



National Safety
Management
Society

DIGEST

Updating Members on Safety Management News

July 2007

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Welcoming Our New 2007 NSMS Members

On behalf NSMS President Roosevelt, the NSMS Executive Committee and the NSMS Board of Directors, we like to thank all members who have renewed their 2007 membership to the National Safety Management Society. We would also like to acknowledge and welcome the following new members this month to our Society:

- Michael A. Franks, Safety Engineer – Android Industries (Flint, Michigan).
- James Lina, new NSMS “Certified Safety Supervisor” (CSS), Senior HSE Specialist – PEC/Premier Safety Management (Abita Springs, Louisiana).

We appreciate your interest in furthering your skills, knowledge and abilities in the management of safety and risks, as well as your interest to networking and professional development. Welcome again to NSMS!

NEW DATES for NSMS Annual Conference (November 15-16, 2007)

Please join the National Safety Management Society for its **2-Day Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 15-16, 2007** (Thursday and Friday). Our original date, which coincided with the Veterans Day weekend did not provide reasonable room rate for our attendees. Our Annual Conference will be held at the:

Tuscany Suites and Casino

(255 E Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89169)

Tuscany Room Reservations Toll Free 1-877-887-2261

(Ask for the Safety Management Integration & Operational Excellence Group Rate)

*Enjoy the beauty of Italy in Las Vegas. The Tuscany is on Flamingo Road, just east of the famous Las Vegas Strip. Tuscany offers attractive over sized guest "Suites". Each suite is situated in a lovely European setting that offers a great sense of relaxation and privacy. Their standard suites (king bed or two double beds) are significantly larger than average hotel rooms and are offered at extremely affordable rates for NSMS Conference attendees (\$65/night, plus tax). Additional person in the room will be at \$20 per person, per night, plus room tax. Children twelve (12) and under may share the same room with parents at no additional charge. **Website - <http://www.tuscanylasvegas.com/>***

Our theme this year is, “Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence”. This event will be offer informative speakers, professional development workshops and networking opportunities to help our members and guests acquire or enhance skills, knowledge and abilities to effectively develop, implement, evaluate and improve its safety management programs in alignment with their organizational missions and business operations, as well as enhance their level of skills, knowledge and abilities to become for competitive advantage and career success. The learning objectives of this conference is to provide attendees with the latest concepts, best practices and professional development skills to help them partner with, and integrate safety management practices into, business operations, as well as gain competitive advantage for career advancement and professional success. Current dues-paying members will receive deep discounts in registration fees compared to non-member attendees, and “Early Bird” registration and payment (before August 15, 2007) will result in further significant savings. Online and hardcopy registration forms will be available shortly.

“Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence”

(Program Agenda - Preliminary Draft)

Day 1 – November 15, 2007

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Conference Registration/Check-in
8:30 am to 9:00 am	Welcome/Introductions/Announcements (NSMS President Smith/Executive Director Chung)
9:00 am to 10:15 am	Speaker #1 (1 st Keynote Address)
10:15 am to 10:30 am	Morning Refreshment Break
10:45 am to 11:45 am	Speaker #2
11:45 am to 12:45 pm	Group Lunch (possible Luncheon Speaker)
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Professional Development Workshop “A” (Problem Solving Tools for the Safety and Health Manager/Professional) [Facilitators – Chung/Caiazza]
3:00 pm to 3:15 pm	Afternoon Refreshment Break
3:15 pm to 5:45 pm	Vendor Exhibits and Poster Session
5:45 pm to 6:15 pm	Vendor(s)-Sponsored Networking Session
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Group Dinner or Free Evening

Day 2 – November 16, 2007

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Conference Registration Check-in
8:30 am to 9:45 am	Speaker #3 (2 nd Keynote Address)
9:45 am to 10:00 am	Morning Refreshment Break
10:15 am to 11:15 am	Speaker #4 (Emerging Issues – The Aging Workforce: What Safety Managers/Supervisors Need to Know (Chung))
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Speaker #5
12:45 pm to 1:45 pm	Lunch (possible Luncheon Speaker)
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Speaker #6
3:30 pm to 3:45 pm	Afternoon Refreshment Break
3:45 pm to 4:45 pm-	Speaker #7
4:45 pm to 5:15 pm	Closing Comments/Program Evaluation/Final Thoughts

