The Utility Connection

Message from the Chair

ASSE is using social media as an additional means of furthering the profession. The Society, Council on Practices & Standards as well as each of the practice specialties and branches have pages on Facebook and LinkedIn. Now, I never thought I would say this, but it appears that I am somewhat out of touch when it comes to this technology. In fact, I have shunned it. I have a personal Facebook page that I rarely visit or update. I only created the account so that I could look at my brother’s sailing pictures he posts there. It seems that LinkedIn is the forum that many of us prefer to use for professional communications. We have 275 members on LinkedIn while we only have a few friends on Facebook.

LinkedIn gets some good activity and discussions. Our Publication Coordinator Michael Carter has posted a poll to determine what topics you want to read about in our publication, The Utility Connection. Recently, members have posted questions and have received answers on atmospheric testing in sewers, using unmanned aerial devices to survey transmission towers, soft-tissue injury reduction programs and more. I encourage you to join us on LinkedIn and Facebook. Look for more on this front as the Society will soon have a new Social Media Intern to assist us with making these points of contact more user-friendly and meaningful to our membership. But, it will not work without you joining in.

Our membership is now more than 500, that magic number where we meet the minimum size to become a full practice specialty. We have been under the tutelage of the Construction Practice Specialty since our inception 3 years ago. I think it is about time that we booted ourselves out of the nest and take flight. I sound like a broken record here, but we need you to contact your colleagues and encourage them to get involved and join our branch and get even more out of their membership than they ever expected.

On the future front, we are working to bring you more value for your membership. We are in the final stages of putting together a webinar. Although progress has been slow, we will announce a date shortly. We will also partner with the Public Sector and Fire Protection Practice Specialties to sponsor an Emergency Management Roundtable at Safety 2013.

Stephen D. Brooks

www.asse.org/ps/utilities
Working at Height: High-Wind Situations
By Michael K. Carter, CSP

Simply put, wind is air in motion. We have all seen the effects of wind, such as damaged homes, downed trees and
news/weather footage showing people leaning into the wind or debris flying through the air as a tornado or hurricane
approaches.

Workers who perform tasks that require work at heights, such as stack testing or wind
turbine maintenance, can certainly be exposed to fall hazards. Structures, such as
these, vary in height but can be well over 100 ft tall. Exposure to high winds may
make work at high elevations even more hazardous.

Have you ever stopped to think what guidance OSHA provides in regards to this
potential hazard?

OSHA 1910.269(x)(5) defines high winds as follows:

A wind of such velocity that the following hazards would be present:
• an employee would be exposed to being blown from elevated locations, or
• an employee or material handling equipment could lose control of material being handled, or
• an employee would be exposed to other hazards not controlled by the standard involved.

Note: Winds exceeding 40 mph (64.4 km per hour), or 30 mph (48.3 km per hour) if material handling is involved, are
normally considered as meeting this criteria unless precautions are taken to protect employees from the hazardous
effects of the wind.

Electric Power eTool: Glossary of Terms
Electric Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution

It appears that OSHA does not give wind speed guidance that addresses every situation. The responsibility to remove
workers from the elevation falls upon the employer. It comes down to making the decision to stop the work once it is
determined the wind is creating a dangerous situation for the workers.

Michael K. Carter, CSP, is a program assessment specialist, Safety Consultant, III at the Tennessee Valley Authority and
Publication Coordinator for ASSE’s Utilities Branch.
Interview with Jason Griffin

Why should outdoor workers take precautions against insects? What insects carry insect-borne diseases and what threats do they pose to human health?

Globally, malaria has the highest burden of all insect-borne diseases and has literally shaped the course of human history. But dengue fever, yellow fever and a host of other mosquito-borne diseases afflict tropical regions worldwide. The mosquito is the world’s deadliest animal, far outdoing sharks or big cats that capture our imagination when we think of deadly animals. In the U.S., Lyme disease is the highest risk, but other tick-borne diseases, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis, all pose significant threats. Mosquito-borne diseases, notably West Nile virus and dengue fever, are present in the U.S. as well. Outdoor workers face particularly high risks because they share their workspaces with these tiny creatures. It is a real shame when the work someone does leads to a disease that can affect their quality of life or can be fatal.

