ASSE to Host Audioconference on Mold

ASSE will host an audioconference on Feb. 17, 2004, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm CST. The program will address Z690, a new standards-development project that focuses on minimum requirements for the control and remediation of mold and fungi in nonindustrial and industrial work environments. Under the standard, mold will be defined as any of the numerous species and genera of fungi whose primary means of reproduction is the release of spores into the atmosphere.

This program is $75 for members and includes:
- A collection of papers and articles addressing issues/concerns related to mold and fungi.
- A 90-minute audioconference presentation delivered by members of the Society’s Environmental and Industrial Hygiene practice specialties. It will emphasize leading-edge technical information to enhance SH&E programs.
- An audio CD version of the presentation mailed to each participant after completion of the call.
- The ability to submit questions via e-mail to the speakers and moderator.
- An update of what ASSE is doing with regard to the proposed Z690 standard and how the initiative is being recognized in the private and public sectors. (For more information on ASSE’s mold-related activities, see pg. 2.)
- COC credit with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

For more information or to register, contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929 or visit www.asse.org.
Mold Alert

By Mary Ann Latko, CSP, CIH, QEP

ASSE has initiated a series of efforts and programs addressing mold—from a position statement and standards development to consumer information materials and professional educational seminars. The Society’s position statement begins:

ASSE believes that mold has become an important SH&E issue. ASSE members are being asked to respond to mold-related issues including development and implementation of preventive measures and programs, identification and quantification of mold contamination in indoor environments, identification and awareness of worker and workplace activities that increase the potential for exposure to mold, and development and implementation of remediation plans and projects to remove mold from indoor workplaces. With ASSE members conducting such work in the absence of a universally accepted standard from a cognizant authority, ASSE believes the Society can assist its members by providing guidelines under which such work can be executed in a manner that provides protection to workers and which does not cause increased risk to building occupants.

ASSE’s position statement is focused on worker protection. Some key points include:

• Mold is ubiquitous. It cannot be eliminated from the indoor environment.
• Current research does not conclusively indicate that mold causes illness in the normal, healthy working population.
• Currently, no consensus exists among SH&E and healthcare professionals as to the level of mold exposure that is acceptable in indoor environments.
• To date, there is no documentation of universal adverse health effects related to exposure to mold, and there are no known mold biomarkers at this time.
• Those SH&E professionals who conduct investigations and/or remediation projects are at risk for increased exposure to mold in both quantity and frequency.
• ASSE recommends taking reasonably prudent measures to minimize the potential for excessive exposure to mold in buildings.

The statement is available at www.asse.org.

Standard of Care for Preventing Mold Growth & Remediation

With this statement, ASSE sets the basis for the foundation of ANSI Z690, Guidelines for Mold and Fungi Control and Remediation for Worker Protection in Indoor Work Environment. SH&E professionals are responding to mold-related issues now. Work is being performed in the absence of a universally accepted standard from a cognizant authority. ASSE believes guidelines for such work are required to ensure that workers conducting assessments and removal projects are protected and that the work does not result in an increase in risk to building occupants. ASSE’s primary focus is worker protection and this focus is driving its initiatives related to mold.

Mold assessment and remediation work will continue whether or not a consensus standard exists. There is a need to establish a framework in which workers can be protected by the potential adverse health effects of mold and in which persons needing to address mold-related issues can evaluate any proposed preventive or remediation measures.

SH&E professionals need guidelines now, even if the science is still maturing. This approach is not new. For example, in the 1980s a guidance document for hazardous waste site workers was jointly published by four U.S. agencies. That document defined levels of protective equipment and established the criteria to determine the level of protection that the particular activities and location warranted. The science was not as well-defined as that for exposure to single, known hazardous materials in a controlled environment such as a manufacturing facility. But SH&E professionals were responding to the need to assess and remediate hazardous waste sites even in the absence of a standard.