NSMS Annual Conference – Call for Presenters and Papers

A formal request for papers and presentations is being made by the conference planning committee for sharing at the National Safety Management Society 2-Day Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 15-16, 2007. Our theme this year is, “Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence”. Having informative speakers will help our conference attendees achieve our learning objectives of providing everyone with the latest concepts, best practices and professional development skills to help them partner with, and integrate safety management practices into, business operations, as well as gain competitive advantage for career advancement and professional success. Our goal is to provide speakers that will share with our attendees:

- Key issues facing business executives, safety/risk manager and front line supervisors and those professionals and technicians anticipating or entering into such a role.
- Insights into best safety management practices.
- Skills, knowledge and abilities for professional development.
- How to prepare for the challenges in the occupational safety and risk management fields.

If you are interested in being considered as a speaker for this conference or wish to share your publication without presenting it, please prepare a short abstract (one or two paragraphs) of your topic, along with your complete contact information (include email and daytime phone number). If suggesting a speaker other than yourself, please include contact information for the proposed speaker. Submit your proposal or speaker recommendation **no later than July 15, 2007** to:

Charles W. McGlothlin, Jr. PhD PE
Program Director, OS&H
Oakland University School of Health Sciences
Rochester, MI 48306

Email: mcglothl@oakland.edu
(248) 370-2664

The members of the NSMS Annual Conference planning committee will evaluate all proposals. You will be notified whether or not your proposal was selected for the conference by August 1, 2007. Written papers are to be in Microsoft Word format and presentations developed with Microsoft PowerPoint and copies provided for inclusion in our conference program compendium.

NSMS Annual Conference Vendor Invitation

The National Safety Management Society is hosting a 2-Day Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 15-16, 2007. Our theme this year is, “Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence”. This event is packed with informative speakers, professional development workshops and networking opportunities to help our members and other attendees learn more about the current state of safety and health practices, as well as resources and products that may facilitate their program implementation and worker protection.

Our conference agenda includes dedicating a portion of the afternoon (2.5 hours) on November 15, 2007 for interested vendors to set-up exhibit booths/display tables to for resources sharing and information exchange. NSMS would like to invite your company to showcase its safety

products and services to our attendees. The exhibitor participation fee is \$150. We are also looking for a vendor(s) who may be interested in sponsoring either a mid-session “hospitality break” and/or a “Networking Social Hour” immediately following the exhibit session (from 5 pm to 6 pm).

Contact Walter Caiazza (wcaiazza@roadrunner.com) to reserve your slot if your organization would like to participate in the afternoon vendor exhibit session or sponsor hospitality. Space is limited.

The NSMS “Blog” is Here

Steve Geigle has created and launched the “NSMS Blog” on the NSMS website. It will allow members and others to post comments, remarks and initiate discussions about a variety of safety management topics and issues. You can participate in the Blog by going to the NSMS website (<http://nsms.us>) and look for the link on the home page along the left-hand column of navigation areas.

FREE ACCESS: Online Certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM) Educational and Exam Preparation Reference Materials

As a benefit for our current and future dues-paying members, NSMS is **permanently** offering free access to the Certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM) preparation and educational materials. The online resources, created by NSMS member Steve Geigle, can be found at www.cshmprep.com and the only action an NSMS member needs to take is to register for the CSHM exam (through the Institute for Safety and Health Management – ISHM) and then emailing Steve to request access from that website. You will need to include your current NSMS member number (found on your membership card and certificate). Once the number and membership status are verified, you will be granted a username and password to access the online reference materials. This is a great opportunity to brush up on your safety management and technical knowledge and prepare for a successful passing of the CSHM certification examination.

