International Contractor Safety

IOSH-ASSE Joint Forum: Global Best Practices in Contractor Safety

Nearly 100 practitioners from the construction, toy, pharmaceutical, oil and telecommunication industries representing multinational organizations attended the first-ever joint international safety forum between ASSE’s International Practice Specialty and the British Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).

Held recently in London, England, the forum focused on best practices in the U.K. and U.S. for managing contractor construction safety in the global workplace. Topics included U.K. Construction Design and Management Regulations (a global best practice) and challenges/solutions for managing contractors from an owner’s and contractor’s perspective. The forum, which was held at the Institute of Materials in London, also featured roundtable discussions on key contractor safety and health issues.

“As construction is on the rise throughout the world, contractor safety is a major international concern for safety and health professionals in the global manufacturing, service and construction sectors,” Kathy Seabrook, CSP, RSP (UK), ASSE’s Vice President of Practices and Standards, says. “As our world becomes a seam-

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Professional Safety Academy

ASSE and the Council on Professional Development (CoPD) continue to embark on a number of new professional development programs. To provide you with timely, high-quality educational opportunities that are responsive to your needs, ASSE restructured the delivery of its education programs and now delivers these programs through the Professional Safety Academy (PSA).

Serving as the conduit for all of ASSE’s professional development activities, PSA provides the Society’s members and the profession with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to enhance their professional standing and achieve their professional and career goals.

Through PSA, ASSE will continue to offer an ambitious seminar schedule, as well as three special programs in the coming year:
- Controlling Health Risks in the Workplace: Solutions for the Safety, Health and Environmental Professional. Nov. 16-17, 2000, Scottsdale, AZ.

Via the PSA, the Society will continue to offer certification preparation workshops for the CSP, ASP, OHST and CHST, as well as the courses needed to earn ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management. New courses and events will be introduced in areas such as safety management, business skills, environmental safety, construction and facility management and professional skills training. These and more will be offered as “hot topic” seminars and symposia.

Periodically, I will report on PSA’s many new programs and products.

Safety 2001: Advancing the EH&S Profession

Also under the PSA umbrella is ASSE’s professional development conference (PDC). Next year’s conference is “Safety 2001: Advancing the EH&S Profession.” The program will challenge you as a professional and provide new career development tools. Attendees will learn the key issues facing EH&S professionals, improve their technical skills and knowledge, prepare for the challenges in safety, health and the environment, share experiences with others in the profession, and contribute to the professional discourse on safety, health and the environment.

This past year’s conference was outstanding with two dynamic and informative general sessions, more than 80 concurrent educational sessions (an increase of 15 percent over the previous year) and a special program for entry-level professionals on the fundamentals of safety and health. The conference proceedings were offered in CD-ROM format, representing the best snapshot of safety, health and environmental information to be found anywhere. Our pre- and post-conference seminars offered 31 courses, 11 of which were new.


Technical Publications

ASSE continues to be an important publisher in the EH&S field through the efforts of many dedicated authors and the Technical Publications Advisory Committee. The following books will be published between October 2000 and January 2001:

(continued on page 4)
Now Open: Online Resource Center

The ASSE Resource Center, the latest addition to the Society’s website, is open for business. Launched in October, the site allows visitors to register online for professional development opportunities, such as SeminarFest, and purchase books, self-study courses, ASSE-published ANSI standards and software titles, including the 2000 Professional Development Conference Proceedings on CD-ROM. Visitors may also apply for membership, subscribe to Professional Safety or purchase ASSE insignia items online.

“Technology is here to stay,” says ASSE’s webmaster Jon Schwerman. “This e-commerce system allows members and nonmembers unrestricted access to ASSE’s products and services, allowing them to reach the Society 24/7/365, from any time zone.”

“This service is a resource not just for members but for the profession at large,” adds Kelly Fanella, ASSE’s director of marketing and communications. “It allows members another option—aside from using the phone, fax or mail—for purchasing ASSE products or registering for courses. In addition, it provides an opportunity for the Society to reach a larger audience of potential members.”