Does a warmer winter and spring mean more insects? Should people take greater precautions against them this year?

Many insects benefit from the warmer winter and early spring. Mosquito populations will probably be higher than normal for that reason. Tick and human encounters are predicted to be higher as well but primarily for a different reason. 2010 was a banner year for acorn production. This created a highly successful reproduction cycle for rodents and deer—ticks’ favorite hosts—and led to an increase in the tick population. However, last year saw the lowest acorn production in the past 20 years, making the rodent population crash. With more ticks and fewer of their normal hosts, it stands to reason that humans are at higher risk of tick-borne disease and therefore extra precautions are warranted.

How can workers tell if they have been bitten by an insect?

You generally cannot feel a tick or mosquito bite while it is taking place. While a mosquito bite will be obvious afterward, people often contract tick-borne diseases without having realized that a tick attached itself and fed on them. Lyme disease victims sometimes receive a bull’s eye-shaped rash around the area where the tick embedded; however, this is not always the case.

What are some of the best preventative practices outdoors worker can take to stay clear of insects?

Permethrin treatment of clothing, either done at home or with pretreated clothing, offers some unique benefits. Once treated, the clothing provides passive insect protection, meaning there is no need to reapply it throughout the day. DEET-based repellent is effective, but you must carefully follow the directions. The effectiveness may be limited to a few hours, so you will need to keep reapplying. Always choose insect repellents that have been registered by EPA. When it is practical, insect control at worksites can be effective.

What types of workers (industries) have the highest risk of insect intrusion? What environments are most susceptible to disease-carrying insects?

Any industry that sends workers into tropical regions needs to be aware of malaria and other tropical mosquito-borne diseases. Oil and gas and mining companies are an example of these industries. In the U.S., forestry companies and utilities have a large proportion of their workforce operating outdoors. Ticks prefer moist areas with high grass or leaves, and mosquitoes typically breed in stagnant, fresh water. The presence of breeding sites will lead to increased mosquito populations.

How does Insect Shield apparel protect workers?

Permethrin has been registered and sold as a clothing-applied insect repellent since the 1980s and has an excellent record. Do-it-yourself permethrin lasts a few weeks or a few washes, after which clothing must be retreated. Insect Shield was first registered by EPA in 2003. Insect Shield’s proprietary treatment process binds permethrin to clothing in a way that makes it effective through 70 washes, which is beyond the life of most garments. Insects sense the permethrin and either drop off (crawling insect like ticks) or fly away (flying insects like mosquitoes).

How did the idea for Insect Shield originate?

The U.S. Army did some of the early development with permethrin and the military originally introduced it to us. But our founders always felt the applications went far beyond military uses and applied to anyone who spends time outdoors.
How do you measure its effectiveness?
Field studies show that permethrin-treated clothing can prevent more than 97% of mosquito bites and more than 99% of tick attachments. Since these are expensive and time-consuming to conduct, a simple lab test known as a “knockdown test” is widely accepted and used by the World Health Organization, CDC and EPA.

What agencies has Insect Shield partnered with to create and promote this product? How has your partnership enhanced the product to better protect workers?
We work closely with EPA on an ongoing basis. NIOSH has also awarded a grant to researchers based at the University of North Carolina’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. The study will look at the ability of Insect Shield-treated uniforms to prevent ticks bites for outdoor workers in several state government capacities. Such studies help prove and quantify the level of protection that Insect Shield provides and also help raise awareness of the product.

