THREE, TWO, ONE, ZERO!
COUNTDOWN TO AN INJURY-FREE WORKPLACE
BY CARL POTTER, CSP, CMC AND DEB POTTER, PH.D

Many owners, managers and employees don't believe that companies can attain zero injuries in the workplace. However, that goal can be attained if you believe zero injuries is possible and make it your company's philosophy. This philosophy pertains to any type of business, whether it is a tanning salon, car manufacturer, bank or fast-food restaurant.

The Current State Of Workplace Safety
We work in an increasingly demanding and complex business environment. Business owners, managers and employees must make tough choices everyday pertaining to production, quality, safety and health. We may feel as though we're being barraged with regulations and rules and, yet despite our best efforts, workers are getting injured on the job.

According to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), more than 5,700 workers died as a result of workplace injury and illness in 2004. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.4 million workers were injured or became ill in 2003. Consequently, companies spend more $50 billion annually on injuries and illnesses, making the United States less competitive in the world market.

With all this money going toward safety-related issues, why are workers still becoming injured, ill or dying on the job? Many organizations do not have an over-arching safety philosophy. The demands of competition, globalization, mergers and acquisitions often take priority in the minds of managers and executives, leaving safety issues to rest on the back burner.

OSHA'S TOP 10 VIOLATIONS OF 2006

OSHA's list of the most-violated safety and health standards from October 2005 through September 2006 contains the usual suspects at the top but in a slightly different order.

Once again, OSHA's Scaffolding Standard was the most frequently cited standard overall. Among rules covering General Industry, the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) remains the most-violated standard but slipped from second last year to third this year on the overall list behind the Fall Protection Standard.

Cont. on Page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2nd was our Fall Professional Development Conference. The topic was "Planning and Conducting Domestic & International EHS Auditing." Our PDC Event Coordinator and Moderator, Mr. Jack Fearing, CPEA put together a FANTASTIC program!!! We had over 60 attendees; with a few flying in from Texas and Louisiana. Along with a great opportunity to network, we had numerous raffles prizes and the attendees brought home a wealth of information. Thank you, Jack. You can sleep better now!! For those of you, who couldn't attend, mark your calendars. Our next PDC will be May 2, 2007. Please note that our entire chapter PDC's proceeds benefit our Scholarship Awards Program.

November 9th will be another SELLOUT. (55 people already registered) We are joining our friends from the ASSE Metropolitan Chapter at Don Pepe's in Newark. We have another outstanding speaker, Mr. George Nassif, CSP, CHCM who will speak to us about "Product Risk Assessment &
MISPERCEPTIONS ON WORKER SAFETY

Employers should undertake programs to educate employees about safety outside the workplace, says the National Safety Council (NSC). That opinion is based in part on a survey of 413 employed adults who were asked to identify their greatest safety risks. The responses do not reflect reality, reports NSC.

Asked to rate unintentional injuries against other safety issues, 59 percent of workers responded that natural disasters and violent crime (tied with 59 percent) topped the list. Unintentional injuries followed with 55 percent, and concerns about terrorism ranked fourth at 52 percent.

Now the reality. According to the FBI, in 2004, 16,137 Americans were murdered. That same year, 230 Americans died in natural disasters. In 2004, unintentional injuries claimed more than 110,000 lives and disabled about 23 million people seriously enough to cause permanent or temporary disability.

Misperceptions also exist regarding risks at work and at home. Only 5 percent of workers said they feel safer at work while about 31 percent said they feel safer at home.

But statistics indicate that in 2004, nearly 44,100 workers died and 6.8 million workers were disabled as a result of injuries suffered while they were off the job. That same year, about 5,000 American workers died and 3.7 million suffered disabling injuries as a result of accidents occurring in the workplace.

Workers said that falls are the type of workplace injury they are most concerned about. But falls are also the leading cause of injury-related deaths (12,800) in American homes, followed by poisoning, fire, choking, suffocation, and drowning.

On and off the job, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths.

In 2005, the cost of all unintentional injuries—including lost wages and productivity, property losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, and employers’ uninsured costs—was nearly $575 billion. According to another recent NSC survey, businesses are recognizing the value of keeping their employees safe on and off the job.