To visit the center, go to www.asse.org and click the “Shop Online” banner on the homepage.

Cutting-Edge Educational Opportunities

SeminarFest: Jan. 7-13 in San Diego

In today’s fast-paced work environment, taking time away from work to pursue professional development can be a challenge—particularly when you need to take several courses.

SeminarFest is a great way to meet this challenge. This week-long event, which will be held Jan. 7-13, 2001, at the Hyatt Islandia Hotel in San Diego, will feature a wide selection of the Society’s professional development seminars, ranging from one to three days in length and covering technical, management and skill-development topics such as:

• ASP/CSP/OHST/CHST certification preparation workshops;
• required courses for the ASSE Certificate in Safety Management;
• business communication and leadership skills;
• benchmarking and global safety management;
• industrial hygiene, electrical hazards, hazard analysis, safety audits and lock-out/tagout.

Attendees can earn up to 4.9 COCs, which are needed for CSP maintenance, and CM points are available for most classes as well. In addition, by registering for three days of education in any combination of one-, two- or three-day seminars, attendees will receive a $50 discount off each additional seminar over the original three days.

To register online, visit www.asse.org and click the Resource Center button, or call ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

Fresh Perspectives on Behavioral Safety

Debate continues to surround behavioral safety and its role in today’s diverse work environments. This debate raises many questions: How is a behavioral safety intervention best implemented? Who are (or should be) the key players? What are the true outcomes?

To help practitioners answer these questions, ASSE has assembled a dynamic slate of experts in the field for its upcoming symposium, “Behavioral Safety: The Next Step,” which will be held Feb. 15-16, 2001, in Orlando, FL. The symposium will examine new directions for BBS, how to select the best safety management approach and ways to increase implementation effectiveness.

The program will open with a keynote address by Dr. Robert Epstein, editor-in-chief of Psychology Today, and will offer 14 concurrent sessions focusing on best practices as well as the outcomes of actual implementations. Featured speakers will include Dan Petersen, Tom Krause, Scott Geller, Larry Hansen, David Sarkus, Michael Topf, Terry McSween, Steve Simon, Robert Pater and Judith Erickson. Union views of BBS will also be addressed. James Slaton will detail a successful implementation that took place at a union petroleum plant. Voicing an opposing view will be Jim Frederick and Jim Howe, who will examine this approach from the employee’s perspective.

Registrants will earn 1.2 CEUs/COCs, and the Society has applied for CM points and credits from the American Assn. of Occupational Health Nurses. For more information, visit www.asse.org. To register, contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.
Anaheim To Host 2001 PDC

Considered the premier professional development opportunity for environmental, health and safety (EHS) professionals, ASSE’s Professional Development Conference (PDC)—Safety 2001: Advancing the EH&S Profession—will be held June 10-13, 2001, at the Anaheim (CA) Convention Center. Featuring acclaimed general session speakers, the 2001 PDC is an excellent opportunity to network with more than 4,000 safety professionals, as well as corporate safety and health directors and managers, safety service providers, safety researchers and government agency representatives.

New for 2001 are special pre-conference CSP and ASP exam preparation and math review workshops. More than 100 educational sessions and one-, two- and three-day pre- and post-conference seminars will be available. In addition, the latest in EHS products and services will be demonstrated by more than 300 exhibitors. And while in Anaheim, you can visit one of the many attractions, including Disney’s new California Adventure theme park.

For more information, visit www.asse.org, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929. Mark your calendars—see you in Anaheim!

Self-Study Programs Offer Alternative

24/7. That phrase reflects many things today—including work. Some days, no matter how much you do, nothing is ever finished and there’s always something new coming through the door. Besides keeping you busy, this schedule offers you little time to pursue professional development—particularly if it involves time away from the office.