OSHA, Consulate Establish Hispanic Help Line

(by Katherine Torres, Occupational Hazards – 5/10/07)

The Mexican Consulate in Atlanta has established a help line for Hispanic workers who are concerned about safety and health hazards at their worksite or about other work-related issues under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor. Bilingual consulate employees have been trained by the Labor Department to screen calls and connect workers with appropriate department staff for assistance. Since December, 90 percent of the callers have been construction workers.

“Often, Hispanic workers do not realize they have protections under the Occupational Safety and Health Act and other Labor Department laws,” said Cindy Coe Laseter, OSHA's Atlanta regional administrator. The hotline – (404) 262-4466 – was set up under an alliance between the Mexican Consulate, OSHA and Georgia Tech Research Institute’s Safety, Health and Environmental Technology Division.

The goal of the agreement is to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities among Hispanic workers. "We also encourage Hispanic workers to call the hotline if they have questions about unpaid wages or overtime pay, which are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, administered by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division," said Consul General of Mexico in Atlanta Remedios Gomez-Arnau.

"The Wage and Hour Division has been working cooperatively with the Mexican Consulate training their intake workers on making referrals to us and other agencies," said John McKeon, regional administrator, southeast region, Wage and Hour Division. The Mexican Consulate's phone number complements OSHA's toll-free number, (800) 321-OSHA (6742). The OSHA line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report workplace safety and health hazards.

Bush Picks Thompson for OSHRC Chairman

President Bush has designated Horace A. "Topper" Thompson III to serve as chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Thompson, a Mississippi labor lawyer, has been an OSHRC member since June 2006.

His entire 38-year legal career has been concentrated on labor and employment law with a focus on occupational safety and health law, according to OSHRC's June 20 news release. From 2002 through 2006, he was co-chair of the Labor and Employment Law Practice Group of the Law Firm of Watkins Ludlam Winter and Stennis and held a resident position in the firm's Gulfport, Miss., and New Orleans offices.

"I am honored that President Bush has bestowed the confidence in me to handle the day-to-day operations of an agency responsible for rendering decisions important to safety and health issues in the workplace. I look forward to working with Commissioner [Thomasina V.] Rogers in an effort to finalize pending cases expeditiously," Thompson said in the release. Rogers, a former chairman, is the only other OSHRC commissioner at this time. She is serving a term that will end in April 2009. W. Scott Railton, also a former chairman, was the third commissioner until April 27, 2007, when his term ended.

Thompson received his J.D. from Tulane University in 1968. He co-edited the ABA Treatise on OSHA Law (BNA, 1983) and contributed to the ABA/BNA Treatise on International Labor Law. From 1979 to 1984, he was management co-chair of the Occupational Safety and Health Law Committee, American Bar Section on Labor and Employment Law.

U.S. Chemical Safety Board Calls on Governments at All Levels to Establish OSHA Programs for Public Employees

In Testimony to House Workforce Protections Subcommittee on May 24, 2007, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) urged "governments at all levels to take steps to protect public employees from preventable chemical accidents, including the establishment of programs incorporating mandatory OSHA standards."

In written testimony submitted today for a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing, CSB Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt, speaking on behalf of the five-member Board, said, “It is simply inequitable to afford public employees with lesser workplace protections than workers in private industry. No worker - whether employed by the city, county, state, federal government, or the private sector - should have to suffer injury or death just to earn a living.”

The hearing before the House Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, chaired by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (California), was entitled “Workplace Safety: Why do Millions of Workers Remain Without OSHA Coverage?” The Board testimony cited the CSB's investigation of a January 2006 methanol fire and explosion at a Florida municipal wastewater treatment plant that killed two public employees and seriously injured a third. The final report and a computer-animated safety video on the explosion at the Bethune Point Wastewater Treatment Plant are available from the Board's website, CSB.gov, under “Completed Investigations.”

The accident at the wastewater facility, which is owned and operated by the City of Daytona Beach, occurred when city employees using a cutting torch to dismantle a metal roof accidentally ignited vapors coming from the vent of a nearby methanol storage tank. Flames traveled back into the storage tank through a corroded flame arrester, causing an internal explosion, multiple piping failures, and a large fire that engulfed the workers. In its investigation report, the CSB concluded that a lack of hazard communication, inadequate safety training, and no control of hot work contributed to the accident.