Among 1,300 businesses of varying sizes that have implemented off-the-job safety programs, 58 percent reported reductions in injuries occurring outside work.

Copies of the survey querying American workers on safety are available by contacting NSC at 630-775-2307.

SPONSORING THE NJASSE NEWSLETTER IN 2006-2007!!

Sponsoring an advertisement with the NJASSE newsletter is a great way to promote your company in one of the leading Tri-state Area Safety Newsletters. The local NJASSE chapter membership includes over 500 safety professionals representing hundred’s of New Jersey’s most proactive companies.

NJASSE offers an Annual Subscription Rates for our sponsors. An annual subscription includes space in 7 remaining newsletters from December 2006 issue through June 2007. If you wish to advertise a special event or want a one-time advertisement, you may want to try the Single Issue Rate.

Rates vary by size – We offer the ¼ page ad for clients who really want to get noticed. NJASSE also offers the business card size ad for the cost savvy consumer.

All sponsorship proceeds are used to support NJASSE activities including the scholarship fund and the many charity events NJASSE supports.

If your company is interested in sponsoring an advertisement in the NJASSE Newsletter, please call Mr. Daniel Rollino, at 732-763-7646 or newslette-ter@njasse.org for further details.

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This is part of my continuing series of useful links from the Internet. In today’s installment, we will look at Emergency Planning. We’ve all heard talk about the Avian Flu and Pandemic plans. What are you going to do for the people who are most important to you – your family?

We go first to the government’s website portal, www.ready.gov From this page, you have major links to go to family planning, business planning or information for your children. The children’s page has games and great graphics. Keep your sound on for these pages.

Next, we go to a serious page, the CDC’s website on Pandemic Flu Planning, http://www.pandemicflu.gov/. On these pages, CDC has linked a compilation of many links to a large amount of information. It starts out with some news highlights then links to the Federal plans, an interactive link to any state you want, information for individuals or businesses, school, health care and community planning.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is probably the leading authority on Avian Flu and a plethora of other diseases. Their homepage can be found at http://www.who.int/en/. On http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/ they publish their information about the Avian flu and you can follow the links to anyone or all of the following: General Guidelines, Diagnosis and treatment, Food safety, Infection control, Surveillance, Vaccines and Antivirals.

The Conference Board is a business membership and research organization, best known for the Consumer Confidence Index and some Leading Economic Indicators. They’ve published a links page at http://www.conference-board.org/knowledge/resources/resource_avianFlu.cfm that links to a variety of non-traditional resources, however, directed at the business community.

At http://www.bigmedicine.ca/toolsbooks.htm you can find disaster preparedness resources that provide valuable information for the people who need it.

We’ll end this segment with the leader in disaster help, the American Red Cross. Go to http://www.redcross.org/ for not only a wealth of information but also the opportunity to purchase disaster supplies. You need to evaluate these items to ensure they will meet your needs but if you don’t have any other contacts for obtaining these items, here’s one source. If you are reading a hard copy of Web Walking, and have to type in the links, remember that a space between words is actually an underscore ( _ ) and not a space. If you have, thoughts on this subject send them along for a follow-up article about Flu and Pandemic Planning.

If you have a favorite link that you’ve found helpful in your work, send it along to bweissman@hillmanngroup.com for possible inclusion in the next column.
Many executives, owners and managers do not have a safety philosophy because they don’t understand the concepts of safety and health management. Nor do they understand how to approach safety in the context of the work that they manage or supervise. While many of these leaders are highly educated in management and leadership concepts, most have had little training in integrating health- and safety-management principles into their everyday work.

Executives, owners and managers can create sustainable, positive change when it comes to safety and health by developing a philosophy that promotes safety and health and plays down the current focus on compliance. The philosophy must give equal weight to five areas—management commitment, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and health and safety training.

Too often, companies focus on only one or two of these areas. This is a great disservice to the employees because the lack of balance and absence of an overall philosophy causes chaos and faulty behaviors that may directly or indirectly lead to employee injury or death.

**Higher Safety Standards**

Adopting high safety standards is easier than you may think. In fact, all it takes is four simple steps.