Are health risks associated with Insect Shield repellent apparel?
Risk analysis has been performed on the product, and it falls well within EPA’s accepted levels. Permethrin has been sold in the U.S. for decades, and it has a great safety record. The risks posed by insect-borne diseases dramatically outweigh any risk associated with wearing Insect Shield, in my opinion. My children wear it all of the time, and I feel good knowing that I am protecting them.

What do you see as the next big development in insect protection?
Several groups are working on a malaria vaccine, and some have shown promise; however, any commercially available vaccine is many years away. Other researchers are studying whether mosquitoes can be genetically engineered in ways that would limit their ability to reproduce or otherwise compromise their ability to spread disease.

Jason Griffin is president of Insect Shield International, LLC, which he joined October 2002. With strategic oversight of several new company initiatives, he acts as the principle conduit between the marketing group based in Seattle, WA, and the plant operations and company headquarters in Greensboro, NC. He also heads the Insect Shield work wear program. Prior to joining Insect Shield, Griffin served in many management positions at Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc., headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK. Most recently, he served as the national sales director. Griffin holds a B.S. in Engineering Science/Management of Technology from Vanderbilt University and is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School.

Can You Spot the Hazard?
Although the floor is plainly marked, the area has become a bicycle parking and ladder storage area. 29 CFR 1910.303 (g)(1) states that “sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment.”
Solar Energy Hazards

Solar is a growing sector for green energy and green jobs. Various worker health and safety hazards exist in the manufacture, installation and maintenance of solar energy. Employers working in the solar energy business need to protect their workers from workplace hazards, and workers need to understand how to protect themselves from hazards.

Two commercially viable solar energy sectors are solar electric and solar thermal or solar water heating.

Solar Electric
Solar energy can be converted into electricity using photovoltaics (PV) or concentrating solar power (CSP). PV systems are the most common and use semi-conductors and sunlight to make electricity. The more solar modules a PV system or array has, the more electricity will be generated. Materials presently used for photovoltaics include monocrystalline silicon, polycrystalline silicon, microcrystalline silicon, cadmium telluride and copper indium selenide/sulfide.

Solar Thermal or Solar Water Heaters
Types of solar water heating systems include direct and indirect (glycol) systems and are chosen largely by climate; freezing temperatures can damage some types.

Hazards & Controls
Workers in the solar energy industry are potentially exposed to a variety of serious hazards, such as arc flashes (which include arc flash burn and blast hazards), electric shock, falls and thermal burn hazards that can cause injury and death. Solar energy employers (connecting to grid) are covered by the electric power generation, transmission and distribution standards and therefore may be required to implement the safe work practices and worker training requirements of OSHA's Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Standard, 29 CFR 1910.269. While solar energy is a growing industry, the hazards are not unique, and OSHA has many standards that cover them.

Resources for Workers in the Solar Energy Industry
- Falls
- Lockout/Tagout
- Crane & Hoist Safety
- Electrical
- Heat/Cold Stress
- PPE
- Solar Construction Safety (a report by the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association)

Fatalities/Incidents
Several fatalities and incidents have occurred in the solar energy industry.

Publication Archives

Remember, practice specialty, branch and common Interest group publications are archived in the Members Only section under Resources. Find past publications for all of the groups you belong to in one place!
Impact of Sleep on Safety Performance

By Howard W. Spencer, CSP

Sleep deprivation is reported to be the most common clinical problem faced today. Surveys have shown that approximately one third of the world’s population has at some time in their lives suffered from lack of sleep. At least 84 disorders of sleeping and waking lead to a lowered quality of life and reduced personal health. They endanger public safety by contributing to traffic and industrial accidents. These disorders can lead to problems falling asleep and staying asleep, difficulties staying awake or staying with a regular sleep/wake cycle, sleepwalking and other problems that interfere with sleep.

