



American Society of Safety Engineers

West Michigan Chapter ASSE

November 2005

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November Meeting - Disaster Management

November 10 (Thursday)

Topic: Emergency Management /Disaster Preparedness

Speaker: Jim VanBendegom

Meeting Time:
11:30am—Lunch

Location:
City Of Wyoming BPW
2660 Burlingame
Wyoming,MI

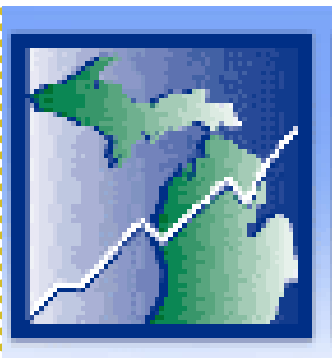
Cost: \$15

RSVP: Clara Davis by Monday 11-7-05
cdevries@parker.com
phone: (269) 694-9411 Ex 2238

Hurricane season has ravaged the United States like never before, and it seems like the terror alert is constantly orange, or is it red? With this in mind, Jim Van-Bendegom will be presenting how we can prepare for disaster, and what to do if it does happen.

If you have never had a chance to take in a presentation on disaster management and preparedness, take this opportunity to hear a highly educated speaker on the topic, Jim Van-Bendegom take you through the ins and outs of this highly current, relevant and educational topic regarding today's world of preparedness.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP with Clara Davis (Devries) by November 7th .



Recap of October Meeting

We would like to thank John Lewandowski and Rich Goodwin from Approved Fire Protection Co. for speaking at our October meeting.

Though, only eight people showed, it allowed for more one on one interaction and Q&A about fire suppression concepts, myths, and new technologies.

John and Rich put a hands on fire extinguisher demonstration which was educational and a good reminder for those who have not done this in a while.



Pictured is Rich, John and Mike Rabach trying not to singe what hair he has left!!!



Professional Development

There are many ways to advance in the field of safety, whether it be education, experience, etc. However, none seem to carry the weight of professional certification. No matter what division of safety you practice, professional certification can be one of the best ways to separate yourself from peers, command raises from your boss, and be recognized as knowing what you are doing!

Certification sets the benchmark of achievement within the field, and once obtained, individuals know they are on the same level as many of their peers by measurement of a standardized criteria or testing. Certification eliminates guessing and wondering for many employers looking for qualified individuals. Below is a recap of many of the popular safety and related disciplines certifications.

Please note that this is merely a review of some of the many safety related certifications in existence, this does not constitute an endorsement. It is up to each individual to find what certification fits them best.

Certification = CASH !!!

Most of the organizations offering certification will give statistics as to how their certification will benefit you in terms of annual income vs. those without certification or other certifications. Please bear in mind some do not factor in experience, area of the country, etc., so the facts can be a little misleading. I wouldn't recommend getting the CSP and walking into your boss's office, and demanding six figures! However, it is a bargaining chip that will surely lead to an increased salary.

So you want to get certified. After determining what certification that you want to obtain, you have to complete an application. These range from a few pages and a resume to having to obtain recommendations from past supervisors and peers, some of which have to be certified by the same organization...it can be a challenge just to be accepted. Many have experience requirements, and many are now requiring a bachelors degree just to take the test.

If you are lucky enough to be accepted, there is usually a test to verify that you have the knowledge to hold the certification. Some like the OHST or CSP are 200 questions over a 4-5 hour period, and some like the CSP involve more than one test! Others like the CIH can only be taken at certain times of the year. Luckily, technology has advanced. Fortunately, many of the tests are delivered via testing centers like Pro-metric. Here you are seated in a testing room that is very quiet, and take a computer based exam. Results are usually instant posting a pass/fail after hitting submit (Very nerve racking for those who have taken these types of exams and can attest to!)

I've got Letters...What now?

With any type of certification, there is usually a maintenance process, or continuing education requirement to maintain the certification. That is the beauty of being certified, you have to maintain an attitude of continuous improvement to stay on top of safety profession.

A few of the many ways of maintaining certification is attending ASSE meetings, conferences, seminars, etc. that offer Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Most certifications require that you obtain a certain amount of CEUs over a certain period of time (i.e., CSP is 25 points over a 5 year cycle). College coursework can sometimes be considered credits as well. Each organization will have their guidelines pretty well laid out.

So what are you waiting for? Start studying and get your letters!

CIH - <http://www.abih.org>

CSP - <http://www.besp.org>

OHST - <http://www.cchest.org>

CHMM - <http://www.ihmm.org>

ARM - <http://www.aicpcu.org/flyers/arm.htm>

CET - <http://cet-certification.org>

CFPS - <http://www.nfpa.org>



MIOSH Training Schedule September / October

2005				
Course Descriptions				
Dec.1	Asbestos Awareness Training	Grand Rapids	Staff	616.331.7180 or 1.800.690.0314 or check out our web site at www.gvsu.edu/learn
Dec. 8-9	MIOSHA 10-Hour for Construction	Grand Rapids	Adriane Truss	517.371.1550 or adrianet@mi.agc.org

Useful Safety Web Sites

- <http://www.wmasse.org/index.html> - Our Very own WMASSE website!!!
- <http://hazard.com> - Vermont Safety Information Resources - Great MSDS links
- <http://www.epaosc.net> - Listing of current superfund sites and projects (Katrina and Rita—Region 6)
- <http://www.mail-house.com/utility.htm> - Utility locator for the United States
- <http://www.spantraining.com> - Span Training offers certification preparation materials (ASP, CSP, OHST, etc.)

