

CNY SAFETY



MEMBERS SPEAK OUT; ASSE POLL ON CORPORATE COMMITMENT TO SAFETY SPLIT

DES PLAINES, IL
(November 26, 2002) -

Just over 50 percent of those participating in last week's American Society of Safety Engineers In-stapoll question -- "Do you believe that corporate management is committed to workplace safety and believes that it contributes positively to

the bottom line?" -- voted "no" while close to 49 percent voted "yes". About 5000 people participated in the ASSE issue poll that ran on its web site from Nov. 18 to Nov. 25.

In all, 51.2 percent of voters said no and 48.8 percent voted yes illustrating an almost split

decision on the issue of whether corporate management is committed to workplace safety.

Occupational safety and health professionals have debated and voiced concern as to whether corporate management, organizations and businesses readily incorporate workplace safety

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A Word From the President...

Lets keep the holiday spirit safe for all.

Recently, we lost another young adult in a motor vehicle accident, whose death could have been prevented by the use of a safety belt. As the story typically goes, returning to college after a short stay at home, had their attention diverted, drove off the road and into the median. One of the occupants was thrown from the vehicle. The other

passengers in the car were wearing their safety belts and survived.

This type of thing is not supposed to happen, but it does all to often. Local police agencies spend valuable resources performing seat belt check points throughout New York State. They feel this is the only way to get compliance, and for many it is.

I believe we as safety professionals need to lead by example. So this holiday season make sure you, your family, and friends buckle -up!

On behalf of the officers of ASSE , we wish you a happy holiday season.

- *Vince Taylor*, Chapter President



Happy Holidays

CNY ASSE November Meeting a Big Success

ASSE chapter members, along with members of the AIHA, joined together on November 21st for a joint Central New York chapters meeting.

Attendees met at the new Welch Allyn plant in Skaneateles, NY. Our tour of this wonderful facility displayed its spacious design and attention to detail, fully equipped with large training rooms, a gym, and cafeteria. Numerous employee health incentive programs demonstrated Welch Allyn's commitment to employee safety and health. Our many thanks to Jeanette Kinsella and Alan Avrich for helping coordinate this tour.

After our tour, the group went into downtown Skaneateles for dinner at the Sherwood Inn on Skaneateles Lake. Here, the CNY ASSE recognized Onondaga County Legislator Robert Warner's tireless efforts to reduce the health risks from underage smoking and exposure for second-hand smoke in public places. His successful campaign to move cigarettes and other tobacco products from convenience store shelves and into controlled areas have minimized pilferage and availability of these products to would-be teen smokers. His co-sponsorship of the controversial Warner-Winslow bill to



Onondaga County Legislator Robert Warner, center, receives the first annual CNY ASSE Health and Safety Advocate Award. Vince Taylor (left), Chapter President, and Robert Andres (right), Community Affairs Director

minimize patron and worker exposure to smoke in restaurants earned him this year's CNY ASSE Health and Safety and Advocate award. Congratulations Mr. Warner, and thanks for joining us on this exciting evening!

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into their overall strategic planning and operations, especially from the outset. Experts agree that smart corporations recognize the immense benefit of developing and implementing effective safety programs.

In the past, much growth in the safety profession was regulatory-driven, but today it makes good business sense to provide a safe workplace. The cost of preventing work-related injuries and illnesses is far

less than the cost of correcting them. According to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), every year workplace deaths, illnesses and injuries cost the nation \$170 billion.

ASSE estimates that for every \$1 invested in a safety and health program, \$4 to \$6 is saved because injuries, illnesses and fatalities decline, and medical costs and workers' compensation costs decrease.

Corporations of all sizes that invest in and implement effective safety programs realize reduced absenteeism, lower turnover, higher productivity, increased employee moral and a positive brand image.

In addition to voting, many comments from ASSE members in response to the Instapoll question were given. Please go to www.asse.org for more details.



"Experts agree that smart corporations recognize the immense benefit of developing and implementing effective safety programs"

IMPORTANT CNY ASSE NEWS

CNY ASSE will now be providing our monthly newsletter electronically. Chapter members in good standing will be e-mailed a copy of the newsletter each month, and the newsletter will also be posted on our

chapter web page, www.assecny.org. **Don't be left out—If you haven't received the past 3 months newsletters**, please contact nph4@cornell.edu to have your e-mail address added to our list. In addition, if

you do not have access to a computer and would like to continue to receive hard copies of the newsletter, please contact us and we will accommodate your request.



Why Safety Belts?

To understand the value of safety belt use, it's important to understand some of the dynamics of a crash. Every motor vehicle crash is actually comprised of three collisions.

The Car's Collision

The first collision is known as the car's collision, which causes the car to buckle and bend as it hits something and comes to an abrupt stop. This occurs in approximately one-tenth of a second. The crushing of the front end absorbs some of the force of the crash and cushions the rest of the car. As a result, the passenger compartment comes to a more gradual stop than the front of the car.

The Human Collision

The second collision occurs as the car's occupants hit some part of the vehicle. At the moment of impact, unbelted occupants are

still traveling at the vehicle's original speed. Just after the vehicle comes to a complete stop, these unbelted occupants will slam into the steering wheel, the windshield, or some other part of the vehicle interior. This is the human collision.

Another form of human collision is the person-to-person impact. Many serious injuries are caused by unbelted occupants colliding with each other. In a crash, occupants tend to move toward the point of impact, not away from it. People in the front seat are often struck by unbelted rear-seat passengers who have become high-speed projectiles.

The Internal Collision

Even after the occupant's body comes to a complete stop, the internal organs are still moving forward. Suddenly, these organs hit other organs or the skeletal

system. This third collision is the internal collision and often causes serious or fatal injuries.

So, Why Safety Belts?

During a crash, properly fastened safety belts distribute the forces of rapid deceleration over larger and stronger parts of the person's body, such as the chest, hips and shoulders. The safety belt stretches slightly to slow your body down and to increase its stopping distance.

The difference between the belted person's stopping distance and the unbelted person's stopping distance is significant. It's often the difference between life and death.

Excerpts from "Sudden Impact," NHTSA, 1992., National Safety Council, www.nsc.org



“Many serious injuries are caused by unbelted occupants colliding with each other.”



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We're on the web!
www.assecny.org

Chapter Meeting News & Info



Thanks to all our chapter members who have been able to attend recent meetings. The sizeable turnouts have benefited us all, and show a strong bond among the central New York safety and health professionals.

gress and future of our chapter. Some topics we hope to tackle include this years Professional Development Conference, 03-04 chapter officer nominations, and scholarship applications. Our chapter officers would like all the suggestions our membership can muster! Please try to attend!

RSVP: By Monday, Jan. 13
nph4@cornell.edu or
607.254.5439

NOTE:

On Monday, February 3rd, the CNY ASSE will be having our Feb monthly meeting. This is a joint meeting hosted by the Occupational Health Nurses Association. A guest speaker will be discussing workers compensation fraud. More details to be announced in our January newsletter, or e-mail nph4@cornell.edu.

Happy holidays to all of our members, family, and friends. Hope you enjoyed a nice Thanksgiving, and wish you all a happy new year. We won't be getting together during the holidays in December, but please plan to join us for a CNY ASSE business meeting on Thursday, January 16th. This will be an informal, open session to discuss the pro-

What: CNY ASSE chapter monthly meeting.

When: Thursday, January 16th, 2003. Meeting begins at 5 pm, dinner @ 6 pm. (\$15)

Where: Ichiban Japanese Steak House, 302 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool, NY (315) 457-0000