Some sleep disorders can be life-threatening. A recent U.S. Army study concluded sleep deprivation reduces emotional intelligence and constructive thinking skills. Other short-term consequences include:

- Decreased daytime alertness. Loss of just 1.5 hours sleep results in a 32% reduction in daytime alertness
- Impaired memory and cognitive ability or the ability to think and process information
- More than double the risk of sustaining an occupational injury

Sleep apnea is a condition that causes lack of sleep due to breathing problems with the person getting breathless to such an extent that it will wake the person from his or her sleep. Research has identified a relationship between the sleep disorder known as obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and workplace accidents. Men with OSA have a 50% higher chance of being involved in industrial accidents, and the chances of male and female heavy snorers having occupational accidents is significantly higher than average. The American Lung Association reports that 1 out of 25 middle-aged men suffer from OSA. The website Medscape reports that an estimated 80% of Americans with OSA are not diagnosed.

Narcolepsy is another sleep disorder where a person experiences extreme sleepiness and may fall asleep almost instantly, wherever s/he may be. People with narcolepsy may suffer from intermittent episodes of falling asleep. Treatment requires a combination of interventions, such as using medications and behavioral counseling.

Two different factors influence one’s need for sleep: a person’s basal sleep need (the amount of sleep the body needs on a regular basis for optimal performance) and sleep debt (the accumulated sleep that is lost to poor sleep habits, sickness, awakenings due to environmental factors or other causes). Studies suggest that healthy adults have a basal sleep need of 7 to 8 hours every night.

Recent scientific research reveals that sleep loss, and even poor-quality sleep, can lead to an increase in errors at the workplace, decreased productivity and accidents that cost both lives and resources. Awareness can help improve sleep habits and in turn safety.

As the prevalence of inadequate sleep grows and the demands of the workplace change, it becomes increasingly critical that both management and safety practitioners recognize and take action to mitigate the impact that insufficient sleep has on safety and well-being. Some sleep experts advocate that sleep deprivation be recognized with the same seriousness associated with the impact of alcohol on society. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau reports, “After 17 to 19 hours without sleep, performance on some tests was equivalent or worse than that at 0.05% blood alcohol content.”

Howard W. Spencer, CSP, works for J.A. Montgomery Risk Control and is a member of ASSE’s Penn-Jersey Chapter.
OSHA Revises Exemption for Digger Derricks

OSHA has published a final rule that broadens the current exemption for digger derricks used in the electric utility industry. Digger derricks are pieces of equipment used to drill holes for utility poles. These digger derricks are commonly used by companies to place poles inside holes and to attach transformers and other items to the poles.

The digger derricks exemption is part of the Cranes and Derricks final standard that was issued Aug. 9, 2010. After publication of this standard, OSHA received comments about the scope of the exemption. Upon review of these comments, OSHA decided to revise the current exemption for digger derricks to cover all digger derrick use in the electric utility industry.

The rule will become effective Feb. 7, 2013. See the Federal Register notice for more details.

Utility Links

American Solar Energy Society
American Wind Energy Association
The Appraisal Foundation
Appraisal Institute
Association for Facilities Engineering
Association of Boards of Certification
Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity
Association of Edison Illuminating Companies
Association of Energy Engineers
Association of Energy Services Professionals
American Wind Energy Association
Association of Financial Guaranty Insurers
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Association of Power Exchanges
Association of Professional Energy Managers
Building Owners and Managers Association
Center for the Advancement of Energy Markets
Solar Energy Resource
Wind Farm Cited for Willful Safety Violations

Outland Renewable Services was issued six citations for willful safety violations after a wind farm technician suffered severe burns from an electrical arc flash on Oct. 20, 2010. OSHA issued the citations following an investigation at the Iberdrola Streator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm near Odell. The company, a servicing and maintenance provider in the wind tower industry, faces proposed penalties of $378,000.

“Green jobs are an important part of our economy, and sectors, such as wind energy, are growing rapidly. That growth comes with a continued responsibility for employers to ensure that workers’ health and safety are never compromised,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “Outland’s management was aware of the potentially hazardous conditions to which its workers could have been exposed and showed intentional disregard for employee safety by ignoring OSHA’s requirements for isolating energy sources during servicing operations. Employers must not cut corners at the expense of their workers’ safety.”