ASSE has a solution: Self-study courses. The Society currently offers three self-study courses—ergonomics, industrial hygiene, and occupational safety and health—designed to help today’s safety professionals reach skill development goals on their own time and at their own pace. Each course kit includes test booklets with chapter-driven multiple-choice questions; answer sheet forms; grading service; proctored summary exam and grading (upon request); and a certificate of completion. Enrollees who pass the proctored summary exam are also eligible to receive CEUs or American Council on Education (ACE) college credit recommendations. (No CEUs are available for the occupational safety and health course; however, it does offer recommended college credit.) Course questions are based on recommendations of practicing safety professionals and have been reviewed for technical accuracy and educational value.

In addition, all courses have been independently reviewed by a panel of professional safety educators through ACE.

For more information about course content and cost, visit www.asse.org/tsecu.htm or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

A Letter from the VP, CoPD

(continued from page 2)


These efforts are only the beginning. The Council will continue to review new programs and delivery media to provide a variety of professional development opportunities and meet the diverse and demanding needs of ASSE members and the profession.

All of these programs began as an idea or suggestion from an ASSE member. (Some ideas and suggestions take longer than others to become a reality; but most usually do.) Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with council members, your regional vice president, chapter officers and ASSE staff. Consider us your career partner as we strive to improve our service to members and the profession.

I welcome your comments, suggestions, recommendations and concerns. You can contact me at (716) 282-4890; fax (716) 285-0835; e-mail brettcsp@prodigy.net; or through ASSE headquarters, (847) 699-2929.

Yours in Safety!

J. Brett Carruthers, CSP
Vice President, Council on Professional Development

Did You Know...?

**Dictionary of Terms Used in the Safety Profession, 4th Edition.**

**Available January 2001.**


Did you know that you can change your membership classification from member to professional member? If your job responsibilities have changed, you have completed a degree program, or have become certified as a CSP since joining ASSE, you may be eligible to reclassify as a professional member. Professional membership requires:

- Anticipate, identify and evaluate hazardous conditions and practices.
- Develop hazard control designs, methods, procedures and programs.
- Implement, administer and advise others on hazard controls and hazard control programs.
- Measure, audit and evaluate the effectiveness of hazard controls and hazard control programs.

Those interested in reclassifying as a professional member must complete and submit an application along with a $15 reclassification fee. For more information, contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.
Keynote speaker Rodger Evans, Head of Construction for the U.K.’s Health and Safety Executive, discussed a partnership approach to changing the culture of the construction industry. He noted that in recent years, the client’s role in deterring safety and health standards has become increasingly important, and that clients increasingly recognize the importance of taking an active interest in construction site safety and health. In addition, Evans said that while the contractor is pivotal in ensuring good site safety and health practices and in managing risk, everyone in the construction chain plays a critical role in reducing loss of life, injuries and ill health.

The Problems
By its very nature, construction exposes people to a higher risk of injury than most other industrial sectors. Successfully managing those risks in a constantly changing environment poses special challenges, Evans stated. To highlight this, he pointed to several endemic problems that face the construction industry.

Steps That Can Be Taken
Industry can promote the excellent work done by trade associations, not only in terms of the product, but also the safety and health issues and the practical (and cost) implications of their decisions on others. This reflects a failure to address safety and health in professional and tertiary education.

Good Neighbor Scheme. This initiative invites stakeholders to share good safety and health practices. It asks contractors, suppliers and others to be good neighbors to those they work alongside. The campaign encompasses “Revitalizing Health and Safety,” a national campaign to raise the profile of safety and health and promote better working conditions. As part of this initiative, the government has set the following targets, which are to be achieved by 2010—30-percent reduction in days lost from work-related injuries/illnesses; 20-percent reduction in incidence rate of work-related illnesses; 10-percent reduction in fatal and major injury incidence rate.

Advisory Committees. In the U.K., the Health and Safety Commission’s Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) plays a pivotal role in delivering the targets and is actively engaged in setting specific targets for the construction industry. In the U.S., the OSHA Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health serves in a similar capacity.

