



THE BEANPOT

Newsletter of the American Society of Safety Engineers
Greater Boston Chapter



November / December 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Nov Meeting Recap</i>	3
<i>PDC Photos</i>	4-5
<i>Holiday Safety Tips</i>	5
<i>Winter Fires</i>	6
<i>Chapter News Flash</i>	7
<i>Other ASSE news</i>	8
<i>Chapter Challenge</i>	9
<i>Career Assistance</i>	10
<i>Chapter Officers/Contacts</i>	11



The Beanpot is published periodically to members of the ASSE Greater Boston Chapter. This newsletter is compiled by the Newsletter Editor and the VP Communications based upon contributions of members. Archived issues can be viewed at the chapter's website, www.asseboston.com. For additional information, contact Daren Canfield at d_canfield@occuhealth.com or Tom Bochart at Tbochart@aimmutual.com.

UPCOMING CHAPTER TECHNICAL MEETINGS & EVENTS

No December meeting

**See you all in 2012
Enjoy your Holidays!**

Upcoming Live ASSE Webinars (Earn CEUs)

[Lessons Learned from a Real World Journey:
Overcoming the Odds to EHS Excellence](#)  [The
McWane Story](#)

January 4, 2012 at 12:00 PM EST

McWane, Inc., had been the very high profile target of an all-out enforcement effort by OSHA. The intense OSHA scrutiny began after the New York Times published a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles about dangerous working conditions and multiple fatalities at two of the Company's foundries. The articles, and a subsequent television program on PBS's Frontline, emphasized the Company's poor safety performance and OSHA's failure to effectively respond. As a result OSHA developed its Enhanced Enforcement Program, with McWane as the 'charter member' and the Company embarked on an all-out effort to turn its safety and health program around.

This presentation will discuss how the Company has implemented a start-of-the art EHS Management System, improving its program to the point of now having more than 1/3 of the company's US facilities recognized as VPP and several facilities OSHAS18001 certified.

[GHS & HCS Crash Course in Compliance: What
You Need to Know Now!](#)

Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 11:00AM - 12:30PM CST



THE BEANPOT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Kathy Wunschel

Networking. Technical Meetings. Resources. Earn CEU's.

"I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by." - - Dilbert

Are you on target to complete everything on your list for 2011? I'm cringing as I type that sentence. I think we can all agree that our inbox will never be empty. I need to remind myself to focus on what I was able to accomplish and not get overly stressed on what I didn't. And a new year is about to start. November was full of good planning ideas. There was the Boston Chapter meeting on dust hazards, the New England Area Professional Development Conference, and the ASSE Symposium "Prove It! Measuring Safety Performance". If you were not able to attend the Prove It symposium, be sure to check out the Body of Knowledge section on the www.asse.org website. December will be a little slower (meeting-wise). Keep a look-out for details on a joint meeting with the American Industrial Hygiene Association in January.

Scholarship Info

The Boston Chapter has been committed over the years to being able to provide scholarship money for students. The Executive Board has recently taken a vote to put in \$6,292 into the funding so that we will be able to maintain the \$3,000 student scholarship level every year. If you have any questions regarding this decision, please feel free to contact me or Eric Stager, VP of Finance.

Thank You

I sincerely hope I don't miss anyone - here goes - I'd like to say a special *Thank You* to:
The speakers at our November 15th meeting on Dust Hazards - thank you to:

- Eric Stager (EORM); Jean Manoli (Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety); and Dr. Timothy Myers, Dr. Alfonso Ibarreta and Dr. James Bucher (Exponent).
- Mark Brown, Dan McDavitt and Eugenia Kennedy for organizing the November meeting.
- Don Delikat and Tom Bochart for volunteering to moderate at the Prove It symposium in Cambridge.
- Kara Forsythe, Eric Stager and Dave Crowley for gathering the budget and scholarship information so the Executive Board could make an informed decision regarding the scholarship funding.
- Daren Canfield for all her work putting together (another!) newsletter.
- The Area PDC planning committee for doing another great job this year!
- The entire Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for their ongoing work.

Holiday Wishes

My sincere wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season. As much as possible, try to relax and recharge yourselves.

Hope to See You in 2012!

Boston has a remarkable group of the best safety professionals in the country (my opinion). We have safety and business knowledge in a vast number of industries and trades. We have networking opportunities. We usually have food. We always have some pretty warped senses of humor. We have approximately 500 members. Every single one of you are welcome. Trust me on this - if you can possibly attend a few meetings, it truly is well worth your time. There's a great goal for 2012~

Thank you,
Kathy Wunschel
ASSE Greater Boston Chapter President 2011-2012



November Technical Meeting Recap

A big thank you goes out to all of the speakers at the November Technical Meeting on Dust Hazards. Eric Stager (EORM) discussed the occupational hazards of dust and how to best conduct IH monitoring. Jean Manoli (Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety) discussed silica exposures and gave us some insight into OSHA's perspective on dust. Dr. Timothy Myers, Dr. Alfonso Ibarreta and Dr. James Bucher (Exponent) gave us an overview of the physical characteristics and hazards of dust and showed us some great slow motion video of dust explosion testing. The prop that was passed around showing dust concentration was pretty cool too. Thanks also to Kathy Wunschel and EMC for hosting this meeting.