Similarly, a framework is needed to protect workers from potential adverse health effects related to mold removal and remediation activities. That is the goal of Z690. ASSE will present an update on its status during Safety 2004 in Las Vegas, NV, this June.
ASSE Announces First Common Interest Group

To expand knowledge, to build on the capabilities of women in SH&E and to increase networking opportunities, ASSE has established the Women in Safety Engineering (WISE) common interest group.

Since its inception, more than 300 ASSE members have joined WISE to share information on the leading workplace issues, problems and solutions they encounter. A recent WISE membership survey found that key topics for women who are SH&E professionals include establishing a balance between home and work, communication between genders and gaining credibility in the workplace.

WISE sponsoring volunteer member Amy McGlasson, CSP, ARM, CPEA, of ASSE’s Southwest Chapter, says, “WISE is here to provide an outlet for women who are SH&E professionals; from sharing ideas and finding the best career resources to discussing the top issues women face in the workplace.”

WISE will be developing a career-mentoring program and a resource book list to help practitioners manage their careers. The group will also help women pursuing safety certification.

WISE will hold a discussion forum during ASSE’s annual PDC, which will be held June 7-10, 2004, in Las Vegas, NV.

For more information, or to join, visit www.asse.org/wise.

World-Class Safety Symposium

March 25-26 in New Orleans

During one roundtable session held at Safety 2003 in Denver, attendees were asked to define “world-class safety.” Although no two answers were the same, they shared some common threads: top management commitment, employee involvement, supportive corporate culture and values; proactive metrics. Those topics and more will be the focus of ASSE’s upcoming World-Class Safety Symposium, slated to run March 25-26 in New Orleans.

Symposium presentations will help attendees benchmark current efforts and develop a path to superior performance. Sessions will focus on moving beyond compliance to safety excellence and will give participants the tools needed to show management how safety delivers a positive return on investment.

Sessions are organized into five tracks: Key Elements of World-Class Safety; Assessment Tools and Benchmarking; Moving Beyond Compliance to Excellence; Steering Your Organization’s Culture Toward World-Class Safety; and Safety Efforts at Companies Recognized for World-Class Safety. Presenters from some of the country’s most well-known corporations—including Dow Chemical Co., DuPont, Bechtel, General Motors, Liberty Mutual, Sara Lee, AON and Clayton—will share details of their models for success in safety. The program will also feature a keynote presentation, “Leading for Organizational Excellence”; two general session presentations, “How Do You Measure World-Class Safety” and “The Changing Workplace for the Safety Profession”; and a panel discussion of “World-Class Safety Successes.”

Early registration deadline is Feb. 20. For more information or to register online, visit www.asse.org.

Establishing a Common Interest Group

A common interest group must:

• Support ASSE’s commitment to diversity.
• Create a welcoming atmosphere in the volunteer leadership structure.
• Facilitate positive experiences for diverse groups.
• Provide continuing education opportunities.
• Uphold ASSE’s reputation as being on the forefront of emerging SH&E issues.

Criteria for establishing a common interest group:

• Any member, group of members, chapter or committee may request to form a common interest group. Formal requests will be reviewed and approved by Council on Member & Region Affairs (CoMRA).
• CoMRA will report the status of common interest groups to the Board of Directors at board meetings.
• Approval of the common interest group name and objectives.
• At least 10 members must join a common interest group at its inception.
• Only members of ASSE can participate in a Society common interest group.
• Common interest groups shall have a sponsoring volunteer member.
• Common interest groups will encourage online interaction, including chat rooms, bulletin boards and listservs on the ASSE Members Only Area.
• Common interest groups shall foster mentoring and facilitate open discussion.

Time is Running Out!

ASSE’s Member-Get-A-Member campaign—Make a Connection—runs through March 31, 2004. The winner will be announced in May. For more information, visit www.asse.org.
Renew Your Dues Electronically

The members only section of ASSE’s website is sporting a new, timesaving feature—you can now renew your dues online.

