



National Safety
Management
Society

DIGEST

Updating Members on Safety Management News

SEPTEMBER 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:

- John M. Fleming, Safety Manager – Bunge North America (Cairo, Illinois).
- James A. Lawrence, Safety Director – Swanson Bark & Wood Products (Longview, Washington).
- Michael K. Mayo, Site Safety Manager – Commonwealth Dynamics (Belmont, North Carolina).
[Sponsoring Member: Charles Kelly]
- Leandro S. Porras, QA/QC Manager – Cosmoplast Ind. Company, LLC: Abu Dhabi Plants (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).

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!

Remembering a Safety and Loss Control Legend



Biography: Frank E. Bird, Jr. (1931-2007)

The National Safety Management Society wishes to recognize and pay tribute to one of our distinguished members and pioneers in the safety and loss control field. Frank was born in Netcong, NJ on December 19, 1921 and is survived by his wife Esther Savidge, as well as four children: Frank III married to Pat Keesee, Susan Arnold, Billie married to Jerry Baird, David married to Debbie Reichard, and thirteen grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Frank received a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree from Albright College in Reading, PA in 1950, following four years of service in the United States Navy Medical Department. He served as Chief Pharmacist Mate on board the LSM 46 with the Pacific Fleet at Iwo Jima during WWI.

He began his career at Lukens Steel Company (1950-1968) as a Safety Director then moved to the Insurance Company of North America (1968-1973) in the same capacity. He set up the International Safety Academy in Macon, GA and in 1974; he founded the International Loss Control Institute (ILCI). He developed the International Safety Rating System, better known as ISRS, an audit system being used around the world. He pioneered in the expansion of industrial safety from an injury-oriented concept to a discipline encompassing all accidents by his extensive studies and writings on the identification, costs and control of property damage accidents during the 1950's and early 60's. He continued to contribute to management's awareness of the extent of loss from accidents and other avoidable waste of resources, including people, equipment, materials and environment, by development of "Total Loss Control", as he traveled around the world training, consulting and auditing.

His dedication to the development, maintenance and refinement of safety and health program evaluations in the workplaces is a continuous tribute to his devotion and life-time mission. He originated the safety and health program evaluation systems once used by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association and the Mines Accident Prevention Association of Ontario, Canada; the Quebec Mining Association; the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, United Kingdom; the Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand; the

Accident Prevention Associations of Spain, Mexico, Chile, the Philippines and safety organizations in Australia, Finland, Holland, Belgium, France, Thailand and the Republic of South Africa. He contributed many innovative methods and techniques for the management of safety and health programs through his extensive writings and international conference participation. His teaching and writing will continue to provide the world with the dynamic tools necessary to maintain safe and healthy work and home environments. He wrote extensively and published books that are used today in colleges and industrial settings around the world, among them:

- Practical Loss Control Leadership
- Damage Control
- Loss Control Management
- Management Guide to Loss Control
- Mine Safety and Loss Control
- Commitment, Safety and the Bottom Line
- International Safety Rating System (ISRS)

He received numerous honors and awards, including the Public Service Award from the United States Department of the Interior, the Distinguished Service Award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, a Fellow in the American Society of Safety Engineers, Honorary Fellow in the New Zealand Institute of Safety Management, Honorary Life Membership in the Industrial Accident prevention Association of Ontario, honorary Life Membership in the Canadian society of Safety Engineers, and a member of the Safety and Health Hall of Fame International.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Bird Family and our utmost gratitude and appreciation for having the opportunity of knowing Frank and being blessed with his passion and his forward-thinking contributions in the field of safety, health and loss control management. We will dearly miss him, but know with satisfaction and admiration that he made a difference our professional lives and a positive impact in accident prevention and risk management around the world.

Don't Forget to Register Now for the NSMS Annual Conference!

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 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/>

Current dues-paying members will receive deep discounts in registration fees compared to non-member attendees, and “**Early Bird**” registration and payment (before August 22, 2007) will result in further significant savings. **Conference registration may be completed in one of three manners:**

1. Downloading and printing the hardcopy form from our NSMS website (http://www.nsms.us/newsletters/conference_agenda.pdf) and mailing it along with your conference registration fee payment to:

National Safety Management Society
P.O. Box 4460
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0460

2. Registering online at http://www.nsms.us/conference/conf_reg.htm and mailing your conference registration fee payment to:

National Safety Management Society
P.O. Box 4460
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0460

3. Registering online at http://www.nsms.us/conference/conf_reg.htm and paying online via PayPal at <http://www.nsms.us/pages/confonlinepay.html>

Don't miss the opportunity to attend this informative conference. It is a cost-effective investment for yourself and your organization!

“Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence”

(Program Agenda - Updated Draft – 9/5/07)

Our conference 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.

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 Roosevelt Smith and Executive Director Jeffrey Chung |
| 9:00 am to 10:00 am | “Integrating the Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Functions into Operations” – James J. Thatcher, PhD. |

10:00 am to 10:30 am	Morning Refreshment Break/Exhibits Open
10:45 am to 11:45 am	“A New Benchmark for Integrating a Systematic Safety Management Approach” – Charles W. McGlothlin, Jr., PhD P.E.
11:45 am to 12:45 pm	Group Lunch: "Communication Diversity" – Marilyn C. Alston, MBS, CSHM
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	“Professional Development Workshop A: Problem Solving Tools for the Safety and Health Manager and Professional” – Jeffrey Y. Chung, PhD CSHM CHFP and Walter C. Caiazza, B.S. CSHM
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Afternoon Refreshment Break/Exhibits Open
3:15 pm to 4:15 pm	“The Five Stars of Safety Leadership” – Steven J. Geigle, M.A., CSHM.
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm	Networking Session

Day 2 – November 16, 2007

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Conference Registration Check-in
8:30 am to 9:30 am	“How Surveys Can Be Used to Identify Management and Employee Perceptions of Your Safety Program” – Erike Young.
9:30 am to 10:00 am	Morning Refreshment Break/Exhibits Open
10:15 am to 11:15 am	“Emerging Human Factor Issues Facing Safety Managers, Supervisors and Operations: The Aging Workforce” – Jeffrey Y. Chung, PhD CSHM CHFP
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	“Safety Management Integration and Operational Excellence” – Anthony Veltri, Ed.D.
12:45 pm to 1:45 pm	Open Lunch Period
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	“Professional Development Workshop B: CSHM Exam Prep Course/Safety Management Practices Refresher” – Steven J. Geigle, M.A. CSHM.*

***NOTE:** For those who are interested in professional certification, the Institute for Safety and Health Management (ISHM) will offer the Certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM) certification exam on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at the Nevada OSHA Office in Las Vegas (time TBA). ISHM Board of Directors Chairperson, Jan Rosenberg, will host and administer the CSHM certification test. Please visit the ISHM website at <http://www.ishm.org> for more information and to register.

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Afternoon Refreshment Break/Exhibits Open
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm-	“Safety vs. Risk Management: Can’t All Just Get Along” – Scott Sloan, CSP CSHM ARM.
5:00 pm to 5:30 pm	Closing Comments/Program Evaluation/Final Thoughts

NSMS Annual Conference – Call for Presenters and Papers

All conference presenter slots have been filled. However, we are still accepting papers for sharing at our 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”. All papers will be compiled into our conference compendium and provided to all attendees. Your written papers should focus on providing everyone with either a technical topic or a discussion of 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, such as:

- 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 submitting 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) and submit **no later than October 5, 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

You will be notified if your proposed paper/article was selected for the conference by October 14, 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 each day 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 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm).

We wish to acknowledge the following organizations who have registered to participate:

- **KPS/3, Inc. Reno, Nevada**
- **Oakland University Rochester, Michigan**

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.

CSB Chairman Merritt Describes the Lessons from Five Years of Board Investigations to Senate Committee, Urges Additional Resources and Clearer Authorities for Federal Safety Efforts

In a July testimony today before a Senate subcommittee, outgoing U.S. Chemical Safety Board Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt said that federal regulatory oversight of the petrochemical industry should be strengthened, BP's safety culture was flawed, and American communities are unprepared for chemical disasters.

In the hearing entitled 'Lessons Learned from Chemical Safety Board (CSB) Investigations, Including Texas City, Texas,' Chairman Merritt also discussed the CSB's tripled productivity since its establishment in 1998 and called for improvements to the CSB's authorizing statute. The meeting was the first hearing of the CSB

oversight committee on chemical process safety issues since the establishment of the agency in 1998. The hearing was convened by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality, chaired by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ). Chairman Merritt gave the opening testimony on the first of two panels.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) concluded in March 2007 that “organizational and safety deficiencies at all levels of the BP Corporation” caused the March 23, 2005, explosion at the BP Texas City refinery, the worst industrial accident in the United States since 1990. The final investigation report called on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to increase inspection and enforcement at U.S. oil refineries and chemical plants, and to require these corporations to evaluate the safety impact of mergers, reorganizations, downsizing, and budget cuts.