Chairman Merritt said, “This fatal accident that occurred in Florida should serve as a cautionary tale for the twenty-five other states that do not provide public employees with OSHA protections.” “This tragic accident,” she added, “underscores the potentially grave dangers facing public employees who work with dangerous chemicals without workplace safety standards.”

The CSB report noted that no Florida state laws or regulations exist to require municipalities to implement safe work practices or communicate chemical hazards to municipal employees. Florida is one of 26 states that have not adopted plans under the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act to provide OSHA coverage for public employees. Florida had a safety program for public workers but it was discontinued in 2000, six years before the accident.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov. For more information contact Jennifer Jones at (202) 577-8448 cell or Daniel Horowitz at (202) 441-6074 cell.

CSB Chairman Carolyn Merritt Tells House Subcommittee of “Striking Similarities” in Causes of BP Texas City Tragedy and Prudhoe Bay Pipeline Disaster (A Lesson Learned) –

In the spring of this year, U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt told members of a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee that she found 'striking similarities' between the causes of the fatal BP accident in Texas City, Texas, in 2005, and the company's pipeline failure at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, in 2006 which resulted in the leakage of more than 200,000 gallons of oil. The pipeline suffered extensive corrosion due to lack of maintenance over several years.

While the CSB did not investigate the Prudhoe Bay accident, Chairman Merritt was asked by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight to review a BP internal audit of the accident completed by Booz Allen Hamilton. Chairman Merritt told the subcommittee, 'Virtually all of the seven root causes identified for the Prudhoe Bay incidents have strong echoes in Texas City.' These included, she said, the “significant role of budget and production pressures in driving BP's decision-making - and ultimately harming safety.”

The hearing, chaired by Rep. Bart Stupak (Michigan), was entitled “2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures?” Other panel members included representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the pipeline and hazardous materials safety division of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Featured on a second panel was Robert. A. Malone, Chairman and President of BP America, Inc.

Chairman Merritt told the committee of further comparisons of safety culture similarities at Texas City and Prudhoe Bay. Both investigations, she said, found deficiencies in how BP managed the safety of process changes. In Prudhoe Bay, Booz Allen Hamilton found “a normalization of deviance where risk levels gradually crept up due to evolving operating conditions.” This compared, she said, to Texas City, where at BP's refinery “Abnormal startups were not investigated and became routine, while critical equipment was allowed to decay. By the day of the accident, the distillation equipment had six key alarms, instruments and controls that were malfunctioning. Trailers had been moved into dangerous locations without appropriate safety reviews.”

Similarly, Ms. Merritt noted BP's own internal audit findings concerning its Prudhoe Bay pipeline problems did not result in repairs or improved maintenance. Ms. Merritt quoted the company's audit as saying the findings faced “long delays in implementation, administrative documentation of close-out even though remedial actions were not actually taken, or simple non-compliance.” Other common findings at both Texas City and Prudhoe Bay included, the chairman said, “Flawed communication of lessons learned, excessive decentralization of safety functions, and high management turnover. BP focused on personal safety statistics but allowed catastrophic process safety risks to grow.”

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA.

Research Highlights the Need for Better Emergency Preparedness

Many businesses still have little confidence in their ability to recover from a fire, flood or other natural or man-made disaster, according to research carried out by a European Company, SembCorp Protection, at the recent Business Continuity conference and exhibition in London.

Are your companies/organizations also in the same situation as your European counterparts?

The overriding message from conference delegates and exhibition visitors was that, while they appreciated the need for business continuity planning, many felt a high degree of discomfort regarding their current state of preparedness. The research identified that the focus for many companies is centered on what to do when something does happen, with little attention being paid to prevention.

The shortcomings acknowledged by delegates included not being prepared for significant business interruption, a lack of confidence in how they would respond, and uncertainty about how their staff would behave in an emergency. Few appear to have had any formal training in business continuity or disaster recovery, and often felt that they were unaware of their company's business continuity plan, as little communication takes place.