When you login to the members only site (using your member number and last name), click on the “dues payment” button. A dues renewal page will appear with your information already included. Simply fill out your credit card information and submit. It’s that simple. This is the latest addition to the many benefits and services that are available through the members only site.

Networking

The online directory is a great resource for personal and professional networking. Search for fellow members and manage a personal contact list. A bulletin board provides practice specialty members a forum for discussing topic-specific questions and sharing common concerns. Subscribers to ASSE’s listserv—the “A-List”—can discuss questions and concerns they encounter, and communicate with professionals around the country and the world. Chat rooms allow real-time communication with members who share mutual interests.

SH&E Information

The site also allows access to PS Online, where you can view and download articles published in Professional Safety since January 2000. Also available are white papers and technical information on various SH&E topics; a best practices section featuring presentations from ASSE’s PDC; and an FAQ page that includes a technical question-and-answer bulletin series.

Career Center

The Career Center allows members—including students—to search job postings or post a job opening. Members can also get resume tips, post a resume or search the resume database. For those new to the SH&E field, mentoring services provide an avenue for connecting with a seasoned practitioner. Finally, the Society’s “Career Guide to the Safety Profession” is available to members online. This can be a useful tool to students exploring career options within SH&E.

To access ASSE’s members only website, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Members Only” link.

What else can I do online?

- Renew your membership.
- Order books, standards.
- Register for PDC and seminars.
- View/download articles from Professional Safety.
- Refer a friend for ASSE membership.
- Reclassify your membership.

Cast Your Vote!

It’s time to elect the Society’s 2004-05 officers. Look for candidate bios in the February issue of Professional Safety. Don’t forget to cast your vote for new officers between March 1 and April 1.
Safety 2004: June 7-10, Las Vegas, NV

It’s a New Day
Planning is in full swing for Safety 2004, ASSE’s annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition. Activities begin on Monday, June 7, with a new event called Safety Startup: The Best Odds in Vegas. Attendees will get a sneak preview of the latest in SH&E products and services and they’ll have a chance to win show tickets, DVDs, restaurant vouchers and a chance at a surprise grand prize.

New This Year
This year’s expanded program features slightly shorter session times to accommodate additional sessions, offering attendees more choices and opportunities for a full conference experience.

Bilingual Safety Professionals. If you are an SH&E professional responsible for communicating safety to Spanish-speaking workers, join the Bilingual Safety Professional group meeting. The meeting will include networking, idea sharing, colleague support, and credential and program idea discussions.

Women in Safety Engineering (WISE). The ASSE Women in Safety Engineering common interest group invites attendees to participate in a discussion of issues and interests of women who are SH&E professionals. Current projects include book reviews, mentoring and white paper development.

Rest Stops. Rest stops will be located throughout the exhibit floor to provide a place to interact with other attendees and exhibitors. Refreshments will be available twice daily in the expo hall.

Key Issues Roundtables. Do you have a lesson learned to share with fellow professionals? Are you looking to interact with others who have mutual interests? Eight roundtables will be conducted during the concurrent session periods on topic areas of interest to attendees. Join the discussion and share your ideas, challenges and successes in these moderated sessions. To facilitate discussion, space is limited.

Academicians & Educators Program. This special program is for practicing academicians/educators and members of ASSE’s Academics Practice Specialty. The program will focus on academicians and college students: What works and what doesn’t.

Executive Summit: A Special Session. Time and again, the need for SH&E professionals to connect with senior management is emphasized. This panel will bring senior management leaders to a forum for all attendees to listen, share and ask questions.

Fundamentals of a Safety & Health Program. For professionals new to the SH&E field, with less than three years’ of experience or others who work in disciplines associated with the profession, this program offers an excellent introduction to a broad range of topics. Attendees who attend all sessions earn 0.5 CEUs toward ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management.