Safety Photo of the Month - “Think Safety”



This photo is a glaring example of the mentality many of us face from the workforce that we deal with on a daily basis.

How many “What ifs or Oops” moments could potentially happen here?

The only thing that would make this photo any more insulting is if we knew this guy was a member of that plants Safety Department or an OSHA inspector lending a hand.

With that said, next month will feature an article on “Safety Hypocrisy.” Please take a moment to send me your favorite story that captures the 1000 words this picture tells. Think outside the box...Did you ever have a police officer stop you for speeding, but he was driving 113 mph to catch you? Maybe you were at the doctor today, and he told you to get in shape, but Doc is no slim pickings.

For most of us it would be mixed messages like in the picture to the left, or the safety manger coming into work with a cast or band-aid on.

Think Safety - I guess when they were handing out “brains,” this guy thought they said “trains” and said no thanks. This photo is courtesy of The Naval Safety Center—<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/photo/archive/default.htm>

Clara Davis (DeVries) was recently married. On behalf of the WMASSE chapter, we wish her and her husband many congratulations!!!

If you have a submission for a newsworthy event such as a job change, promotion, obtaining a certification, etc. please pass on the news so we can all celebrate!!!

Contact me at steve.baril@earthtech.com

Professional Development—Study Guides

WMASSE has several Study guides for professional testing. We have the latest CSP study guide as well as the OHST study information. Books and CDs are available for those who would like to borrow the information. Please contact Pat Knight (Interim Education Chair) for more information (616) 560-1088 or email him at knightrms@aol.com. If there are other study guides that are out there that may aid the chapter, please bring it to the attention of the board, and we may consider purchasing it. (CHMM, ARM, etc.)

2005/06 Officers

President: Mike Rabach, CSP - Accident Fund (Mike3R@accidentfund.com) 231-773-6791

VP : Clara DeVries ASP - Parker Hannifin

Secretary: Brian Becker - SteelCase

Treasurer: Heather Kubiak—City of Wyoming

Program Chair: Mark Labaza—Consumers Energy

Membership: Pat Knight- CSP - Knight Risk Management, LLC

Archivist: Kevin Quigley – CSP Accident Fund

Past President: Dan Grzegorski

Website: Mike McKay - Ferris State

Newsletter: Steve Baril, OHST - Earth Tech (steve.baril@earthtech.com)

WEBSITE: WWW.WMASSE.ORG

Your involvement will pay dividends – to you and the group. You will benefit from networking, increased job options, and skill development. The group will benefit from your ideas and spreading the work will be more manageable for all.

Employment Opportunities

A few of the following venues provided a lot of hits on safety / loss control related opportunities. (Try searching "safety" or "loss control") Job postings will be summarized in the Newsletter in future editions, and complete descriptions will be available on the website.

- www.monster.com
- www.hotjobs.yahoo.com
- www.state.mi.us/mdcs/asp/vacancyweb/vacancyinq.asp (State of Michigan) - It is good to check this site often, as the State post positions, and sets deadlines for response.
- www.mlive.com/jobs -Local classifieds (Grand Rapids Press, Kalamazoo Gazette, and Muskegon Chronicle)

***If you have a position open at your location, please pass along the information, and it will be posted in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Hurricane Katrina / Rita - Safety Short

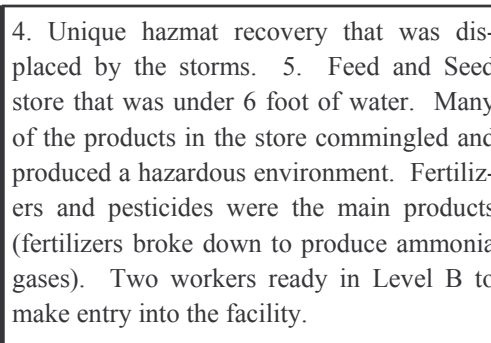
I recently had the opportunity to travel to various locations in Louisiana to take part in the Hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery efforts. I hope to put together a presentation for one of the future meetings on all of the challenges that were encountered from a safety standpoint, and how we handled them. There were many companies, many different safety programs and cultures. Everyone has different goals in mind when they go to the area, and the challenge of interjecting safety into this was quite daunting.

We have the best of intentions and want to follow the regulations and company policies to the best of our abilities, however, there is always grey area, and situations that have never been encountered where common sense, and sensible thinking had to be the guide.

Below are some pictures from the areas. I look forward to presenting this in a much broader fashion in the future, weather it be the newsletter or at a meeting.



1. Response to displaced tanker trucks (Potassium Flouride & Molton Sulpher). Trucks were parked and abandoned prior to the Hurricanes making landfall. 2. Driving conditions in the Southern Louisiana roadways. 3. Alligator tracks near one of the field sites. Gators present a big hazard when recovering drums and other containers from Bayou areas.



4. Unique hazmat recovery that was displaced by the storms. 5. Feed and Seed store that was under 6 foot of water. Many of the products in the store commingled and produced a hazardous environment. Fertilizers and pesticides were the main products (fertilizers broke down to produce ammonia gases). Two workers ready in Level B to make entry into the facility.