Jean Manoli (Mass Div of Occupational Safety)



Dr Tim Myers (Exponent)



Dr Jim Bucher (Exponent) & Dr Alfonso Ibarreta (Exponent)

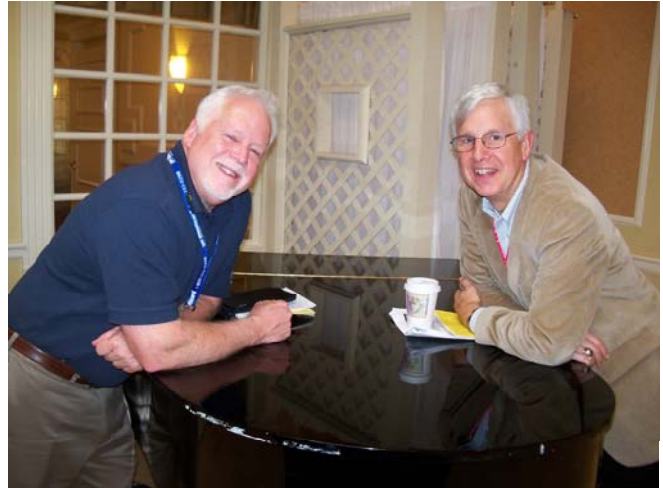


2011 Professional Development Conference in NH

Another event-filled PDC has come and gone. Thanks to all who made this another great success. The PDC is always a great opportunity to gain knowledge, learn about new products, network with new friends, and catch up with old friends.



The Band from Boston



Dave Gelpke & Tim Healy



Jeff Grant & Bryan Murray



Tom Nolan & Kristin Hoffman



John Spath & Eric Stager

Also at the PDC



Melissa & Bryan

Holiday Safety Tips

Lights, lights and more lights. This is the time of year where holiday lights are everywhere. Not just at home but also right in your own company.

Christmas tree fires in homes account for 27% of the fires that occur around the holidays. Of these, decorative lights were involved in 13% of the incidents.

Safety Tips

- Buy lights with the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Use the correct light for indoor, outdoor, or indoor/outdoor use.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use holiday lights. Lights with worn, damaged or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Connect no more than three strands of miniature string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light emitting diode (LED) strands to connect.
- Always unplug and/or switch off holiday lights before leaving your home or your workplace.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays. Lights are for temporary seasonal use, up to 90 days.
- When using a ladder to hang holiday lights, be sure it is secured on level ground. Never stand on the top three rungs of the ladder. When placed up against a roof, a ladder should reach at least three feet above the roof's edge. Move the ladder to make your reach easier. Use a wood or fiberglass ladder when a ladder must be used near power lines or wiring.



THE BEANPOT



NFPA and USFA join forces again to Put a Freeze on Winter Fires



Emmitsburg, Md., November 10, 2011 – As we move closer to winter and home fire deaths begin to increase, the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) and the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA) remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. Because home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, NFPA and USFA are once again jointly sponsoring a special initiative – *Put a Freeze on Winter Fires* – to help raise public awareness about winter fires.

“These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year – the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics, space heaters account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The USFA’s [Winter Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 1 MB) report shows that each winter an estimated 108,400 residential building fires occur in the United States, resulting in 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The winter season brings the highest number of home fires, more than at any other time of year,” said USFA’s Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Home fires increase in part due to cooking and heating. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources that contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.”

The NFPA and USFA recommend following these safety tips to prevent winter home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove.
- Space heaters need space; keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from each heater.
- Check electrical cords often and replace cracked or damaged electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.
- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home. They are not designed for this purpose and can be a fire hazard. In addition, carbon monoxide (CO) gas might kill people and pets.
- Do not put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Avoid using lighted candles. If you must use candles, place them in sturdy candleholders that won’t burn.
- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.

“Winter fires are preventable,” Gaines emphasized. “Everyone should find out what they need to know to prevent a tragedy and have a safe winter season.”

For more information about the causes of winter fires, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety, and tips that will help prevent the incidence of fire in the home, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org/winter.



Chapter News Flash



Greater Boston Chapter Member [David Frances, Ph. D.](#), published a great article in the November 2011 edition of ASSE's Professional Safety magazine titled

[“Peer-to-Peer, Safety Feedback, Engaging in Effective Safety Conversation”](#)

The article starts on page 38. If you missed his article, you can find the November issue of Professional Safety on the Member's page of ASSE.org

The Greater Boston Chapter achieved Chapter Star status for the 2010-2011 chapter year. Thanks to all who helped make this happen!