Enforcement. According to Evans, the U.K. government has recognized that the current penalty structure does not adequately deter some employers from putting employees at risk. He stated that ministers are determined to make financial penalties more stringent by including new penalties such as the disqualification of directors. “Safety and health often does not rank with other factors in the minds of directors and senior managers,” Evans said, noting, however, that current proposals on manslaughter, corporate killing, sentencing and the responsibilities of named directors for safety and health are raising safety and health up the corporate agenda.

Working Well Together. Through CONIAC, the Health and Safety Commission has developed a flagship campaign—Working Well Together. This industry-led initiative seeks to secure commitments from all stakeholders to take further action to improve safety and health in their organizations. Evans challenged forum attendees to participate. “We need an industry that has a culture of safety first. Safety should be second nature, not a second thought,” he said.

The International Forum on Contractors Safety was the best conference I have attended in my 34 years in the industry. It provided an opportunity to network with worldwide safety professionals who experience similar safety and health concerns. A wealth of information and experience was shared—all with the goal of resolving safety concerns. It was eye-opening to learn that many problems thought to be specific to this country are, in fact, global issues.

Gary Buffington, CSP, CRSP, CSHM, American Safety Consulting, Los Angeles, CA, is a safety consultant and expert in construction safety. He has more than 30 years’ experience in the construction and mining industries. He is a professional member of ASSE and the Administrator for the Society’s Mining Practice Specialty.
Creating New Paths to Success was the theme for the Society’s 2000 Leadership Conference, which was held Oct. 6-7 in Chicago. Some 93 leaders representing 61 chapters attended the conference to discuss chapter operations; learn how to select and motivate volunteers; hone their leadership skills; network with peers; and receive guidance from ASSE’s top elected and staff leaders.

With a focus on proven strategies in chapter and practice specialty administration, this year’s program featured a new general session on growing a world-class chapter; daily breakout sessions (based on chapter size); and roundtable discussions. Attendees learned effective ways to handle day-to-day chapter/region operations; recruit and retain members; select education topics and develop program schedules; and perform needs assessments. Also new this year was a “Saturday Breakfast With Your Region Vice President,” during which region members could network and share ideas for improving region operations and communication. For additional photos of the conference, visit www.asse.org.

To win raffle items, attendees were asked to answer questions about what they had learned at the conference. Linda Rhodes, CSP (right), Leadership Conference Task Force member, helped emcee the raffle.

The executive board of the Philadelphia Chapter had a tremendous time at the past Leadership Conference in Chicago. It is our opinion that we, as a chapter, are on the verge of becoming a “World Class Chapter” of ASSE. The staff deserves much credit on running a great program.

Earl L. Lightman, Philadelphia Chapter President

Dynamic Sessions by Top Society Leaders

American Society of Safety Engineers
To Fred Fortman:
You and the staff of ASSE raised the bar of performance again on the recent Leadership Conference. My Region III members were extremely amazed by the organization and delivery of information over a short period of time. The theme-oriented conference added fun to this information packed time.
On behalf of those Region III chapter members/officers and me, THANK YOU!
Mike Thompson, Region III VP

Breakout Sessions, Workshops & Roundtable Discussions

Network Opportunities

First-Ever AIHA/ASSE Joint Leadership Conference Slated for October 2001

In a continuing effort to foster the development and expertise of their respective members, ASSE and the American Industrial Hygiene Assn. (AIHA) will hold their first-ever joint leadership conference in St. Petersburg, FL, October 4-6, 2001. Previously conducted separately, the conference joins ASSE’s Leadership Conference and AIHA’s Leadership Training Workshop, and will bring together volunteer leaders of both societies for collaboration at the national level.