From the research undertaken by SembCorp Protection, a significant number of businesses have only one person with responsibility for business continuity planning, and that person often has other responsibilities that are seen as being of more pressing day-to-day importance.

Commenting on the findings, SembCorp Protection's Emergency Planning Manager, Kevin O'Hare, said: "It is clear that delegates have little or no understanding of the Civil Contingencies Act or how it relates to business continuity planning or their company's emergency preparedness." He continued: "Many companies indicated that they worked in isolation and did not consider neighboring businesses or the local community. Perhaps the biggest indictment was the number who admitted that they are just 'ticking boxes' rather than implementing effective and tested emergency response procedures."

Kevin O'Hare concluded: "They frequently commented that they do not check if their suppliers have business continuity plans in place, as they have little faith in their own. The majority is dependent on the emergency services, and lacks any real understanding of the magnitude of business recovery issues. A particularly important finding was that delegates are skeptical about the advice given by consultants, and are looking to service providers that can demonstrate a record of achievement and validation of their credentials."

Dow Hit by OSHA Penalty

(by John Lowman, The Facts – May 8, 2007)

FREEPORT — The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined Dow Chemical Co. \$10,000 for four alleged safety violations. In a document with an official release date of April 30 but available Monday, Dow is fined \$5,000 for two alleged offenses and not fined for two others. The action comes after an investigation of a small chlorine release in November.

The four-point citation states written procedures did not address normal operation, Dow did not implement safe work practices for employees for control of hazards during some operations, did not document equipment compliance, and did not perform appropriate checks and inspections of equipment installation consistent with design specifications and manufacturer's instructions.

Two of the citations include \$5,000 fines. The document is signed by OSHA Houston Area Director Charles E. Williams. All four are listed as "serious" and involve the Chlorine Liquefaction unit, A-19 block. However, they do not link Dow to the death of process operator Gerald Hamilton, 36, of Galveston.

On Nov. 15, Hamilton was apparently clearing a pipeline at the plant when less than a third of a gallon of chlorine was released into the air. The next morning — about 12 hours later — he died at Brazosport Regional Health System of an undetermined cause.

Hamilton, who worked at Dow just more than a year, was wearing a breathing apparatus attached to an oxygen tank while he was clearing the line. It is not known if he inhaled any of the released chlorine and an autopsy report is still pending. Hamilton's body was sent to Galveston County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Stephen Pustilnik's office.

"We still have not completed that," a spokeswoman with Pustilnik's office said Monday. "We had to get medical records from other hospitals and we have all that, but there's nothing on the case yet." Dow reserved comment on OSHA's findings. "It would be premature to talk about the details of this at this time," Copeland said. "Serious is the second from the bottom in regards to severity of violation or citation, with the bottom being the lowest level in this case. I'm confident in Dow's safety and operation procedures and policies. The company's focus on employees and the community is strong, and our safety and environmental polices and procedures are outstanding. "Our heart goes out to the family and co-workers of any employee who passes away," she said. "They are part of our family, too."

Charlie Singletary, business manager for Union of Operating Engineers Local 564, is concerned that the chemical industry as a whole is more interested in safety records than the safety of individual workers. "The union feels that the culture of the petrochemical industry as a whole has been to drive injuries and incidents to zero," Singletary said. "The employees feel that in doing so, instead of reporting near-misses and accidents, it's easier to make it go away. We've had a pretty good relationship with the Dow Chemical Company over the last several years and hope to maintain that, but we need to seriously look into safety."

Companies share information industry-wide, and Dow employees are urged to report any mishap, Copeland said. "My experience with Dow is the consequences of not reporting an incident, injury or near-miss far outweigh any consequences of doing so," she said. "Our drive-to-zero program is one in which we have a vision of zero incidents, zero accidents, zero emissions."

Free Guide from Capital Safety Explains Construction Fall Protection

Capital Safety, parent company of DBI/SALA and PROTECTA, has published a helpful, free guide to fall protection for all types of construction work, from residential building to steel erection, confined spaces, scaffolding work, or work on construction wall forms and rebar.

