



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

ASSE Fact Sheet

About the Society

Vision: *ASSE shall be a global champion of the safety, health and environmental professional, a global leader of the profession and a premier resource for those engaged in protecting people, property and the environment.*

Mission: *ASSE is a global member-driven association providing representation, promotion and support for those engaged in the profession and/or the practice of safety, health and the environment in their efforts to protect people, property and the environment.*

Founded in 1911, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is the oldest and largest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Based in Des Plaines, Illinois, ASSE has more than 30,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members who manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and the environment in all industries, government, labor and education. ASSE is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit organization.

ASSE was founded in October in New York City soon after the March 25, 1911, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York City, which resulted in the deaths of 146 garment workers – some caught in the factory and others who jumped from the ninth floor to their

deaths. The factory fire exit doors were locked and reportedly, the only safety measures available for the workers were 25 buckets of water. This workplace tragedy led to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of several workplace safety initiatives.

Today, ASSE is a full-service organization for its members, and the public, providing key information and action on occupational safety, health and environmental issues and practices. ASSE members work to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses, to create safer work and leisure environments and to develop safer products, enhancing everyone's quality of life. These efforts lead to

positive bottom line results for businesses as they realize a reduced rate of injuries and illnesses leading to a reduction in lost work time, in absenteeism, in workers compensation and health care costs, lower employee turnover rates, while resulting in increased production rates, increased employee moral and a positive corporate reputation.

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ASSE has 151 chapters, 30 sections and 60 student sections in the U.S. and members in 73 countries, including chapters in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Western Australia, with sections in Egypt, the UK and Ecuador.

ASSE is a founding member of the International Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organizations (INSHPO, www.inshpo.org), a resource for worldwide practitioner organizations to

promote, develop and access international occupational safety, health and environmental information. ASSE, along with the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) and U.S. federal agencies, sponsors North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) each year in May. ASSE members and non-members, industry,

trade organizations and corporations throughout the continent are host to community workplace safety and health activities during NAOSH Week. The ASSE board recently approved the creation of Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day that falls on the Wednesday of NAOSH Week each year.

Outreach

Setting the Standard for Safety

ASSE is responsible for several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) committees and projects. ASSE is secretariat for:

- Safety Requirements for Construction and Demolition Operations, A10 - standards (46)
- Protection of Floor and Wall Openings, A1264
- Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operations, Z15
- Confined Spaces, Z117
- Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout/Tagout And Alternative Methods, Z244
- Fall Protection, Z359
- Safety, Health and Environmental Training, Z490 – Criteria for best practices in safety, health and environmental training and includes Z390 – Hydrogen Sulfide Safety Training
- Competence and Certification in the Safety Profession, Z590
- Guidelines for Mold and Fungi Control and Remediation for Worker Protection in Indoor Work Environments, Z690

ASSE is the Administrator for the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on fall protection standards. ASSE members serve on 40+ safety and health standards committees.

Members can join ASSE's 13 Practice Specialties (PS) in the areas of Academics, Construction, Consultants, Engineering, Environmental, Healthcare, Industrial Hygiene, International, Management, Mining, Public Sector, Risk Management/Insurance and Transportation and five PS branches – Hospitality, Fire Protection, Oil/Gas, Training/Communications and Manufacturing.

ASSE Foundation

Established in 1990, by and in partnership with the American Society of Safety Engineers, the American Society of Safety Engineers Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, generates funding and provides resources for scholarship, applied research, academic accreditation and related academic initiatives in order to advance the safety, health and environmental profession.

Funding comes from ASSE, its chapters and regions, individual members and corporations. For more information visit www.asse.org/foundation.



Quality Education & Career Development

ASSE provides comprehensive education programs through the Society's Professional Safety Academy (PSA). Approved by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), ASSE is an authorized provider of continuing education and provides continuing education units (CEU) for its education programs which include the: annual professional development conference (PDC) and exposition (summer); the annual management symposium (winter/spring); the "hot topic" symposium (fall); SeminarFest, an annual collection of

safety seminars (winter); ASSE "Certificate in Safety Management" and "Executive Program in Safety Management" seminars; examination preparation workshops to support professional certification; self-study programs; and, on-site seminars exportable to clients and corporations.

ASSE publishes technical and management books, available for members and the public to purchase.

Setting Educational Standards for Advancing Environmental Professionals

Secondary Education -- ASSE advances opportunities in occupational safety and health education by helping set educational standards and increasing the number of these programs at the undergraduate and graduate collegiate levels. As a member of the Applied Science Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), ASSE's Educational Standard Committee establishes safety curriculum critical for associate, baccalaureate and master's degree programs in safety. ASSE program evaluators visit schools to accredit their safety programs. The Educational Standards Committee page on the ASSE

www.asse.org web site has more information and guidelines.

Making a Difference -- ASSE annually honors outstanding accomplishments in the profession. The highest ASSE honor, the Society Fellow, recognizes individuals with significant and career-wide contributions to the profession and to ASSE. Other awards include the Edgar Monsanto Queeny Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award and the Dr. William E. Tarrants Outstanding Safety Educator of the Year Award. For a full listing visit www.asse.org.

Additional ASSE Resources

Other ASSE Resources Include:

- *Professional Safety*, ASSE's monthly peer-reviewed journal featuring in-depth articles that cover a wide range of cutting-edge topics and focuses on innovative research and analysis of successful, real-world applications
- *Members Only* section of the Society's website (www.asse.org) offers ASSE members online access to the membership directory and network-enhancing listserves as well as safety, health and environmental information
- *Society Update*, ASSE's e-newsletter, shares the latest news, activities, upcoming events and member achievements
- www.nexsteps.org, an online career center where employers can post safety, health and environmental jobs or internships and where members can post resumes and find career counseling information