THE BEANPOT



Welcome to the following members who have joined the GBC Chapter since last month.

Pongsit Boonruksa
Jonathan Brown
Sean Crawford
Scott Reese
Priyadarshini Sengupta Dasgupta
David Sousa
Dora Tovar
Ben Westgate
Philip Young



Other ASSE News

**** Stay informed. Check out the ASSE website for more information. News highlights include:**

[Registration Opens in December for Safety 2012!](#)

Join us in Denver, Colorado, June 3-6, 2012, for our annual professional development conference! See you there!

[Your Student Members Can Write Their Way to Safety 2012!](#)

The Professional Safety/ASSE Foundation annual student paper competition is underway. The competition is open to junior/senior-level students in undergraduate safety-related degree programs - and yes, they can submit the papers they write for class. The winner receives \$500 and a travel stipend to attend ASSE's annual conference. To learn more, please contact Sue Trebswether.

[New Scaffolding Safety Standard Now Available](#)

ASSE's new standard, "Scaffolding Safety Requirements" (ANSI/ASSE A10.8-2011), establishes safety requirements for the construction, operation, maintenance and use of scaffolds used in the construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of buildings and structures. This standard does not cover permanently installed suspended scaffold systems or aerial platforms.



THE BEANPOT



ASSE 2011 Chapter Challenge

Chapters, want to earn *money for your chapter* and reach out to non-member participants in your area? Perhaps there's a company in the area that doesn't have any members of ASSE. Maybe there's an organization with multiple safety positions, but not all are members of ASSE. For those on the fence about joining, there's no time like the present to offer an incentive for them to join!

Details:

1. Tell prospective members to use code **1101RAF** on their new member applications as an incentive to join, which allows you to offer a **FREE Practice Specialty for one year and a \$25 ASSE Gift Certificate for future purchases**. Promo Code applies to new associate, member, international and professional members.
2. Winning chapters will be chosen based on the greatest percentage growth of chapter in each category (small, medium, large).
3. Winning chapters in each category (small, medium, large) will each be given \$150 which will be transferred through accounting payment. There will be two chances to win. The first will be in July 2011 for recruitment from January-June of 2011. The second will be in January 2012 for recruitment from July – December 2011.
4. The challenge is tied to the current Member-Get-A-Member (MGAM) program <http://www.asse.org/nosecret/>.



If you'd like to learn how you can become more involved as a volunteer with the Greater Boston Chapter please contact Eugenia Kennedy at 508-652-8517 or email at ekennedy@exponent.com.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND SUBMISSIONS

The Greater Boston Chapter welcomes members to submit technical articles, committee updates and information about upcoming events for inclusion in our newsletter, "The Beanpot". Articles should be submitted to VP Communications - Tom Bochart. Please make sure to include "ASSE GBC" in the subject box!

Update your contact information with ASSE and GBC

For those of you who are "old" members of ASSE and the Greater Boston Chapter, please update your contact information. We send almost all of our communication electronically. Each month many of the email addresses registered with ASSE bounce back due to incorrect address. The GBC roster – the basis for our electronic mailings – is maintained by ASSE headquarters. ASSE does not share or sell your email address. **Please** update your contact information, by visiting www.asse.org or contact the ASSE Customer Service department at 847.699.2929.

JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

By Steve Maffetone, Placement Chair

The GBC posts positions of interest to members on our Chapter's website. We also accept position listings from companies. To see the current listing of positions, visit [ASSE Boston Job Postings](#). To place a posting, contact [Steve Maffetone](#), GBC Placement Chair.

NEXTSTEPS CAREER CENTER

ASSE's [Nexsteps Job Board](#) has openings in safety, health and environmental advertised. Have a job to post, create an [employer account](#) (prices vary for posting), search resumes online and set up a resume agent to alert the employer when new resumes are posted that match their criteria. Members can save \$30 on each job posting made by using code **memval30**. Contact Geri Golonka at ggolonka@asse.org for more information.



THE BEANPOT



ENHANCE YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK THROUGH ASSE



Connect With ASSE on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter

ASSE's Practice Specialties, Branches and Common Interest Groups are providing additional networking and educational opportunities through their group pages on popular social media sites. Please take a moment to join the appropriate groups, post questions, recommend useful resources, participate in the discussions, search jobs, and network with fellow EH&S professionals.

ASSE's Greater Boston Chapter has its own LinkedIn group and Facebook fan page. These online networking opportunities provide you the opportunity to leverage the talents of professionals in our Society and Chapter. We believe that the value of a strong network of professional contacts can make a difference in your success as a safety professional and can add value to your organization. Through your contributions to these online groups, GBC hopes to be able to utilize these platforms to take our communication and engagement to a different level. Please join us!

On LinkedIn, search for us by our group name - "**American Society of Safety Engineers, Greater Boston Chapter**". On Facebook, you can find us at "**ASSE Greater Boston Chapter**".

ASSE GBC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011-2012

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