Pre- & Post-Conference Sessions. Choose from 40 topics scheduled before and after the PDC.
- Earn up to 2.1 CEUs.
- Prepare for the ASP, CSP, CHST or CHMM exam.
- Complete required or elective seminars for ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management.
- Earn CM points to maintain your CIH.
- Earn CMP points to maintain your CHMM.
- Network with other SH&E professionals who are expanding their knowledge of technical topics, management techniques and career-building skills.

Wanted: Poster Session Presentations
To help advance SH&E development, research and education in the public interest, ASSE is seeking submissions for a poster session to be held during Safety 2004. The program will help to stimulate interest in SH&E research and education. In addition, the Society hopes to provide an opportunity for colleges, universities and organizations with SH&E-related educational programs to display the efforts of their programs to SH&E practitioners.

For more information or to register for Safety 2004, visit www.asse.org. Watch for the final conference brochure in the mail later this month.

Be a Speaker at Safety 2005
ASSE is inviting those interested in presenting an educational session at Safety 2005 to submit a proposal for review by the Conference Planning Committee. In particular, the committee is seeking advanced, technically oriented presentations. To learn more about topic areas, presentation options and proposal requirements, see the speaker application on pp. 55/56 of the January 2004 issue of Professional Safety. The application is also available at www.asse.org/2005pdcallforpapers.pdf. Submission deadline is July 14.
Clarke Honored for Reducing Workplace Injuries & Insurance Costs

Brian Clarke, CSP, corporate safety director, Hoffman Corp., received the Gary E. Bird Horizon Award at the 23rd International Risk Management Institute (IRMI) Construction Risk Conference. IRMI presents this award annually to recognize an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to improving construction risk management through the implementation of innovative, cost-effective and efficient risk management techniques.

Clarke, a professional member of ASSE’s Columbia-Willamette Chapter, received the award for his design and implementation of a safety program for an owner-controlled insurance program that greatly reduced OSHA incident rates and workers’ compensation costs.

Phased in over the course of the project, the comprehensive safety program dramatically lowered the OSHA recordable rate from 8.18 to 1.92, and the OSHA lost-time incident rate from 0.45 to 0.00.

In addition, the workers’ compensation direct claim cost per workhour dropped from $0.185 to $0.015.

The other finalist for the award was George Tinker, risk manager, Colorado Dept. of Transportation, who was nominated for the development and implementation of an innovative owner-controlled insurance program that enhanced cooperation among the parties involved in the program. Tinker is a member of ASSE’s Colorado Chapter.

The award was named for Gary E. Bird, a nationally recognized risk management expert who was known for his significant and innovative risk management solutions. For more information, visit www.irmi.com/construction.

Tapp Elected to BCSP Board of Directors

Linda Tapp, CSP, has been elected to serve as a director for the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. She is a member of ASSE’s Philadelphia Chapter and currently serves as Administrator of ASSE’s Consultants Practice Specialty. Tapp is president and principal consultant with Crown Safety, an occupational safety, health and ergonomics consulting firm based in Cherry Hill, NJ. Tapp’s firm helps companies of all sizes to improve their safety programs. She holds a master’s in Environmental Health from Temple University.

ASSE Recognizes Student Advisor Winners

ASSE’s Student Section recruitment promotion was played as a lottery. For each student member recruited, the sponsoring advisor’s name was entered into a drawing. The program ran through Nov. 30, 2003. The following advisors won prizes:

- David Buck, Keene State College, NH—$50 American Express gift check
- Lynn Reese, Odessa College, TX—$100 American Express gift check
- Lawrence Mauerman, Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, LA—$150 American Express gift check

American Society of Safety Engineers
ASSE Honor Roll

ASSE's Honor Roll appears in each issue of Society Update, twice a year in Professional Safety and monthly online.

President's Council • Members who have sponsored 30 or more new members since May 1, 1981.


President's Circle • Members who have sponsored 4 or more new members since April 1, 2003.