In her testimony, Chairman Merritt said, “Thorough implementation of existing OSHA and EPA process safety rules would prevent a number of tragic accidents, including the one in Texas City. Like other refineries, the Texas City facility was covered under both the OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) standard and the EPA Risk Management Program (RMP) rule.”

CSB's other investigations reveal a variety of common findings, Ms. Merritt said. “I have been greatly concerned by the lack of chemical emergency preparedness that our investigations have found among many communities where accidents strike. Preventing accidents and mitigating their impact requires an active partnership between communities and industrial facilities. If that partnership is missing the stage is set for a potentially severe impact on the community.”

Chairman Merritt also urged the Committee to compare the CSB's existing statutory authorities with those of the older and more established National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). She pointed specifically to the authorities to preserve and test evidence, rapidly access the sites of chemical releases, and receive relevant records and information from other agencies.

Ms. Merritt told lawmakers that the CSB has accomplished a tripling in productivity on an annual budget that essentially remained flat for the entire five-year period and urged the Committee to consider a multi-year authorizations bill establishing funding targets and priorities for the Board.

Chairman Merritt's testimony today will be the last in her five year tenure as Chairman and CEO of the Board. She said, “There is great admiration for what Congress has done in establishing an independent Chemical Safety Board. It is a very solid model that is in place in this country, but some changes and improvements are needed. I welcome the renewed attention and interest of Congress in these issues over the past several years, culminating in the hearing today.”

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.

House Labor Committee Passes Legislation to Protect Food Flavoring Workers from Severe Lung Disease

The House Education and Labor Committee approved legislation today in a bipartisan voice vote to force the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to act to protect workers at food processing plants from exposure to diacetyl, a chemical used in artificial food flavoring linked to a severe, irreversible lung disease that has sickened and killed a number of workers nationwide.

“Seven years after the first cases of popcorn lung were identified, it is stunning that OSHA has failed to issue standard protecting American workers from exposure to diacetyl,” said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the committee. “The cost of the Bush administration’s failure to act can be measured in the number of workers who have avoidably grown ill or died. It’s time to stop the delays in protecting workers from this serious workplace hazard.”

“What’s troubling is that if OSHA had taken action in a timely manner, we would not need to pass a bill to require OSHA to do something that it should have done a long time ago,” said Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and chief sponsor of the legislation. “While OSHA has ignored the warnings of NIOSH and others concerning this devastating disease, workers have become sick and disabled, and several have died, all in an astonishingly short period of time. That’s why this legislation is so important - it will save lives. I am thankful that the committee has chosen to pass my legislation and I look forward to bringing it to the floor.”

Diacetyl is commonly used in the artificial flavoring in microwave popcorn, and has been linked to bronchiolitis obliterans, also known as “popcorn lung.” Popcorn lung is a debilitating disease that has led to dozens of workers falling sick and several deaths nationwide. Despite the known risks, thousands of workers are still being exposed to the harmful chemical at factories that make or use these flavorings.

The legislation would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard within 90 days to minimize workers’ exposure to diacetyl in popcorn and flavorings manufacturing plants. Employers would be required to develop a written exposure control plan that would use engineering controls and respirators to protect workers, and to conduct medical monitoring to determine whether workers’ health continued to be harmed. The bill would require OSHA to issue a more comprehensive standard within two years, covering all workplaces where workers are exposed to diacetyl.

U.S. Chemical Safety Board Issues Case Study on Fatal Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield Explosion in Mississippi

In a **case study report** released today on a fatal explosion and fire last year at a Smith County oilfield, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) found that unsafe work practices were the cause of the accident and recommended increased Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspections of the region's oil and gas production facilities. The report also called on the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board to identify, and refer to OSHA, potentially unsafe health and safety conditions observed during field inspections of well sites and drilling operations.

At around 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 5, 2006, loud explosions and a fire were reported at the Partridge-Raleigh oilfield in Raleigh, Mississippi. Three contractors died and one contractor suffered serious injuries. The contractors, all employees of Stringer's Oilfield Services, were completing piping connections between tanks when welding sparks ignited flammable vapor venting from one of the tanks.

Partridge-Raleigh earlier contracted with Stringer's Oilfield Services to relocate three oil production tanks located on the Partridge property. Four tanks were arranged in a straight line approximately four feet apart where the workers were to perform the tank connection. The tanks ranged from 15 to 20 feet tall and 12.5 feet in diameter. The tank contents included flammable hydrocarbons, ethyl benzene, xylene, toluene, and naphthalene fumes.