Outland Renewable Services was issued the citations for exposing maintenance technicians to electrical hazards from the unexpected energization of transformers in three wind turbine towers. A willful violation is one committed with intentional knowing or voluntary disregard for the law’s requirements or with plain indifference to worker safety and health.

On the day of the incident, Outland Renewable Services failed to ensure that technicians working in wind farm towers affixed their own energy isolation devices—also known as personal lock and tag devices—on the tower turbine switchgear at ground level. That created the possibility for other workers to energize transformers in the turbine towers, upon which technicians were working at a distance of approximately 350 ft above ground. The injured worker suffered third-degree burns to his neck, chest and arms and second-degree burns to the face as a result of an arc flash that occurred when a transformer was unexpectedly energized by another worker.

The egregious violations in this case fall under the requirements of OSHA’s Severe Violators Enforcement Program. Initiated in the spring of 2010, the program is intended to focus on employers that endanger workers by committing willful, repeat or failure-to-abate violations in one or more of the following circumstances: a fatality or catastrophe; industry operations or processes that expose workers to severe occupational hazards; exposure to hazards related to the potential releases of highly hazardous chemicals; and all per-instance citation (egregious) enforcement actions. Click here for more information about the Severe Violators Enforcement Program.

Outland Renewable Services’ corporate offices are located in Canaby, MN. This OSHA inspection was the first conducted at the Iberdrola Streator Caugya Ridge South Wind Farm.

To report workplace incidents, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, call OSHA’s toll-free hotline at (800) 321-OSHA (6742).

Hurricane Sandy Recovery Efforts

ASSE provides key information for post-Hurricane Sandy recovery and rebuilding efforts as well as emergency preparation tips. Information from federal agencies and the Red Cross includes activities commonly performed and provides detailed information about the hazards associated with those activities from OSHA, flooding and weather information, working in and around damaged buildings, industrial hygiene tips and much more. Click here for more information.

ASSE and OSHA seek PPE donations for Hurricane Sandy cleanup and recovery workers. Click here for more information on the PPE needed and contact information for sending donations.
Renewable Energy: A Need for Renewed Safety Compliance

By Paul J. Colangelo

While the economic downturn has had a negative effect on historically strong industries, such as construction and manufacturing, the renewable energy sector has grown rapidly. Along with this growth has been the realization of a significant increase in deaths and disabling injuries on renewable energy projects.

One recently published OSHA accident investigation highlights a major concern with renewable energy:

In 2010, workers were performing routine maintenance on a wind tower. During the maintenance procedure, one worker unexpectedly energized a transformer, causing an arc flash that directly exposed another worker to the direct blast. The injured worker suffered third-degree burns to his neck, chest and arms and second-degree burns to the face. OSHA cited the company for failure to ensure that technicians working on the wind tower followed control of hazardous energy procedures, commonly called lockout/tagout, on the tower turbine switchgear. In addition to the lifelong pain and suffering the victim must endure, and the life of guilt with which the coworker must live, OSHA issued the company six citations for willful safety violations with proposed fines totaling $378,000. This is just one example where OSHA-required safety training and procedures were not in place, resulting in a catastrophic event.

In a recent statement, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said, “Green jobs are an important part of our economy, and sectors, such as wind energy, are growing rapidly. That growth comes with a continued responsibility for employers to ensure that workers’ health and safety are never compromised. Employers must not cut corners at the expense of their workers’ safety.” Added Solis, “Our message is simple: Safety pays and falls cost. So plan, provide and train.”