The guide is available at www.capitalsafety.com/portals/0/catalog_construction.pdf

At 68 pages, it contains straightforward information with selections of the company's products shown and categorized as high performance, utility, and fundamental. Relevant text from OSHA, ANSI, and CSA standards is included, as are information about training tools and programs, product specifications, and color photographs.

"Most catalogs are lists of products without any guidance or useful information," said Jeff Halbach, Capital Safety's marketing communications manager. "Rather than have ours end up in the catalog graveyard, we created a tool that safety professionals can reference whenever a fall protection challenge arises. The guide educates consumers to select the appropriate equipment for their needs."

How Do You Know Your Safety Program is Working?

Make a power point presentation titled "How you know if your safety program is working" by creating ten (10) slides each one using a safety theme from work and showing how it should be done it at home. Safety should not end at the company property line:

1. When picking up a heavy object at home you ask your wife for a buddy lift.
2. You have a safety inspection list on your lawn mower, blower, chain saw, toaster, microwave, etc.
3. Every Saturday you do a safety inspection in your garage.
4. You put on rubber gloves, a mask, steel-toed shoes and a hard hat before you take the trash out.
5. After the gate rises at the train station, you wait three seconds before walking.
6. While driving you honk at every intersection.
7. When climbing into your car you make sure you have a three-point contact.
8. You have a cut glove and a retractable pairing knife in the kitchen.
9. You give your teenager a safety buck for cleaning his room without being told to.
10. You have a safety tip of the day on your refrigerator.

Safety Meeting Strategies – Scratch and Sniff

(from article by Richard Hawk Inc. <http://www.richardhawkinc.com>)

When conducting some refresher training on carbon monoxide, try this approach: The objective of this training is to assure employees used exhaust hoses while running vehicles in our maintenance building. A key point to stress is that carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas.

To remind people, take an empty baby food bottle, labeled it "carbon monoxide sample" and hand it around the class. Next, pulled out a white sheet of cardboard with a piece of blue tape stuck to it and label it "carbon monoxide scratch & sniff." Some employees may actually try to use the scratch & sniff board. Everyone will get a good laugh and the safety message will be reinforced and stick with the employees.

The Ten Question Chemical Handling Thought Test

(Before handling a chemical, you should be able to correctly answer these ten questions.)

1. Is it the right chemical for the job?
2. Is it considered a hazardous chemical?
3. If it is hazardous-how hazardous?
4. How should the chemical look and smell?
5. What are the symptoms of overexposure?
6. What other chemicals should not be mixed with it?
7. Describe a safe storage area and container for it.
8. What type of protective clothing is needed to handle the chemical safely?
9. What should you do if there is a spill?
10. What is the proper way to dispose of the chemical?

How Was I Supposed To Know?

(from "Safety Stuff" by Richard Hawk Inc. <http://www.richardhawkinc.com>)

You are given the job of painting a wall that was recently repaired. You get your paint and grab the first ladder you can find. After you get "set up" in the room and begin painting, you discover the ladder is too short and you'll have to stand on the top rung to reach the top of the wall.

You didn't plan on this hold up, and you don't want to stop your momentum. So, rather than stop and get a better ladder (a six-foot folding ladder, for example) you carefully balance yourself as you reach overhead.

If you fall and break your leg, the accident report will probably say it was because of "inattention" or "improper work practices." However, if you think about it, wasn't poor planning the real culprit?

Had you spent a few moments listing all the possible problems and hazards of the task (including the height of the wall) you may have realized you needed a different ladder and spent time finding one.

Every year, dozens of deadly explosions are caused by people using matches, cigarette lighters, or candles instead of a flashlight. One man, who used a cigarette lighter to search for a friend, started a fire that killed the friend, engulfed two huge oil storage tanks, and forced the evacuation of most inhabitants of Gilbertown, Alabama. Many experienced mechanics have died because they didn't plan on needing a flashlight.

For every job you do, if you want things to go safe and smooth--plan on it.

Twenty (20) Human Relations Tips for Work or Home

(by Steven Geigle, CSHM – OSTN's May Safety Matters)

Safety is all about psychology. In fact, I think the psychology of safety is the most interesting aspect of safety training. Thought-based safety is all about helping your employees think the right thoughts, so that they follow through with right behaviors.

