



American Society of Safety Engineers

West Michigan Chapter of ASSE Newsletter

April 2007

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May Meeting:

The May meeting topic will be on Wet Fire Suppression Systems. Please see the WMASSE website in the coming weeks for more details on the meeting.

April Meeting:

The April meeting will be a breakout session at the Michigan Safety Conference on April 17th at 4:30pm. Ted Larned from Herman Miller Corporation in Zeeland will discuss how Herman Miller has experienced two concepts of lean manufacturing, and how safety has evolved through that learning process.

WM ASSE Golf Outing

Date: Friday June 8, 2007

Time: 8:30am Shotgun start - Rolls and coffee prior

Where: Quail Ridge Golf Club - Cascade Rd. to 36th @ 8375 36th St. SE. in Ada, MI

Cost: \$60.00 - Includes 18 holes, cart, continental breakfast, and burgers & brats
You can join us for the cookout only for \$8

Call or email Mike Rabach by May 16th to reserve, set up groups or to attend cookout.

Michael Rabach CSP
(231) 773 - 6791
mike3r@accidentfund.com

Herman Miller will be donating one of their new Celle chairs for the outing raffle. WMASSE members can also donate items for the raffle. Please contact Mike if you would like to add items to the raffle.



The Michigan Safety Conference will be on April 17th & 18th at the DeVos Place & Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information on the conference, please go to:

www.michigansafetyconference.org

Volunteers Needed at the Michigan Safety Conference

We are still looking for volunteers to man the booth at the Michigan Safety Conference. Not many have signed up, so if you sign up early you will get your pick of times. Contact Clara Davis to set up your time to man the booth:

cdavis@parker.com



Call For Adjuncts

The Occupational Safety and Health program at Grand Valley State University is seeking to develop a pool of Adjuncts who would be able to assist the program in teaching Graduate and Undergrad courses, as early as August of 2007.

To be eligible one must have the following:

- A minimum of five years of professional safety work experience
- A Master's degree (minimum)
- Certification's a plus

If interested, please send relevant resume to include contact numbers to:

Dr. Eric L. Van Fleet
 Director of OSH
 Center for the Health Sciences
 Suite 200
 301 Michigan NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 (616) 331-3687
 vanflee@gvsu.edu

ASP & CSP Prep Courses

The Northern Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is sponsoring its 8th annual ASP / CSP Preparation Workshop in CLEVELAND, OHIO.

The ASP course will be held on April 30, May 1, & May 2.

The CSP course will be held on May 3, 4, & 5.

For more info, please contact Paul Longville:
(216) 390-5118 or paul@steininc.com

JOBS

To learn more about any of the following positions, go to:

<http://www.wmassse.org/jobs.html>

Forensic Engineer at The Warren-Group in Irmo, South Carolina

Homeland Security Regional Planner for Newaygo County

Industrial Hygenist for Perrigo Company in Allegan, MI

EHA Manager for a Grand Rapids based automotive supplier

Regional Safety Manager for Plastipak Packaging, Inc.

**2006/2007
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Study: Carpal tunnel syndrome may be associated more with genetics than hand use

Computer programmers, office workers, college students, and Internet addicts everywhere may be able to breathe a sigh of relief. The reason: there is better evidence that genetics rather than hand use is the cause of carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS). A new study presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons indicates that the causal link between CTS and repetitive use of the hands is much weaker than has been assumed.

“The idea that CTS is related specifically to typing or overuse of the hands in general is pervasive in modern society,” said David Ring, MD, senior author of the study. Ring is an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery and a hand and upper extremity surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. “It is commonly accepted as true, but according to the scientific evidence, the link between hand use and carpal tunnel syndrome is overstated and may be inaccurate. In contrast, there is strong evidence for an inherent, genetic risk for CTS. CTS sufferers are most likely innocent bystanders and should not be blamed for their illness.”

Patients with CTS experience hand numbness, and eventually develop weakness and atrophy of some of the small hand muscles that control the thumb. “Another common misconception,” said Ring, “is that patients with carpal tunnel syndrome present with complaints of activity-related wrist pain. In fact, the hallmark of CTS is numbness that wakes you at night or is present when you wake in the morning. The numbness can be so intense that it’s painful, but pain without numbness is not characteristic of CTS.”

Carpal tunnel syndrome remains poorly understood, according to a press release from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Pressure in the carpal tunnel (a tunnel formed by the small wrist [carpal] bones and the transverse carpal ligament) is involved in the pathophysiology, and release of the pressure by dividing the transverse carpal ligament stops the process. The cause of the increased pressure, however, remains unknown in the vast majority of patients.

AAOS says that researchers evaluated data for the cause of CTS by a quantitative scale, based on the Bradford Hill criteria (widely accepted by the scientific establishment), which determines a causal relationship. Average scores for biological factors (genetics, race, age, etc.) were double those of occupational factors (occupation, repetitive hand use, vibration, etc.). In addition, the average strength of causal association (odds ratio) was about three times as strong for biological factors as it was for occupational factors.

