

ASSE New Jersey Chapter



President's Message

Happy Autumn to all. As we close out summer and usher in the colder weather, I can hardly believe that one season of my tenure as your Chapter President is over. We had our first technical meeting on September 11th at Stevens Institute in Hoboken. The meeting was held in a room that had a 20 foot high glass wall with the Manhattan skyline as our backdrop. The Empire State Building was colored red, white and blue, and the "Tribute In Light" (two beams of light) commemorating the World Trade Center towers were lit all night. Overall, the meeting was great success with presentations from Mark Pollack, Professor at Stevens, and Alex Ruiz, an NJ ASSE Chapter former president. Mark's presentation covered the Ecohabit project, a green and sustainable house built by seniors at Stevens to be entered into a World competition in California. Members of our Chapter provided the OSHA 30 hour construction training to these seniors. Alex presented the various challenges, including solutions, safety professionals face related to green energy technologies. The evening provided good networking and discussion with four members attending their first meeting. I hope to see more new faces at future meetings. So plan ahead, as the upcoming meeting slate has unique locations and interesting topics.'

October Meeting

Our October meeting is a joint meeting with the New Jersey Chapter of the AHMP (Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals). Please register for the meeting on our website. <http://www.njasse.org>. Please register as soon as you know that you will be going so that we have a better estimate for the food order. Following are the details of the meeting: **Date:** Tuesday, October 22 **Location:** BP Lubricants USA, Inc., 1500 Valley Road, Wayne,

NJ Topic: *“How You Can Do a Better Job as an EHS Professional”* It is clear that doing your job well as an EHS Professional does not insure that unforeseen circumstances will not result in liabilities for you or your employer/client. Simply complying with statutes and regulations will often not protect you from the failure of others to “follow the rules,” or insulate you from criticism of your actions when viewed with hindsight in an investigation or litigation. Instead, preparing for what can go wrong in areas outside of your immediate control may be just as important as regulatory compliance. In this presentation, an attorney, who is also an engineer, and has more than 30 years of practice experience in environmental, land use and business transaction matters, draws upon legal cases and his experience to describe examples of situations that are likely to be encountered by EHS Professionals, and to suggest ways to anticipate and protect against resulting liabilities.

Cost

\$25 for members, \$35 for non-member

Program

- 5:00 Networking
- 5:30 Introduction to BP – Ed Trainor
- 6:30 Dinner & Business Meeting
- 7:15 Technical Presentation

The next two meetings are as follows:

- November – Wednesday, November 13 – World Trade Center in Manhattan. Registration will be capped at 50 people. Earlier start time.
- December – Past President’s Night – December 11 – Maggiano’s Restaurant, Bridgewater

PDC (Professional Development Conference)

Save the date! The New Jersey Chapter invites you to participate in our next Professional Development Conference. We have a great program

focused around contractor management at your facility. CEUs have been applied for. A registration link will be on the website with a couple of days. Details of the PDC are below:

When: Thursday, October 24th, 2013

Where: [Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety at Rutgers University, 27 Road 1, Piscataway Township, NJ 08854](#)

Time: 8:30 with Program start at 9:00 AM

Cost: \$75

Program:

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:15 “Best in Class Contractor Management”: IS Network, Adam Logan, Senior Team Lead ISN
- 10:00 Networking Break
- 10:30 “Outsourcing and EHS Management” JLL: EHS best practices with outsourced-3rd party Facilities Management; Jason LaBarge, CIH, CSP Director, Environmental Health and Safety
- 11:15 Lunch Break & Networking
- 12:00 “Managing Safety in a Contractor or Owner Controlled Insurance Programs (CCIPs & OCIPs)” Frank Gesualdo, CSP, Liberty Mutual Region Managing Consultant UPS Dedicated Team & ASSE NJ/NY Area Director and Jeffrey Hutchens, Safety Director, NY Turner Construction
- 1:00 Break & Networking
- 1:15 OSHA Update: Issues and Trends Affecting Contractor Management Mike Corbett, Compliance Assistance Specialist, OSHA Avenel Area Office.
- 2:00 Safe Drive Home!

October is Fire Safety Month

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left

100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. The following are some fire safety tips:

- Ensure there are working smoke detectors on each floor of the house. Ideally each smoke detector should be located outside sleeping areas and in each bedroom.
- Change the batteries in each smoke detector at least once a year.
- Carbon Monoxide detectors should be installed in all houses that have fuel burning devices (i.e. gas stove, gas or oil fired heating units and hot water heater etc.) and/or have attached garage. The detectors should be installed in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping areas.
- Have an escape plan and practice it. Know more than one way out.
- Have a meeting place outside of the house where everyone meets once outside.
- Once outside stay out.
- Know how to call for help. In most areas you can call for help by dialing 911. When calling 911, do not hang up until the 911 operator tells you to hang up.
- Ensure your house number is visible from street and readable especially at night.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in the home know how to use it and understand its limitations.

This year's fire prevention theme is Preventing Kitchen Fires. Below are some kitchen safety tips:

- Do not leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Do not keep oven mitts, cloths or other flammable materials hanging on oven handles.
- Keep all flammable and combustible materials away from the cooking surfaces.
- If a pan catches fire cover it with a metal lid and turn off the stove. Do not spray water on the fire.

- If a fire occurs in the oven shut off the oven and keep the oven door closed until fire is out.
- Keep handles to pots and pans turned so they cannot be easily hit or pulled down.
- If you have a fire, call 911 once outside. Close the doors as you leave the area.