An estimated 200 leaders from around the country are expected to attend. “This cooperative effort is a direct outcome of the AIHA/ASSE memorandum of understanding, which calls for us to work together on matters of mutual interest,” says Susan Eget, ASSE’s director of member and region affairs. “It is a first step toward a more cooperative future.” Vicky Yopb, AIHA team leader of member services, says, “This collaboration is a perfect opportunity to bring volunteer leaders of both organizations together to better serve industrial hygiene and occupational safety and health professionals.”
Blackman Inducted Into Safety & Health Hall of Fame

ASSE professional member emeritus Alfred C. Blackman, P.E., CSP, has been inducted into the Safety and Health Hall of Fame International, dedicated to recognizing acclaimed leaders and pioneers for their innovative contributions to the safety, health and environmental industry worldwide.

Blackman entered the safety field in 1931 as a field safety engineer for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., and is lauded for his rational approach to distinguishing between a machine design defect and a fault in the machine’s use. While serving as chief of industrial safety for the State of California, he promoted the importance of environmental hazard control, education of workers and evaluation of procedures related to the prevention of accidents and injuries.

A 56-year member of ASSE, Blackman started the Engineers’ Professional Development Project of ASSE in the early 1960s, was instrumental in forming the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and has served as resident engineer in guiding safety activity for National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Named a Fellow of ASSE in 1986, Blackman is also internationally recognized as an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Industrial Safety Officers, U.K.

ASSE Members Honored for Distinguished Service

Regarded the highest honor presented to individuals for outstanding service in the safety field, several ASSE members were recently presented the National Safety Council’s Distinguished Service to Safety Award. Selected by their peers, the recipients are responsible for saving countless lives. This award recognizes their longstanding commitment to public safety.

- Alaska Chapter member Herbert E. Everett, director of safety and workers’ compensation for Anchorage, AK-based Westmark Hotel. Everett is a 15-year member of ASSE and a member of the Environmental and Public Sector practice specialties.
- Professional member Richard F. Moscato, CSP, senior manager-corporate safety for Sara Lee Corp. in Chicago. He is a member of the Greater Chicago Chapter, and a member of the Society’s Management and International practice specialties.
- New Jersey Chapter member Donald A. Robinson, director of environmental health and safety, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Mary R. Mellein, manager, University of Georgia Environmental Safety Service. Mellein is a professional member of the Georgia Chapter, and a member of the Society’s Management Practice Specialty.
- San Francisco Chapter professional member Edward M. Ryska, functional officer in charge, Eagle Loss Control Consultants and Director of Technical Services, Kemper Major Construction, Kemper Employers Group, Petaluma, CA. A 26-year member of ASSE, Ryska is a member of the Society’s Risk Management Practice Specialty.
- Gold Coast Chapter member Frank S. Fitzgerald, CAE, executive vice president, Screen Manufacturers Assn., Palm Beach, FL. Fitzgerald is a 10-year member of ASSE and a member of the Society’s Consultants Practice Specialty.
- Three Rivers Chapter member Carl Griffith, safety director, Trench’It Inc., McHenry, IL.

Swan Joins Purdue BioPharma

Mathew L. Swan, CSP, CIH, has joined Princeton, NJ-based Purdue BioPharma as associate director, health and safety, with responsibility for all components of the company’s environment, health and radiation safety. Swan is a professional member of the New Jersey Chapter, and a member of the Construction and Environmental practice specialties. He holds a B.S. in Biology from Rutgers University and has more than 20 years’ experience managing health and safety programs in the pharmaceutical, telecommunications and biotechnology industries.

Attention Members:

Professional Safety Seeks Contributors for Research Briefs Column

Professional Safety, ASSE’s monthly journal, recently launched a new column, “Research Briefs,” which provides synopses of safety-related research findings published in other journals.

The journal is currently seeking potential contributors for future columns. If interested, contact Sue Trebowski, PS editor, at (847) 768-3433, or send an e-mail to professionalsafety@asse.org.

We Need Your E-Mail

It’s no secret. Electronic mail is changing the way we do business. Like many other organizations, ASSE is increasingly using e-mail as a primary method of communicating with members. For example, we will eventually be sending members of ASSE’s 12 practice specialties their newsletters via e-mail. Many issues of Society Update will be published online as well. So, it’s vital that we have your current e-mail address in our database.