“This application of stringent science to theories of causation may affect claims of disability, workers compensation, and personal injury,” noted Ring. “It should also influence the information that physicians are providing their patients about carpal tunnel syndrome. Physicians have the power to increase or decrease illness and disability with their words. In my opinion, we should provide patients with the most optimistic, positive, practical, and enabling illness concepts that are consistent with the best available scientific data.”

Note: The press release from AAOS notes that in return for consulting, Dr. David Ring receives an unrestricted grant from AO Foundation, Small Bone Innovations, Smith and Nephew, Biomet, and Wright Medical; royalties from Hand Innovations; and stock options from Nexa Orthopedics.

Local MIOSHA Training: www.michigan.gov/cis

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|----------|---|--------------|-------------|--|
| April 17 | Asbestos Awareness Training | Muskegon | Brian Cole | 616.331.7180 or coleb@gvsu.edu |
| April 18 | Top 10 Occupational Health Violations and How to Avoid Them | Battle Creek | Connie Dawe | 269.965.4134 or fax 269.692.7370 |
| April 24 | Powered Industrial Truck - Train-the-Trainer | Holland | Brian Cole | 616.331.7180 or coleb@gvsu.edu |

Starting Work on a Master of Science in Safety Management

The following is an attempt to let those interested parties know what they will need to do to start a Master of Science in Safety Management degree at Grand Valley and the associated risks of such a venture.

Currently the degree is at the Prospectus level and will not clear that level before the end of the academic year (May-June)

It must clear the Executive Committee of the Senate, the Senate, and the Provost to move onto the Proposal level.

If Provost gives the O.K. to the Prospectus, she will form a committee to develop the Proposal

The Proposal will fly if there is a demonstrated need (nothing shows a need greater than potential students interest and enrolled in tentative courses)

The Proposal would take one year to clear the academic process

Degree could be approved by Fall of 2008

Any student having taken current graduate courses offered under the HPR 600 level prefixes could then apply for the degree and have those courses counted in their program

The following is a general description of the M.S. in Safety Management Degree:

32-36 semester hours in length (final make up to be determined in the proposal stage)

Courses must be a combination of Theory and Practice

Courses would be offered at night or on four weekends.

Two courses would be offered each semester (Fall '07/Winter '08/Spring-summer '08) and would continue on that pattern

24 to 27 semester hours or course work would be required courses in Safety . . . the rest would be electives in safety or another discipline as approved by advisor

The following is a listing of courses being offered starting this summer. All courses offered and taken would become part of a degree candidates program, once the degree was approved.

Spring '07

HPR 680A Phil Approach to Safety 3 sem. hrs

Course will examine four major philosophical approaches to safety and how those philosophies impact policies and practices.

Note: Course will be taught on a seminar level

Max. Enrollment 25 students

Meeting times: Fridays 0600PM-0850PM

Saturdays 0800AM-0250PM

Meeting location: DEV 117E

Instructor: Dr. Eric L. Van Fleet

MEETS 5/11-12, 5/18-19, 6/1-2 and 6/8-9

Fall '07

HPR 680 - 01 Conceptual Models in Safety 3 sem. hrs.

Course will examine managerial impacts of various conceptual models of accident causation – remediation (tentative)

Note: Course will be taught on a seminar level

Max. Enrollment: 25 students

Meeting times: Tuesday Evenings 6:00 pm - 8:50 pm

Meeting location: Eberhard Center 511

Instructor: Dr. Eric L. Van Fleet (tentative)

Meets: August 28, 2007 - Dec 13, 2007

(Continued on next page)

HPR 680 – 02 Legal Aspects of Workplace Safety 3 sem. hrs.

Course will examine legal aspects of workplace safety and their ramifications on management, the company, and the workforce (tentative)

Note: Course will be taught on a seminar level

Max. Enrollment: 25 students

Meeting times: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:50am

Meeting location: DeVos 107D

Instructor: Dr. Greg Green (tentative)

Meets: September 01, 2007 - Dec 15, 2007

Winter '08

HPR 680 - 01 Critical Issues Facing Safety 3 sem. hrs.

Course will examine critical issues facing safety and their impact on program development, program management, and budgeting (tentative)

Note: Course will be taught on a seminar level

Max. Enrollment: 25 students

Meeting times: Tuesday Evenings 6:00 pm - 8:50 pm

Meeting location: Eberhard Center 612

Instructor: Dr. Eric L. Van Fleet (tentative)

Meeting Dates: January 7, 2008 – April 26, 2008

HPR 680 - 02 Loss Control Management 3 sem. hrs.

Course will examine risk criteria and other variables that affect the management of a comprehensive safety and health program (tentative)

Note: Course will be taught on a seminar level

Max. Enrollment: 25 students

Meeting times: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:50am

Meeting location: DeVos 117E

Instructor: Dr. Greg Green (tentative)

Meets: January 7, 2008 – April 26, 2008

If interested . . . what you need to do.

Register for graduate classes . . . non-degree seeking.

Questions. . . Direct them to Dr. Van Fleet

vanflee@gvsu.edu