1. **Understand five areas that must be covered by the standard:**
   - Management Commitment.
   - Employee Involvement.
   - Worksite Analysis.
   - Hazard Prevention And Control.
   - Safety And Health Training.

2. **Develop a safety philosophy in the organization that addresses the following issues:**

   What does my business really believe about worker safety and health?
   
   Do the owners and managers understand their moral and legal obligations about safety and health?

   Do we really believe the company can have zero injuries?

   The answers to these questions will reveal your company’s safety philosophy. Realize that you may have to work to educate leaders and get their thinking aligned with the importance of creating a workplace where safety and worker health are paramount concerns, but the effort is worth it.

   **3. Determine the current state of the company’s health- and safety-management program.** After analysis of where your company is, develop a vision of where the company should be.

   **4. Reveal the gap between the current state and the future state of health and safety for your facility.** Only then can you begin to take purposeful actions to fill the gaps and create an environment where everyone can go home every day without injury.

   **A Safer, More Profitable Future**

   Having a zero-injury workplace is possible. If you can lead your team to go one hour without an injury, then you can lead them through hours that turn into days, weeks, months and years. Remember, the greatest legacy leaders can leave is that they ran a profitable business where everyone went home every day without injury.

   Carl Potter, CSP, CMC and Deb Potter, Ph.D, CMC have worked with hazardous industries for a combined total of more than 44 years and work closely with many large corporations as speakers and consultants. They have authored several books including the bestseller "Who is Responsible for Safety?" "Simply Seamless Safety" and their latest book "Zero! Responsible Safety Management by Design." For more information, visit or call (800) 259-6209.
The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released the results of a survey on workplace violence prevention. The survey found that half of employers with 1,000 employees or more in the United States had an incident of workplace violence within the 12 months before completing the survey. What type of incident was reported by the highest percentage of these large employers? (See Page 8 for Answers)

- A) Domestic violence
- B) Customer or client
- C) Co-worker
- D) Criminal

The Children of Hazlet NJ show their support for the Hazlet Fire Department in the annual Fire Safety Poster.

President-Elect Nazer Ali represented NJ ASSE at the Hazlet Fire Department.

**OSHA's Top 10 Violations of 2006**

1. Scaffolding—General Requirements (1926.451) with 7,895 violations
2. Duty to Have Fall Protection (1926.501) with 5,746 violations
3. Hazard Communication (1910.1200) with 5,586 violations
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134) with 3,410 violations
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) with 3,068 violations
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178) with 2,582 violations
7. Electrical—Wiring Methods, Components, and Equipment for General Use (1910.305) with 2,396 violations
9. Ladders (1926.1053) with 2,115 violations
10. Electrical—General Requirements (1910.303) with 1,791 violations

**Service. Solutions. Satisfaction.**

PMK Group is an environmental and consulting engineering firm that offers an extensive array of services to both public and private clients throughout the tri-state area. Recognized as one of the fastest growing engineering firms in the United States over the past several years, PMK Group provides land development planning and building engineering, environmental consulting and remediation, environmental hygiene consulting, and regulatory compliance services.
**Volunteers Needed!!**

NJASSE is looking for volunteers for the following events:

**Habitat for Humanity:** Contact Ken Bogdan: ken.bogdan@yesinsure.com

Let’s Show Our Support!!

**October 12, 2006 Meeting Recap**

The NJASSE Meeting for October 12, 2006 was the 2nd consecutive sell-out of the year. Our hosts at Merck were extremely gracious with their wonderful facility.

The topic of the night was Managing Contractor Safety Programs. Mr. Art Limper of Merck Central Engineering was the speaker. Art has over 20 years of experience in Construction Safety with the last 10 in Construction Safety Management. He credits his success in safety to his drive to see people go home in the same condition as they came in. As Art says “Zero incidents is the only justifiable goal.” The presentation supports this statement by stressing: A commitment to zero safety, managers must take ownership of safety as well as partner with their contractors to ensure safety is performed at all times. Finally, Art brings home the point that safety professionals must always promote safety at every opportunity.

In addition, our 50/50 raffle raised $90 to provide turkeys for Thanksgiving to needy families.