If you haven’t already done so, please send your e-mail address to customerservice@asse.org. Along with your name, please include either your member number or zip code in your message.
In Memoriam

The Society remembers the following members who passed away in recent months. Our thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues.

Robert M. Austin, Lawrenceburg, KY
Martin L. Barratt, Trenton, NJ
Hubert H. Beams, Munfordville, KY
Frank L. Bigelsis, Parsippany, NJ
Richard W. Burdno, Ashtabula, OH
Gregg J. Connell, Cleves, OH
Nixon DeTarnowsky, Katskill Bay, NY
Allan N. Dean, Sun City Center, FL
James C. Denyes, Belmont, MI
Robert K. Downes, Worcester, MA
Adolph E. Erickson, Maryland Heights, MO
Charles H. Ernst, Forest Park, IL
James G. Ford, Columbus, OH
Diana A. Frasier, Los Alamos, CA
Paul D. Hallett, Hazel Crest, IL

Marvin B. Hoyt, Fremont, MI
John J. Hynes, Blackwood, NJ
Domingo R. Isasi Diaz, Norwalk, CT
Raymond A. Jordan, Phoenix, AZ
Kenneth K. Kent, Hermitage, TN
Julius P. Kish, Levittown, PA
Beryl L. Knael, Virginia Beach, VA
George Kuhrt, Hamburg, NY
Stanley Kulaitis Jr., Easton, PA
Edward B. Landry, Bethesda, MD
W. R. Laseter, Austinville, AL
Erwin L. Leibling, Fultondale, AL
Thomas Lovatt, Richland, WA
Domenick Maresca, Denville, NJ
Robert E. McCloskey, Tulsa, OK

Julius Morris, Honolulu, HI
George R. Orth, Jupiter, FL
John U. Parker, Venice, FL
Herbert G. Pashkowsky, Portland, OR
Joseph Pernal, Hendersonville, NC
Patrick E. Phillips, Las Vegas, NV
Charles K. Rachel, Carriere, MS
William H. Reid, Valdese, NC
Jonathan N. Romine, Bartlesville, OK
F. F. Schroth, Quincy, MA
J. Wallace, Sequim, WA
Bill B. Turney, Dallas, TX
James L. Wright, Laurinburg, NC
Milton A. Young, Whiting, NJ

Della-Giustina Named Safety Council Professional of the Year

With more than 400 people in attendance, West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood presented Dr. Daniel Della-Giustina with the prestigious Professional of the Year award at the West Virginia Safety Council’s awards banquet in Charleston, WV. He was selected in recognition of more than two decades of commitment, effort and innovation in promoting safety, education, occupational health and environmental stewardship.

Della-Giustina is a professional member of ASSE’s National Capital Chapter and a member of the Society’s Public Sector Practice Specialty. As faculty advisor for West Virginia University, he has served as chair of its Dept. of Safety & Environmental Management, where he reorganized the courses and methods of teaching. Della-Giustina is working with the Ford Foundation to develop strategies for defining and coping with school and workplace violence.

Medina Appointed to OSHA National Advisory Committee

Rixio Medina, CSP, was among 12 people recently named by Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman to the OSHA National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH). He joins fellow ASSE member Margaret M. Carroll, P.E., CSP, as the two safety representatives on the committee. Some 600 people apply annually for two-year terms on the committee, but Medina’s involvement with ASSE, his work with OSHA earlier this year in Central America and high-level recommendations impressed the selection committee in his appointment.

NACOSH is composed of representatives with backgrounds in labor unions, safety training and education, and from both large and small companies. Medina’s 22 years of experience in the refining industry will allow him to share views on issues that affect his industry.

“We try to get every facet of the industry—a microcosm,” says OSHA representative Joanne Goodell. The group, whose first meeting is in December, meets four times a year to discuss topics being addressed by OSHA and provide recommendations regarding safety issues affecting the six million U.S. workplaces. Among the issues to be discussed are the workplace ergonomics standard, effectiveness of safety incentive programs, and how to address the issue of increasing numbers of safety professionals retiring at a higher rate than new graduates can replace.

