



CNY SAFETY

Volume 65, Issue 5

January 2007

Central New York Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers

OSHA'S TOP 10 LIST WHERE DO YOU PLACE YOUR RESOURCES?

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By Robert Andres,
CSP, CPE, DABFE

In analyzing OSHA's new top 10 listing of violations (*Safety+Health Magazine, December 2006*), we see slight drops in all categories except Scaffolding, Fall Protection, Respiratory Protection, and Ladders - indicating that OSHA's emphasis is being more intelligently placed upon heavy industrial and construction operations - looking more closely at high risk operations instead of prominently posted posters and fire extinguisher heights.

Overall, about half of the top citations are attributable to deficiencies in "administrative controls" - development and documentation of procedures,

training, certification, hazard communication, and inspections. Given the relative simplicity of these tasks, it seems that the risk of an OSHA citation could be significantly diminished with immediate attention to such administrative functions. Many of these are good jobs for trainees and interns in the safety department.

Getting people to do the right thing is quite another matter. You need to have "clout" to make it work! Do you have the support from the top that you need?

If you have building construction going on, the need for strict controls on scaffolding, use of ladders and fall protection is evident. The risks here are extremely high - and justify

top priority treatment! In the article by Richard Fairfax in the same issue of *Safety+Health Magazine*, we learn that falls from elevation are the #1 cause of occupational deaths.

I would recommend that you read this entire issue - available free of charge to qualified safety professionals. E-mail Sam Christensen, Circulation Manager, at christes@nsc.org.

If you want help in placing your resources where they can do the most good, just send an e-mail to esaconsulting@comcast.net and ask for a copy of my article from the most recent ASSE *Management PS newsletter* - "The Compass" - entitled "Setting Safeguarding Priorities Using Task-Based Risk Assessment."

CSP Application & Test Fees Increase for 2007

Effective January 1, 2007, the BCSP has raised the fee associated with some their

services. Application fees have been raised from \$125 to \$145. Test fees

have been raised from \$275 to \$310.

Managing OSHA Compliance to Reduce Liability and Improve Safety Performance Technical Audio Conference Call

January 31, 2007 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Central Time

The ASSE Technical Audio Conference Series provides listeners with the most up to date information on issues that significantly impact the SH&E profession. On January 31, ASSE will host "Managing OSHA Compliance to Reduce Liability and Improve Safety Performance". This call, presented by Adele Abrams, is directed at SH&E Professionals involved with OSHA federal and state-plan-state compliance operations. Ms. Abrams will give an overview about managing OSHA compliance programs and their impact on SH&E Professionals. The audio conference will cover the following topics:

- OSHA Regulatory Framework
- OSHA Regulations and Standards
- OSHA Compliance Program – Private Sector Best Practices
- Are compliance programs changing in today's SH&E environment?
- Inspection, Citation, and Employer Defense
- Practices and Procedures – How do they actually impact the compliance program?
- Hazard Assessment and Audits – What is an accepted practice in terms of a compliance program?
- Can we synergize SH&E compliance programs?

Adele Abrams is a recognized leader in the field as an attorney, safety professional and trained mediator who represents employers and contractors nationwide in OSHA and MSHA litigation, and in worker's compensation and other employment matters. She also provides safety, health and environmental training and consultation services to both small and large businesses. For more information about the professional background of Adele Abrams please review her credentials at the URL below:

[http://www.asse.org/abrams-](http://www.asse.org/abrams-bio.htm)

[bio.htm](http://www.asse.org/abrams-bio.htm)

The facilitator for this session will be Dave Heidorn from the ASSE Governmental Relations Department. Dave has a background in law and is an SH&E public policy expert.

Our members consistently provide positive feedback about the value and information provided in ASSE Technical Audio Conference Calls and say our speakers are of the highest caliber. This program is only \$75 for members and is recognized for BCSP CoC credit. Participants will be able to submit questions both before and during the presentation.

Save the Date: January 31, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. central time

If you would like to participate **Simply register ONLINE or contact our Customer Service Department at 847/699-2929.**
Member Price \$75.00
AIHA/ACHMM \$85.00
List Price \$95.00

ASSE PRESIDENT IDENTIFIES TOP WORKPLACE SAFETY ISSUES FOR 2007

January 3 – Workplace fatalities and injuries are at an all time low, but we must not be complacent because one injury, one illness or one fatality is one too many. ASSE President Donald S. Jones Sr., P.E., CSP, of Plaquemine, LA said today in reviewing 2006 and looking ahead to key issues facing the safety profession in 2007.

Although workplace fatalities are down, Jones noted, more than 5,700 people died from on-the-job injuries and millions more suffered from on-the-job illnesses in 2005. And transportation-

related crashes continue to be the number one cause of on-the-job deaths.

"Work-related transportation deaths are a major concern. Many of our members develop and implement rigid commercial vehicle driver safety policies resulting in saved lives, increased use of seat belts and more," Jones said. "However, we cannot control other drivers and the condition of the roads and bridges. But we can and do help our employees by providing safety programs, a structured vehicle maintenance program and vehicles that offer the highest levels of occu-

pant protection. But we all need to do more."

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) in 2004 there were a total of 5,703 workplace fatalities and out of those 2,460 were transportation-related, representing 43 percent of all workplace fatalities that year. These include all modes of travel. BTS statistics show that in 2004 there were 1,374 work-related highway deaths.