OSHA requires that each of its “Focus Four” categories is included as primary training topics in the OSHA 10-hour training course. These “Focus Four” topics represent the four leading causes of preventable death in the construction industry. The categories representing the highest fatality rates are falls, electrical hazards, struck-by and caught-in-between hazards. Each of these four “high risk” hazards is present during all photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind tower construction projects, large and small. Many states, such as California, have started a “Green Energy” safety focus based on the number and severity of injuries that occur. State inspectors across the U.S. are finding an increasing trend in the lack of proactive safety planning/job hazard analysis, availability of PPE, employee training and a host of other areas of noncompliance. OSHA has taken note of this as well, and they are effectively and justifiably educating their compliance officers on renewable energy hazards.

Protecting Your Employees & Your Company

The development and implementation of a quality safety program is a minimum requirement for any company owner or leader who seeks to run a reputable business. By far, the best companies ensure that they hire experienced workers and train them in safe work procedures and all safety requirements before they are allowed to enter a hazardous work environment, such as a construction site. Taking the time and effort to ensure that your safety program is effective and engaging your employees in the overall safety program is the best defense possible against preventable injuries and incidents.

What other processes do successful companies use to protect their employees and reduce their overall risks? Proven methods of protecting employees and reducing overall risk that your competition is probably using include:

Fall Prevention: Pre-Job & Pre-Task Planning

This includes site-specific safety plans, fall protection plans, pre-task plans, job hazard analysis and any other tool designed to identify and mitigate worksite fall hazards. Planning safety into your work will prevent injuries and incidents.

For example, many renewable energy projects are loaded with fall protection hazards. Although a variety of fall preventive and protective systems are available, many times, they are never procured, not used in a proper or effective manner or the fall hazards are ignored all together. For flat rooftops, warning lines at 6 ft have been used as a cost-effective solution. However, that is a roofing-only solution, and the 6 ft setback rule does not apply to the renewable energy sector. Portable guardrails are by far the most effective and less restrictive solution. Many manufacturers and providers offer rent-to-own programs for this equipment. For all rooftop types, personal fall arrest
and restraint systems also offer significant protection; however, employee training and proper use must always be a top priority as many fall victims are found wearing their fall harness, neglecting to “tie off” before their exposure to a fall.

Due to the complex nature of many PV, solar thermal and wind tower projects, there is no one-manufacturer-and-model-fits-all solution for fall protection and restraint systems. Renewable energy providers must take a serious look at the harnesses, specialized anchorage attachments, (such as mobile fall protection carts), associated equipment and employee training when planning for these projects.

System Design
More renewable energy providers, especially those engaged in photovoltaic installations, are faced with an ongoing struggle in attempting to engineer fall hazards out of a project, but knowing that precious roof space is vital to a system’s capacity, that option is not always feasible. Designing safety into a rooftop as built is always a wise choice. Examples include keeping a 10- to 15-ft setback from all exposed roof edges, and including fall protection and skylight protection barrier graphics would greatly and proactively assist project managers in preparing for these hazards. Also, many inverter manufacturers have already begun to engineer smart safety designs into their equipment.

Electrical Hazards & NFPA 70E
Electrical hazards are prevalent on all renewable energy sites. Many of the personnel working on these projects have heard of lockout/tagout but do not know about compliance with NFPA 70E. NFPA 70E is a consensus standard authored and published by the National Fire Protection Association. If you are not enforcing NFPA 70E’s requirements, your employees and your company are taking unnecessary risks. Educating yourself in the methods and protections required under this important standard is critical. Many new changes have been published in the new 2012 NFPA 70E standard that affect qualified person verification, written job hazard analysis, AC and DC arc flash, incident energy calculations, establishing correct flash boundaries, lockout/tagout, PPE, labeling and design.

Struck By & Caught In Between
When you take into account the high volume of equipment operating on renewable energy projects, combined with the large number of employees and subcontractor personnel presence, struck-by and caught-in-between hazards are of constant concern. Struck-by and caught-in-between hazard awareness training and equipment operator training and certification are crucial to eliminate these preventable injuries. In addition, with the amount of crane activity always in progress, companies must educate their staff on OSHA’s Subpart CC crane standard.