On the day of the accident, two Stringer's workers and a foreman had climbed on top of the tanks and placed a ladder between two tanks to serve as a makeshift scaffold. A welder attached his safety harness to the top of one of the tanks and positioned himself on a ladder. To connect the piping to the two tanks, the welder had to weld a pipe fitting onto the side of one tank before attaching a short length of pipe to the fitting and to a nearby, open-ended pipe on an adjacent tank.

Almost immediately after the welder started welding, flammable hydrocarbon vapor venting from the open-ended pipe ignited. Welding sparks ignited flammable vapor escaping from the open-ended pipe about four feet from the contractors' welding activity.

The fire flashed back into the tank on which the two workers were holding the ladder and also quickly flashed back into the third tank. The pressure from the burning vapor inside the two tanks caused the tops to blow off. The workers were thrown by the force of the explosion, which resulted in blunt force trauma and fatal injuries. The welder suffered a broken ankle and hip, but survived since he was wearing a safety harness that prevented him from falling to the ground.

The investigation found that unsafe work practices directly contributed to the severity of this accident. The ladder placed between the tanks should not have been used as a makeshift work platform and the open pipe on the adjacent tank was not capped, or otherwise isolated with a closed valve to prevent flammable vapor from accumulating near the area where the welding was to be done. Additionally, while not a cause of the accident, the welder inserted a lit oxy-acetylene welding torch into the tank's hatch and then into an open nozzle on the opposite side of the tank to verify that all flammable vapor was removed from the tank instead of using a flammable gas detector.

Lead Investigator Johnnie Banks said, "While recognized to be dangerous, this practice is common in oil field operations and even has a name--flashing." He added, "Neither Stringer's nor Partridge-Raleigh required hot work permits to perform welding on the tanks." The fatality rate of the oil and gas extraction industry is over eight and a half times higher than the average for all industries in the United States. CSB Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt said, "Lives cannot be an acceptable added cost of providing fuel to American consumers."

CSB found that Stringer's lacked hot work safety procedures and did not implement available guidelines from the American Petroleum Institute (API) 2009 standard, 'Safe Welding, Cutting, and Hot Work Practices in the Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries' in preparing and conducting the welding operation on the day of the incident. In addition, Stringer's and Partridge Raleigh did not adhere to OSHA requirements addressing safe welding practices.

- The CSB recommended that Stringer's Oilfield Services management develop and implement written procedures to ensure safe work practices during hot work, tank cleaning, and work from elevated locations. The CSB also recommended that Partridge Raleigh management establish written health and safety performance standards and performance metrics such as those found in the API Recommended Practice for Occupational Safety for Onshore Oil and Gas Production Operations - API RP-74.

- CSB recommended the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board (MSOGB) establish a program to identify and refer to the federal OSHA potentially unsafe health and safety conditions observed during Board field inspections of well sites and drilling operations. The program should include a written referral procedure and the training of field inspectors. MSOGB has the primary task to enforce compliance with its rules related to spill control and containment; housekeeping, such as grass control; and access to, and egress from, tanks.
- The CSB also recommended that OSHA Jackson, Mississippi Area Office implement a Local Emphasis Program to inspect companies in the oil and gas production and extraction sector.

Chairman Merritt said, “No worker should have to suffer injury or death to make a living. It is the responsibility of the owners to protect their employees from the hazards of the work to be performed.” She added, “While it is the responsibility of the company to comply with OSHA standards, without effective enforcement, too many companies may simply ignore these life saving protective standards.”

OSHA had not inspected Partridge-Raleigh or Stringer's in the three years prior to the explosion or conducted a planned inspection at any of the nearly 6000 oil fields in Mississippi in the preceding five years. Inspections were conducted resulting from employee complaints or accidents. Following the explosion, OSHA cited Stringer's for 13 serious safety violations.

OSHA Reports a Decline in Work-related Injuries

Even as Congress was preparing to hold hearings on the agency's effectiveness, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration sent out its annual warning letters to companies with higher-than-average injury and illness rates. More than 14,000 companies received the letters, each having reported 5.1 or more incidences per 100 employees, more than double the national average.

OSHA has come under fire from labor leaders and others for what they perceive as a cozy relationship with the industries with the highest rates. One criticism has been the agency's advocacy of voluntary participation in safety programs, versus the creation of new rules that would mandate tougher standards.