"Overall, workplace injuries and ill-

(Continued on page 3)

ASSE PRESIDENT IDENTIFIES TOP WORKPLACE SAFETY ISSUES FOR 2007, CONT

(Continued from page 2)

nesses in private industry declined for the third straight year in 2005," Jones said. "This continued improvement is certainly encouraging, but we cannot become complacent. ASSE and its members must keep our focus on creating the safest work environments possible, and we must press the mindset that one injury, one illness or one fatality is one too many."

In his January president's message to members Jones noted that the aging workforce, nanotechnology, a possible flu pandemic, disaster preparedness and response, and doctoral programs in safety are among key concerns for ASSE and its members.

As for the aging workforce, Jones notes that employers and SH&E professionals must recognize and meet the needs of the changing workforce. As those born

between 1946 and 1964 age so to does our workforce while the labor pool shrinks. It is estimated that by 2014 the 55-and-older age group will make up 21.2 percent of the workforce.

Nanotechnologies is an area where more research is needed on the affects the new nanotechnologies has on workers and on consumers using products with nanotechnologies integrated. Once more is known, ASSE members and businesses can engineer the risk out and utilize the nanoscale materials in even more products helpful to consumers and the environment. It is estimated that products utilizing nanotechnology will exceed \$1 trillion by 2015. "We must vigilantly monitor the results of this research and respond accordingly in order to best protect workers," Jones said.

ASSE continues to take a lead role in educating its members on how to man-

age a possible flu pandemic especially in a business setting.

As for doctoral programs in safety, Jones noted that for the SH&E profession to continue to thrive, ASSE must work with groups such as NIOSH and affiliated organizations to find ways to encourage more individuals to achieve the highest level of safety education.

When it comes to contingency planning and response, Jones said that SH&E professionals will continue to seek ways to share their knowledge and lessons learned with employers and clients in order to help them develop, test and improve their response and recovery plans.

Complete article at
<http://www.asse.org/>



ASSE CONCERNED WITH THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INDUSTRY LITIGATION ON COMMUNICATING CHEMICAL RISKS TO WORKERS

(December 18) – The ASSE today expressed concern over the recent lawsuit filed by industry groups challenging the OSHA's use of threshold limit values (TLVs) used to communicate the risk of exposure limits to chemical hazards through OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HazCom).

ASSE is concerned that if successful this suit could prevent workers from obtaining the best available information on chemical exposure limits from employers under the HazCom standard by preventing the inclusion of TLVs on MSDSs, a practice that has existed for 25 years.

"The issue of setting appropriate exposure limits for dangerous chemicals being used in the workplace is a difficult one that calls for cooperative efforts," said ASSE President Donald S. Jones, Sr., P.E., CSP. "We feel OSHA is trying to ensure that employees have the best scientific data available on exposure limits to certain

hazardous chemicals. The lawsuit against OSHA's use of TLVs in the HazCom Standard reinforces the need for all stakeholders to address updating workplace exposure limits, an effort that may well require direction from Congress as well as leadership from OSHA."

TLVs are developed by the ACGIH. OSHA has long required inclusion of available ACGIH TLVs on MSDSs. Last January ACGIH announced that it had adopted TLVs for various substances including crystalline silica, iron oxide, propylene, and propylene dichloride. The lawsuit states that when ACGIH issued its revised TLVs, OSHA, by referencing them, wrongly amended its HazCom standard.

"Industry, safety, health and environmental professionals, worker organizations, OSHA, the NIOSH and other stakeholders should work together to find a way to update exposure limits, instead of

resorting to litigation," Jones said. "The merits of the lawsuit aside, banning OSHA's long standing practice of referencing ACGIH's TLVs could deny workers and industry of critical data on exposure limits for a variety of hazardous chemicals. This cannot be in the best interest of workers, businesses and the public."

Jones challenged the industry to join ASSE in urging Congress to pass legislation requiring OSHA to begin a negotiated rulemaking process to update exposure limits or provide legal protections against litigation so that private organizations can achieve updated limits through the voluntary consensus-building process of the ANSI. Either mechanism, Jones said, would allow any and all stakeholders to participate in the updating process, thereby helping to avoid the rancor, litigation and lack of results that has plagued this issue for so many years and increasing workplace safety.

**American Society of
Safety Engineers**

Central New York Chapter
PO Box 42
Dewitt, NY 13214



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
HTTP://CNY.ASSE.ORG**

Save The Date

**Empire State Safety 2007
Professional Development Confer-
ence and Vendor Expo
April 18 & 19, DoubleTree Hotel &
Conference Center (formerly the
Wyndham), Syracuse
Earn CEUs!**

Protecting people, property, and the environment since 1911.

January / February Chapter Meeting Information

January

January Chapter meeting
January 19th, 6pm start time
Coleman's Irish Pub, 100 South
Lowell Ave, Syracuse. \$15 din-
ner menu.

SERVPRO representatives
(<http://www.servpro.com/>)

will present on the remediation
of mold, evaluation, identifica-
tion, governmental require-
ments, working with the indus-
trial hygienist, following the pro-
tocol of the hygienist. Also in-
cluded will be a brief history
and overview of SERVPRO

services, including training,
drug testing, back ground
checking and certification of our
techs.

RSVP to Ken Waldby at
kenw@ecmcorp.net



February

Our joint meeting with the local
Association of Occupational
Health Nurses is scheduled for
Monday, February 5th at 6:00
pm at the Spaghetti Ware-
house, 689 North Clinton Street
in Syracuse. \$15/person which
includes dinner, tax and tip.
Cash bar available.

Judy Homer from the NYS of-
fice of Homeland Security will
be the speaker.

RSVP by Jan.29th Ken Waldby
at kenw@ecmcorp.net
