You will learn techniques for faster, better and more cost effective safety and health training including how to determine appropriate training solutions, build management support, train the adult learner, perform a needs assessment, measure training effectiveness and much more.

- 21 concurrent sessions on safety training topics
- Opening presentation from Brandon Hall, noted training authority
- Expo with exhibitors of safety training products and services
- Demonstrations of safety training products
- 1.4 CEUs/COCs, 2.0 IH CM points

For more information go to http://www.asse.org/safetytrain_symp04.htm or call 847.699.2929.

Chapter & Society News (Cont.)

Construction Division Meeting

The Construction Division wishes to extend our many thanks to Joel Tietjens. He did an outstanding Safety Leadership presentation to our 19 attendees at Brady's Landing on September 17.

Joel covered the important areas of ethics, values, vision, trust, and integrity. These are essential if we the safety professionals are to be effective with the needed influence at a critical time to save a life. Improving communication in this advanced technical society was presented with good comedy. Joel, the division appreciates your professional efforts.

The Medtronic folks discussed the increased availability of defibrillators which are now down in price to around \$2000 per unit. This could be very handy life saving technology with our ageing work force.

Chris Mack facilitated the job search net working function, critical in these uncertain times.

The Construction division invites all ASSE members to bring a friend and join us Fri November 19^h for our next session at Brady's Landing restaurant



Government Affairs Handbook

Several ASSE members have requested a copy of the ASSE Governmental Affairs Handbook. Due to cost considerations, hardcopy versions of the handbook are distributed to only Chapter Presidents and GA Chairs. However, you can receive an electronic version of the handbook if you send a written request to Dave Heidorn with your ASSE membership number and an email address where you can receive the file.

Please send your request to:

**American Society of Safety Engineers
Attn. Dave Heidorn
1800 E. Oakton Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018**

Or email at: dheidorn@asse.org.



Save the date!

ASSE Professional Development Conference 2005
New Orleans, June 12-15.

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- New V3.0 CSP Study Guide CD-ROM \$349.95, order #9606CD
- Both CDs, order #10116 – SAVE \$100
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Order online at <http://www.asse.org/cspcd.htm> or call ASSE Customer Service at 847.699.2929

2004 Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center Annual Symposium

The 2004 Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center Annual Symposium, *Making Safety Second Nature*, will be on October 26-27, 2004 at Reed Arena on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station, Texas

Major General Kenneth W. Hess, Columbia Accident Investigation Board, will present the Frank P. Lees Memorial Lecture. Other keynote speakers will be Ms. Kathleen Shaver, President of The Chlorine Institute, and Mr. Scott Berger, Director, CCPS. Papers will be presented in many areas during the two-day conference, including case histories, safety culture, reactive chemicals, LNG, security and management systems. The complete program and other information can be found on our web site at: <http://process-safety.tamu.edu>

Early registration is under way. Symposium registrations received by Sept. 27 are \$495 per person and include refreshments, lunch, handouts and proceedings. There is a \$50 per person additional discount available when registering five or more people from the same company. More information on registration and exhibits is available at: <http://process-safety.tamu.edu/symposium/2004/info.htm> or contact Donna Startz at email: donnas@tamu.edu or phone: (979)845-5981.



Society of Petroleum Engineers
Gulf Coast Section

Society of Petroleum Engineers Meeting 13 Oct 2004, 11:00 -13:00

Society of Petroleum Engineers – Gulf Coast Section
Safety & Environment Study Group Luncheon
Presentation

Topic: Impacting HSE Performance by
Understanding Individual and Business Social DNA
Speaker: Bill Lukens, HSE Director ConocoPhillips

**Event Contact: Gaurav Sharma
713-260-8459**

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Real Safety by Real Safety Professionals

Thanks a Million!!

Our highly successful Awards and Honors Banquet would not be a reality without the continued support of local vendors. The ASSE GCC Executive Committee would like to sincerely thank these vendors for their support of chapter activities.

Technical Article - Cleanup Hazard

Cleanup work of any kind is hazardous, but flood conditions make it even more so. Following the procedures listed below will help to keep you safe and healthy while cleaning up after natural disasters that involve flooding.

Health Tips

- Take frequent rest breaks when lifting heavy, water-laden objects. Avoid overexertion and practice good lifting techniques. To help prevent injury, use teams of two or more to move bulky objects; avoid lifting any materials that weigh more than 50 pounds per person, and use proper automated lifting assistance devices if practical.
- When working in hot environments, have plenty of drinking water available, use sunscreen, and take frequent rest breaks. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Be sure a first-aid kit is available to disinfect any cuts or abrasions. Protect open cuts and abrasions with waterproof gloves or dressings.
- Wash your hands often during the day, especially before eating, drinking, or applying cosmetics.

General Precautions

- Use a wooden stick or pole to check flooded areas for pits, holes, and protruding objects before entering.
- Ensure that all ladders and scaffolds are properly secured prior to use.
- Conduct a preliminary worksite inspection to verify stability before entering a flooded or formerly flooded building or before operating vehicles over roadways or surfaces. Don't work in or around any flood-damaged building until it has been examined and certified as safe for work by a registered professional engineer or architect.
- Washouts, trenches, excavations, and gullies must be supported or their stability verified prior to worker entry. All trenches should be supported (e.g., with a trench box); if no support is available, the trench must be sloped at no less than a 1:1 (45°) angle for cohesive soil and 1:1½ (34°) angle for granular soils including gravel, sand, and loamy sand or submerged soil or soil from which water is freely seeping.
- Establish a plan for contacting medical personnel in the event of an emergency.
- Report any obvious hazards (downed power lines, frayed electric wires, gas leaks or snakes) to appropriate authorities.
- Use fuel-powered generators outdoors. Do not bring them indoors.
- Use life-vests when engaged in activities that could result in deep water exposure.
- Use extreme caution when handling containers holding unknown substances or known toxic substances (for example floating containers of household or industrial chemicals). Contact the Environmental Protection Agency for information on disposal at the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802).
- Do NOT use improvised surfaces (e.g., refrigerator racks) for cooking food or for boiling water to avoid exposure to heavy metals.

Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment

- Always wear water tight boots with steel toe and insole, gloves, long pants, and safety glasses during cleanup operations; sneakers should NOT be worn because they will not prevent punctures, bites or crush injuries. Wear a hardhat if there is any danger of falling debris.
- Wear a NIOSH-approved dust respirator if working with moldy building materials or vegetable matter (hay, stored grain, or compost).
- When handling bleach or other chemicals, follow the directions on the package; wear eye, hand, and face protection as appropriate; and have plenty of clean water available for eye wash and other first-aid treatments.

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