Effective Safety Cultures Start with Leadership
To establish an effective safety culture, business owners and company leaders must include effective safety requirements in their bids. An assumption that all work will be performed safely and with regard to compliance does nothing to ensure that a safe project will result. Include all employees in the creation and education of the safety program; allow them to have a voice and support that safety program with management presence (not supervision) in the field often enough to solicit their feedback and concerns with regard to safety. Always provide positive recognition to those employees who are following and supporting the rules and provide coaching and mentoring to those who do not. An effective reward and recognition program is critical to show appreciation and value to those that help provide a safe workplace. A fair and consistent disciplinary system is also needed to ensure that those who do not or will not comply with the safety program do.

Subcontractor Management
This could be one of the biggest areas that if improved upon would significantly reduce the occurrences of project incidents and injuries. Many renewable energy companies have now shifted to a subcontractor turnkey model for commercial projects and have found themselves engaged in one of two battles. The first is making the mistake of thinking that once a project is handed off to a subcontractor, your safety responsibility is handed off as well. For those who feel that is the case, I highly encourage them to review OSHA’s Multiple Employer Worksite Citation Policy, especially regarding correcting and controlling employer responsibility. The second understands that many of these subcontractors are inexperienced with renewable energy projects and fail to recognize common safety hazards that exist on these projects.
Leadership States & Organizations

Many states, like Oregon, have established associations, such as the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association, by stepping up their attention and commitment to the renewable energy sector with cutting-edge safety information. OSHA has focused on its green energy initiative, and many helpful links are available on its Green Jobs website. Other organizations, such as the American Wind Energy Association, are working with OSHA and NIOSH in its research and development on wind tower safety. More information can be found at www.AWEA.org.

Renewable energy has raced its way into the mainstream and has become the beacon of hope for clean energy solutions worldwide. However, do not forget that safety and its associated gamut of endless hazards do not turn a blind eye to any industry, no matter how politically or fundamentally popular in its application. The first word in renewable is renew, and renew is that exact ideology we must all apply toward safety compliance for each and every one of these projects.

Paul Colangelo is the national director of compliance programs at ClickSafety. Colangelo is responsible for the operations of the compliance programs department. He leads compliance programs product development, manages daily program operations and partners with sales personnel to enhance customer safety programs. He is a certified AHA core instructor with 13 years’ experience as an accredited OSHA outreach 10- and 30-hour construction program trainer and is obtaining ARM and CHST certifications. He has more than 20 years’ experience as safety director, manager and consultant to construction, telecommunications, utility and renewable energy sectors. He has created and delivered many outreach and specialized training programs across the country.

Poster Contest

Children ages 5-14 will have the opportunity to illustrate the importance of safety by entering the 11th annual ASSE kids’ Safety on the Job poster contest. The contest aims to teach children about the importance of being safe at work and what occupational safety, health and environmental professionals do to protect people, property and the environment. The contest is open to all children sponsored by an ASSE member. ASSE members can sponsor family members, schools and the children of their coworkers. Those seeking an ASSE member to request sponsorship can check with their local ASSE chapter by clicking here or by sending an e-mail to customerservice@asse.org.

The winning poster from each of the five age groups is featured on the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week poster distributed worldwide, at NAOSH Week events and at Safety 2013. The five grand-prize winners and 15 runners-up each receive prizes and are recognized at NAOSH kickoff events in May 2013 and worldwide through ASSE communications and publications. The posters that best illustrate safety on the job will win the contest. Click here for contest rules and information. Entries are due by February 14, 2013.
Thanks to Our Sponsor!

Practice Specialties Scholarship

The practice specialties sponsor a Professional Development Conference (PDC) Scholarship. This scholarship provides a full PDC experience, including airfare, hotel, meals and registration. Currently, two $1,200 awards are given each year.