Medina is a professional member of the Coastal Bend Chapter and a member of the Society’s Engineering Practice Specialty. He is manager of health and safety services for Citgo Petroleum Corp., Corpus Christi, TX, and president of Refinery Terminal Fire Co., which provides industrial emergency response and training services to the Port of Corpus Christi. In addition, Medina serves on the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Jones Elected to VPPPA Board of Directors

Donald S. Jones, CSP, has been elected to the National Board of Directors for the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants Assn. (VPPPA), for which he will serve as director-at-large. Administered by OSHA and DOE, the VPP encourages excellence in occupational safety and health through the cooperative efforts of labor, management and government.

A professional member of the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter and Administrator of the Management Practice Specialty, Jones is safety manager for Dow Chemical’s Plaquemine, LA, facility.
ASSE Presents Z490 Case to NACOSH

At a recent meeting with National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH) in Washington, DC, ASSE members Steven Kane, P.E., CSP, and Thomas F. Bresnahan, CSP, discussed the proposed voluntary American National Standard Z490—Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health and Environmental Training. The standard establishes voluntary criteria for environmental, health and safety (EHS) training programs, including development, delivery, evaluation and program management.

Bresnahan, Z490 Committee Secretary, provided an overview of the project, which grew out of the recognized need for improved EHS training. He reiterated ASSE’s position that quality training is required to ensure that workers and EHS professionals have the knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure a safe workplace.

Bresnahan also noted that the proposed standard speaks to an issue that NACOSH is currently investigating—training and competency of OSHA compliance officers. “I believe NACOSH’s main question concerning this standard is ‘how does it impact OSHA and the training of compliance officers,’” Bresnahan said. “ASSE believes that the level of professionalism [must] be increased . . . so that compliance officers are better able to appreciate, understand and address hazards in today’s high-tech environment.”

Kane, Z490 Committee Chair, explained that the standard would establish best practices criteria for EHS training, and outlined its key points. The standard:

- Provides a measurement and benchmark for compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) to evaluate training.
- Is a basic body of knowledge to train CSHOs.
- Provides a level of performance whereby training quality can be judged and objectively evaluated.
- Provides audible criteria to evaluate currently accepted practices in training, which CSHOs cannot always be aware of due to the broad scope of technical issues they are confronted with.
- Provides, in the consultative mode, an authoritative reference for selling recommendations to management.
- Describes the best in EHS training.
- Provides models of training that are transferable to almost all industries.

Kane told the group that it is not the intention of the Z490 Committee to attempt to address every aspect of EHS training in one comprehensive document, but rather that the standard be used as a basic guideline; additional projects will provide training standards on specific applications.

In his concluding remarks, Bresnahan commended OSHA for recognizing the need to enhance the training of its EHS professionals, as described in its final policy statement on the use of employer audit reports. That statement specifically notes that training of the agency’s field personnel is a priority.

A timeline for completion of the Z490 draft standard, which is in the final stages of development, has not yet been established.

Student Leadership Conference a Great Success

More than 60 student members representing 13 universities nationwide attended ASSE’s annual Student Leadership Conference, held recently in Warwick, RI. On Friday, Oct. 20, students gathered at Johnston, RI-based Factory Mutual Testing Center for a facility tour and to observe a burn test to determine flammability properties of materials. “The students were very impressed by the tour and to witness how materials are really tested—they really enjoyed it,” says Greater Boston Chapter President John P. Spath, CSP, AQC Inc.