The tips below aren't about safety, but they never-the-less important. They'd make a great handout too!

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you," mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
16. When you lose, don't lose the lesson
17. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and responsibility for all your actions.
18. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
19. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
20. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

Without PowerPoint! – Safety Training/Meeting Strategy

(from "Safety Stuff" by Richard Hawk Inc. <http://www.richardhawkinc.com>)

This training strategy comes from Scott Tritt, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, as a means of conducting safety training without the help of PowerPoint. Both had great success.

Session 1

We do an annual new employee orientation for our incoming seasonal staff. I wanted to stress the importance of being cautious in everything they do. As part of another training session, I had a battery jump box with me. These are the units you place on a dead battery to jumpstart it instead of using another car. I also had an LED flashing amber warning light left over from some that I purchased for some of our construction equipment. It runs on 12v, the same power output as the battery jump box.

So, when I was introduced, I hooked up the flashing LED to the battery box and away it flashed. I went into my presentation and after a while when everyone had strained to see why the light was going, I asked, "What does the light make you think of?" Almost everyone stated "caution" or "warning." Next, I went into my pitch about being cautious in everything we do.

A funny side effect was several people in the front row came "hypnotized" by the flash pattern. I saw this and remarked that now that they were hypnotized to not have an accident I needed to work on everyone else. It worked well and most chuckled. It sure did loosen everyone up.

Session 2

Our safety topic for May was first aid. I purchased several bags of lifesavers, mint and fruit flavored and put them into a hardhat shell. I greeted everyone as they entered the room and offered them a lifesaver.

I started the session by asking for three volunteers. I gave each volunteer a sheet of paper; one had a large A on it, B was on another and C on the third. The volunteers sat up front facing everyone. As I discussed various injuries and simple first aid treatment issues, whenever I wanted to remind everyone about airway (A), breathing (B) and circulation (C) they held up the bright colored papers.

After awhile the three up front began to anticipate when I would call on them to act and boy did they. The session was loose and everyone had FUN!

I can say it took a little more work on my part to be creative and prepare for the presentation, but it was worth it. It was nice to be free of the technology and just go off the cuff with a little help from a script. I think those there will remember the training with the ABC's and lifesavers.

You helped to stimulate creativity and make me a better presenter.

Loony News: Baseball Injuries

(Since baseball season is in full bloom, here is some interesting documented occupational injuries):

- In 1993, Rickey Henderson missed several games because of frostbite--in August! He had fallen asleep on an ice pack.
- Atlanta pitcher John Smoltz once burned his chest. He'd ironed a shirt . . . while still wearing it.
- Pitcher Greg Harris was flipping sunflower seeds into his mouth in the Texas Rangers bullpen. It strained his elbow.
- Carlos Zambrano of the Chicago Cubs was on the disabled list after being diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome. Cause of condition: too many hours spent surfing the Internet.
- Milwaukee's Steve Sparks once dislocated his shoulder attempting to tear a phone book in half.
- Former San Francisco Giants manager Roger Craig cut his hand "undoing a bra strap."

Safety Tidbits

(from "Safety Stuff" by Richard Hawk Inc. <http://www.richardhawkinc.com>)

- In Uruguay, intoxication is a legal excuse for having an accident while driving.
- Cost to U.S. economy when superstitious people stay home on Friday the 13th: \$800 million.
- Fourteen people have died during Pamplona, Spain's annual "Running of the Bulls."
- Poll results: 40% of nurses said they would not want to be treated at the hospital in which they work.
- Number-one cause of death in hurricanes: drowning (90% of all fatalities).
- French scientists use trout to test water. The fish can detect one billionth of one gram of pesticide in a liter of water.
- The town of Waterproof, Louisiana, has been flooded numerous times.
- Statistics show that when men are having a heart attack in a public place, they tend to run outside. When women are having a heart attack, they're more likely to run to the bathroom.
- About 27 people die each year of suffocation from a dry-cleaning bag.