President's Club • Members who have sponsored 2 to 3 new members since April 1, 2003.


In Memoriam

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

John W. Erdmann, Roanoke Rapids, NC; 26 years of service Dennis C. Karas, Charlotte, NC; 29 years of service John B. McLaughlin, Hopewell, VA; 12 years of service Larry E. Ross, Longmont, CO; 24 years of service E.L. “Lee” Scott, Fort Worth, TX; 3 years of service Lacle L. Simpson, Dallas, TX; 37 years of service Lyell R. Swift, Park Ridge, IL; 43 years of service Lynn A. Warren, Perry, OK; 11 years of service Douglas A. Weatherhead, League City, TX; 20 years of service William A. Wilson, Fayetteville, OH; 37 years of service
Brown Donation Establishes ASSE Foundation Scholarship

To aid future SH&E professionals, Warren K. Brown, CSP, ARM, CSHM, Vice President of ASSE’s Council on Professional Development, recently donated $5,800 to the ASSE Foundation to establish the Warren K. Brown Scholarship. The new fund will award $1,000 annually to an undergraduate student pursuing an SH&E-related degree. Since 2000, Brown has donated $11,450 to the Foundation.

An active ASSE member for 27 years, he is safety supervisor for DMAX Ltd., Moraine, OH. Brown cofounded ASSE’s Kitty Hawk Section and Chapter, and has served as the chapter’s president, vice president and assembly delegate, as well as ASSE Region VII vice president. He received the Safety Professional of the Year Award from Region VII in 1989 and from the ASSE All-Ohio Council in 1987. Brown is a member of the Society of Ohio Safety Engineers’ Pattern for Progress Committee and the Safety Advisory Committee for Sinclair Community College, as well as a member of the board of directors and Program Committee for the Dayton Miami Valley Safety Council.

Foundation Silent Auction

Donate to 10th Annual Event

The 10th Annual ASSE Foundation Silent Auction* will be held June 7-10, in Las Vegas, NV, in conjunction with Safety 2004. Members can help the Foundation succeed in its mission to enhance the long-range future of the SH&E profession by donating an item for auction. Items of interest include:

- PDA/handheld computer;
- autographed sports items;
- gift certificates to restaurants/hotels;
- mini-vacation or weekend getaway packages;
- tickets to sporting or theater events;
- software;
- airline tickets;
- Coach briefcase or handbag;
- subscription to an “item of the month” club (e.g., wine, beer, coffee, seafood);
- luggage set;
- golf accessories;
- items from a popular home furnishings catalog (e.g., Crate & Barrel, Pottery Barn);
- spa gift certificates (e.g., Estée Lauder).

To make a contribution, complete and fax an “Item Donation Form” to Mary Goranson, Foundation manager, at (847) 296-3769. Do not send any items to ASSE headquarters. The high bidder will contact the person listed on the form to claim the item. Donation forms are due by May 7. To obtain a form, visit www.asse.org/founfund03.htm. ■

Research Fellowship Program

Applications Due March 1

ASSE Foundation and Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, MA, will offer two research fellowships this summer. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and must possess a Ph.D. or be working toward a master’s or Ph.D. Preference will be granted to applicants who hold appointments or are enrolled in a department with an ABET-accredited safety program. The fellows will spend four to six weeks during summer 2004 at the institute.

This program encourages safety research and helps familiarize students, faculty and other researchers with current projects and up-to-date research models and applications to expand the profession’s knowledge base. The program also aims to expand and stimulate the understanding of safety research and to provide a forum for linking SH&E professionals, industry needs and quality research programs.

After the program, each fellow will write either an 800-word article for the ASSE Foundation’s Advocate or an article for Professional Safety explaining the results of the research project and an outline for a grant proposal (to an outside agency) for continuing the research as an ongoing Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety project if appropriate. Applications are available at www.asse.org/foundat.htm. ■