The Changing Face of Health Care and Fire Safety

One of the most serious issues facing any hospital or health care facilities is the threat of fire. In recent years, the changing landscape of healthcare, including the delivery settings, technological advances and home based settings, have triggered industry concerns surrounding the potential for fire and the control of fire that impacts patients, visitors, services, and property. As health care communities continue to grow in areas such as assisted and independent living, home care, and delivery of acute long term care, providers must be prepared to evaluate the settings and the impact of the services to the fire and safety response planning. Health care providers are faced with unprecedented challenges as physical space and amenities are developed to meet individualized care for the patients. The unique challenges impact the day to day operations of providers in the control of smoking, cooking and even decorating, in addition to the movement of patients, residents and visitors throughout the facility. In recent years, there has been increased attention to fire control in areas such as operating room settings with enriched environments created by use of solutions, medical gases and equipment. Alcohol based hand sanitizers have led to real fires with patient and employee injuries. Home care agencies providing medical equipment in home settings, need to address the electrical safety of equipment in home environments. For patients connected to life support equipment or who are immobile, the threat of fire becomes particularly real. Recent disasters requiring the massive evacuations of patients on life saving equipment have proven the reality of the challenge when caring for patients in less than desirable conditions. Emergency planning needs must include and recognize that personnel, patients, equipment and the public may be impacted in the

response. Facilities containing MRI equipment and other sophisticated diagnostic testing must work with the local fire and response personnel. First responders must be made aware of special equipment and be knowledgeable of specialized approaches and response. Such incidents are receiving attention from accreditation agencies in the past years through the development of standards that address such exposures in environments such as the MRI suites. Understanding detection and suppression requirements is essential to protect patients, staff and facilities. Valuable medical equipment can be damaged by smoke, water and other equipment used in fighting the fire. Health care providers are mandated to comply with many agency requirements which may vary from state to state. Typically, regulatory environments include the state's fire and life safety requirements; structural code and building code requirements. Agencies such as the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) enforce the codes when adopted by the agency as part of the regulatory process. In recent years, we have seen the release of code requirements for sprinkler systems in skilled nursing facilities, and revisions and adoption of standards outlined in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 99 Health Care facilities Code 2012 Edition, and the 101 Life Safety Code (Health Care). But, often we fail to recognize the fact that fire protection goes beyond the regulatory environment. Effective fire prevention and life safety require vigilance on the part of the health care providers with an ongoing commitment to reduce the potential for fire. For some special initiatives, take a look at the links below:

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/CertificationandCompliance/LSC.html>

FDA Surgical Fires Initiative

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/SafeUseInitiative/PreventingSurgicalFires/ucm272681.htm>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/fire/fire.html>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/hazardcontrol/hc11.html>

Occupational Hazards in Home Healthcare

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-125/>

Oxygen Use

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/PublicHealthNotifications/ucm062088.htm>

Written By: Jean Kristensen RN COHN CPHRM ASSE NJ, Healthcare Chair

ASP / CSP Certification

Do not miss this tremendous cost saving opportunity! Once again, the Penn-Jersey, New Jersey, and Philadelphia Chapters of ASSE are sponsoring a 3 day ASP (October 14 – 16) and a 3 day CSP (October 17 – 19) certification preparation courses. Each course will be taught by Langlois, Weigand & Associates, Inc., who are the trainers used by ASSE and NSC. The cost of attending this course is approximately 25% of the total cost if you were to travel to take the ASP or CSP prep course. There is still limited seating available for each course, so act quickly. If you would like to register for either course or would like more detailed information, please use this link <http://penn-jersey.asse.org/pdc/>

Government Affairs

[ASSE Responds to OSHA Announcement of Silica Proposed Rule](#) UPDATE: On September 12, OSHA published the **[proposed rule in the Federal Register](#)**. OSHA has [announced](#) publication of the long-awaited proposed rule to set a standard aimed at addressing workplace risks posed by silica. As indicated in an ASSE-prepared [summary](#) of the proposed rule, OSHA proposes to lower its Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, which is 50 percent of the current PEL and consistent with NIOSH's Relative Exposure Limit

(REL). ASSE issued the following response to the proposed rule on its announcement: **This statement is attributable to Kathy A. Seabrook CSP, CMIOSH, EurOSHM, President, American Society of Safety Engineers** *“Now that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has moved forward rulemaking on a possible standard to address the occupational exposure to silica, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) looks forward to the opportunity to bring the expertise and experience of its member safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals to an open debate about the appropriate regulation of this risk. Our members already manage successfully the risks posed by silica in practical, cost effective ways and work with employers committed to protecting workers from those risks. By finally moving this rulemaking forward, the entire occupational safety and health community will have the opportunity to share best practices and varied perspectives on how best to protect workers from a risk that, despite advances in protecting workers from silica risks, still kills more than 150 workers and harms the health of thousands more every year. Our hope is that this debate and the information shared can help encourage more employers to provide better protections to their workers as this rulemaking proceeds.”* The first step in the rulemaking process for this standard was completed in [2003](#). Concerned that not all stakeholders were involved in closed-door discussions at the White House on a possible rule, ASSE in 2011 [urged](#) the Obama Administration to move forward a rule so all stakeholders could be involved.

New Members

The New Jersey Chapter would like to welcome our new members who joined in August and September.

- Paul Caliendo
- Greg Decker
- Douglas Hatler
- Corey Jones
- John Stinar
- Kevin Sullivan