**Calling All Past Presidents!!**

Past President’s Night is Dec. 7th, 2006 at L’Affaire in Mountainside. Last year, we had a great time hearing some of the old war stories and reconnecting with friends!!

**News Items!**

Have you received a promotion, new job, marriage, birth? Let us know. We would like to share this information with our membership.

Email: Newsletter@njasse.org

**NJASSE Officers for 2006-2007**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
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Last Year’s Total—2631 points
Let’s Do it Again!!
On Thursday, October 26th, the NJ Chapter of ASSE participated in Kean University’s 4th Annual Environmental Health & Safety Fair. The goal of this annual event is to provide educational material and support to the faculty, staff and students of Kean University. In addition, we were there to promote further awareness for environmental issues, general health and safety. The NJ ASSE booth attracted many students and faculty. We distributed information regarding health & safety opportunities in the workplace and handed out membership applications. We talked to students about the health & safety profession, while they ‘Shot for Safety’ and tried to win prizes. NJ ASSE hopes to have gained a few new members as a result of the fair. Rita Oleas, Bill Flaherty, Barry Weissman and Kristin Kelley represented NJ ASSE at the event.

Recalls—FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product.

**Name of Product:** Goulds Pumps®, Bell & Gossett® and Red Jacket Water Products® Brand Pumps for Fire Suppression Systems

**Units:** About 3,000 additional units (18,300 units recalled in August 2006)

**Manufacturer:** ITT Water Technology Inc., of Auburn, N.Y.

**Hazard:** A mechanical part on these pumps was not fully secured, which can lead to the pump failing during use. If pumps sold with fire suppression systems fail, the risk of fire damage increases. The pump itself does not pose a fire hazard. These pumps were previously recalled for the same hazard in August 2006. The recall has now been expanded to include additional date codes and the dates sold have been expanded.

**Incidents/Injuries:** ITT Water Technology Inc. has received one report of a pump failing to start during a system test. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The recalled pumps are general in purpose, but are sometimes used in fire suppression systems. The pumps were sold under the Goulds Pumps, Bell & Gossett and Red Jacket Water Products brands. The pumps can be identified by having Model NPE, NPO, MCC, MCS, SM or Series 3530 on their nameplate. Recalled pumps were manufactured between December 2005 and September 7, 2006. They have date code M05, A06, B06, C06, D06, E06, F06, G06, H06 or J06. The date code is the first three digits of the serial number on the pump nameplate.

**Sold at:** Pump distributors nationwide from December 2005 through September 2006 for about $800.

**Consumer Contact:** For more information, call ITT Water Technology Inc. at (800) 984-9199 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit one of the company’s Web sites at www.goulds.com, www.bellgossett.com or www.redjacketwaterproducts.com.

Can Spiders Inspect Fire Extinguishers? If not, this place has a problem. Actually, the rules said that all of the fire extinguishers were supposed to be checked every month. Let's see:

- Cobwebs? Check.
- Rust? Check.
- Missing tag? Check.

Obviously hadn't been moved in who knows how long? Check. OK, looks good for now. See you in a decade.
The New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers’ (ASSE) will be holding a joint meeting with the NY Metro ASSE Chapter.

Topic: "Product Risk Assessment & Recall Plans"

Date: Thursday, November 9, 2006

Speaker: George Nassif, Aon Risk Services

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Don Pepe’s Restaurant, Newark, NJ

See the website for directions.

Look forward to seeing you there!!

The 2006 Fall PDC entitled Planning and Conducting Domestic and International EHS Audits was held last week at the PSE&G Training Center in South Plainfield and was a huge success. Over 60 attendees from various industry sectors heard from a panel of expect speakers on the planning that is required to develop and implement an effective EHS auditing program. Attendees also received a variety of auditing tools for their use. Several software vendors demonstrated various EHS Auditing software products which are designed to add value and efficiency to the auditing process. For more information on designing or improving your EHS audit program please contact Jack Fearing, CPEA, at 973-463-6240 or jack_fearing@ars.aon.com.

ANSWER OF THE DAY

C) Co-worker 34%
Client/ Customer 28%
Domestic Violence 24%
Criminal Incident 14%