On Saturday, the students were welcomed by New Jersey Chapter member and Region VIII Vice President Doug Pastore, CIH. “Quiz Bowl,” a Jeopardy-style game that teamed up students to answer a series of safety-related questions, was intermingled among discussions presented by industry and student leaders throughout the day. Greater Boston Chapter President-Elect Mike Murray, AON Risk Consulting, discussed effective networking; Greater Boston Chapter professional member Dave Crowley, CSP, CHMM, CET, outlined how to deliver effective presentations; Spath spoke about effective meeting planning and execution; and Northeastern Illinois Chapter Treasurer Elizabeth Cunningham, CSP, CIH, Pactiv Corp., discussed what employers look for when hiring safety professionals. Speakers from the Oakland University, Keene (NH) State College and Millersville (PA) University student sections shared ideas about section activities and how they approach and conduct meetings.

Conference participants commented about how positive and beneficial the comprehensive series of activities were. Keene State faculty advisor, Dr. Larry McDonald, CSP, remarked that he had never seen a “more totally energized” group of students upon their return from a student leadership conference. Spath applauded the Millersville Student Section, the conference organizer, for its excellent job of executing the conference. “For students who had never planned anything like this, the Millersville students did an excellent job of planning, organizing and conducting the event. They put forth a lot of effort, and because of it, the conference was a great success.”
DaimlerChrysler: A Win-Win for the Safety Profession

DaimlerChrysler and the ASSE Foundation (ASSEF) have formed a win-win partnership that continues to benefit Society members and the safety profession: the DaimlerChrysler Corp. Fund has renewed its support of the Foundation with a second gift of $25,000. DaimlerChrysler’s commitment to workplace safety and health extends beyond its cash contribution to the Foundation. Each year, the firm develops new vehicle safety features and works to protect the environment. Last year, the company hired Diana Franck, ASSE member and Foundation scholarship winner. Franck works as a plant ergonomist at the Newark, DE, plant, where the Dodge Durango is assembled.

This win-win partnership serves the Foundation and DaimlerChrysler well. Through its gift, DaimlerChrysler enables the Foundation to provide scholarships to those studying safety and health, as well as research grants—the results of which can ultimately benefit DaimlerChrysler, its employees and consumers.

Safety Research Fellowship Program

The ASSE Foundation and the Liberty Mutual Research Center (LMRC) are offering two safety research fellowships at the LMRC in Hopkinton, MA, during the summer of 2001. The program is designed to encourage research activity in safety; enhance participants’ understanding of safety research; and provide a forum for linking safety professionals, industry needs and quality research programs.

The program is open to anyone with an interest in safety research. To obtain a copy of the guidelines and applicant instruction sheet, visit the Foundation’s website, www.asse.org/foundat.htm, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929. Application deadline is April 1, 2001.

NAOSH Week Slated to Run May 6-12, 2001

Co-sponsored by ASSE and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is slated to run May 6-12, 2001. The continent-wide event is an opportunity for all parties involved—employers, employees, the general public and OSH partners in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico—to strengthen their commitment to occupational safety and health by increasing public awareness. The objectives of NAOSH Week are to:

• increase understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health;
• raise awareness of the role and contribution of safety and health professionals;
• reduce workplace injuries and illness by encouraging new safety and health activities.

The prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses is everyone’s responsibility. Employers must develop, implement and maintain safe, healthy workplaces. Supervisors must ensure that employees are properly trained, use safe work procedures and wear protective equipment. Employees must care for their own safety and that of fellow employees. Safety committees must work with all parties to ensure workplace safety and health. Collaboration and cooperation between all stakeholders is the formula for successful workplace safety and health programs—which is the focus of NAOSH Week.

NAOSH Week serves to remind companies of the importance of workplace safety and health programs, and to encourage safety committees to take the lead in safety and health initiatives. Good safety and health practices optimize human resource potential and contribute to better economic performance. Everyone stands to gain—employers and employees alike.

How can you help promote NAOSH Week?

• Encourage local retailers to display the NAOSH Week logo. Utilities can carry the logo on billing statements.
• Provide local media with a kit containing information and special articles on safety and health issues.
• Arrange for local government to proclaim NAOSH Week and encourage other organizations to promote it as well.

For more information, visit www.naosh.org or www.csse.org.