Please consider making a personal tax-deductible donation to keep this scholarship funded.

If your company has a matching donation program, you could double your contribution. To contribute, click “donate now” below and note “PDC Scholarship” in the “Other” field. Checks can also be made payable to the ASSE Foundation marked “PDC Scholarship” in the memo section and mailed to: ASSE Foundation, Attn: Mary Goranson, 1800 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL 60018.
Upcoming Live Webinars

**Higher-Level Safety for Both Aging & Younger Workers: Mindsets & Skillsets for a Sustainable Workforce**
January 23, 2013, 11:00 am-12:30 pm (CST)

**Miner’s Rights & Supervisor Responsibilities: Understand the “New Rules”**
February 13, 2013, 11:00 am-12:30 pm (CST)
Brought to you by the Mining Practice Specialty

**Best Practices in Industrial Hygiene**
March 20, 2013, 11:00 am-12:30 pm (CDT)

On-Demand

**Workplace Wellness Web Fest**
Brought to you by the Health & Wellness Branch

**Rethink Safety**

**Changing Behaviors**

**The CSP Experience**

**Convergence: The Role of Safety in Sustainability**

**Best Practices in Fire Safety Virtual Symposium**
Brought to you by the Fire Protection Practice Specialty

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Safety 2013

**Suggested Sessions**
The Power of Water: Assessing Your Risk of Water-Related Perils & Formulating a Response Plan
June 25, 2013, 10:30-11:45 am

Industrial Electrical Safety Inspections
June 25, 2013, 3:15-4:15 pm

Worksite Stretching Programs: Five Key Processes for Continuous Improvement
 June 25, 2013, 4:30-5:30 pm

Understanding NFPA 70E & the Arc Flash Hazard
June 26, 2013, 1:00-2:00 pm

Renewable Energy: Renewing the Commitment to Safety Compliance
June 26, 2013, 3:00-4:15 pm

**Utilities Roundtable**
Emergency Management
June 26, 2013, 4:30-5:30 pm

**Utilities Event**
Open Meeting & Networking Event
June 25, 2013, After Hours, Off-Site (more information to come)

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Best of the Best

The 2011-12 Best of the Best publication is available to members of ASSE’s practice specialties, branches and common interest groups.
Click here to view this compilation of top technical material.

Visit www.asse.org/ps for more information on the groups represented in this publication or www.asse.org/JoinGroups to get the most out of your ASSE membership by adding a practice specialty.
Welcome New Members

We want to thank everyone who has remained a loyal member of the Utilities Branch and welcome the following members who recently joined. We currently have more than 500 members. If you have any colleagues who might be interested in joining the branch, please contact Krista Sonneson to request an information packet. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining ASSE, please contact customer service.

Mohanad Abdullah, RC
Tyrone Anderson, Sturgeon Electric
Sam Arredondo
Shankara Babu, NRG Energy Services, Inc.
Preston Ballentine, National Steel City LLC
Ronald Benton
Bruce Boales
James Borchardt, Bituminous Insurance Co.
Dana Cooper
Michael Costantino, Sales Solutions Inc.
Benjamin Crossman
Donald Davids
Neal Davis, PSE&G
Jeremy Denton
Gayle Dowdy, Cox Communications
Richard Fann
Wilson Frazier, Caldwell Tanks, Inc.
Russell Goldmann, Klein Tools, Inc.
Michael Harbaugh, Protective Testing
Edward Hartmann
Christina Heath
Michael Jacobs, Tualatin Valley Water District
Matthew Janet, Pacific Gas & Electric
James Kane
Kriashan Kant
William Kramer, Integrated Risk Solutions
Gordon Kroemer
William McCaffrey, Kinsley Construction Inc.
Kenneth Meyer, CDM Constructors Inc.
Vera Michler
Jodi Mulligan
Richard Musicant, United Water New Jersey
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