Anthony Forest Products Co. estimates that it saved more than \$1 million in health and insurance costs between 2000 and 2006 by taking advice from OSHA. The company pinpointed potential hazards and instituted stringent safety requirements in all of its plants. It now has an injury and illness rate of zero (meaning no work related illnesses or injuries forced a worker to miss a full day of work in a one-year period).

The letters carry no fines, but serve as an invitation to work with OSHA to reduce incidents. Later this year, OSHA will announce a list of companies targeted for on-site inspections.

In An Arc Flash - An Intense Electrical Hazard

Electrical workers are at risk of electrical shock from direct contact with live conductors, a common hazard brought by the demand for a continuous supply of power. An arc flash results from a flashover of electrical current through air in electrical equipment from one exposed live conductor to another or to ground. Electric arcs can produce temperatures of up to 35,000 degrees Fahrenheit, a degree of heat that instantly vaporizes all known materials.

Sudden temperatures at this degree can cause air to suddenly expand, resulting in a blast of very strong air pressure. That air blast, in turn, can spread molten metal great distances with great force. An arc in an enclosure, such as a motor control centre or switchgear, is magnified and the energy transmitted is forced to the open side of the enclosure toward the worker, with potential for severe heating and burns.

The causes of arc flash include dust and impurities, corrosion, condensation of water on the surface of insulating material, spark discharge, accidental touching, dropping tools, improperly maintained electrical meters, over-voltages across narrow gaps, failure to insulate material, improperly designed or utilized equipment, improper work procedures, and human error. Employers should conduct a hazard and risk assessment and implement control measures to protect workers against arc flash. They should develop and implement an arc flash hazard program in accordance with the NFPA 70E Standard or equivalent.

Workers, too, must protect themselves. They need training to understand the hazard of arc flash, how it is initiated, what personal protective equipment (PPE) is appropriate and how to safely use it in electrical settings. Wherever practical, workers should be discouraged from working on energized equipment. The task should be reserved only for qualified, competent person(s) to do after equipment is de-energized and locked out. To protect workers and the public, it is vital to clearly mark electrical equipment - such as switchboards, industrial control panels and motor control centers in other-than-dwelling occupancies that are likely to require examination, servicing or maintenance while energized. Even qualified persons trained in electrical safety must always be alerted to potential electrical arc flash hazards.

OSHA Fines for Deadly Mishap (By [Gabrielle Finley](#) The Ledger)

LAKELAND - A Tampa sub-contracting company was fined \$9,800 in connection with a January fatal accident in which a construction worker was hit by a forklift and crushed to death at a Mosaic plant in Bartow, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said. Southeast Industrial Sales & Service also received two citations for not properly training the operator of the forklift that hit and killed 64-year-old Roy Eugene Davis on January 9, 2007 and not keeping a clear path for the forklift to travel, an OSHA report said.

The accident happened at Mosaic's New Wales Chemical Plant on State Road 640 West in Bartow. Davis, of Lithia, was working as a safety director at the site when he was hit and run over by a forklift operated by 41-year-old Rajendra C. Chandrakvar, a Southeast Industrial Sales & Service employee, the report said. Chandrakvar, of Tampa, was hauling debris with the forklift and the path in front of the forklift was not clear, the report said.

The area where the forklift operator was traveling was congested with employees from other sub-contractors that were also performing maintenance work at the plant, the report said. When Davis was hit by the forklift he lost consciousness, the report said. "And not being able to stand up on his own and the operator, not being aware that the victim was struck by the (forklift's) steel box, ran over the victim with one of the front tires," the report said.

Davis worked for Lakeland Central Maintenance and Welding, one of the many companies working at the plant that day, the report said. Central Maintenance and Welding was not cited or fined by OSHA, the report said. Davis had retired New Year's Eve after 30 years at the company but was asked to come back and supervise work at the plant, a Central Maintenance and Welding spokesman said in January.

Entergy's Huntsville Site Honored with OSHA Safety Award (Robbie Byrd, Huntsville Item News Editor)

Entergy employees in Huntsville were rewarded Wednesday for their safety record and work in following government safety guidelines established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration — the first mobile workforce in the state of Texas to be given the award.

The 23-member Huntsville network received a framed certificate from OSHA and a banner designating the location as a STAR worksite. The banner flies in front of the Entergy office on Farm-to-Market Road 2821. The Voluntary Protection Program promotes effective worksite-based safety and health.

In the VPP, management, labor, and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system, said OSHA area director John Lawson of Houston who presented the certificate and banner.

Keeping accidents down has been a priority for employees here, said Entergy Texas President and CEO Joe Domino, and that it has been “no accident” that Huntsville has maintained a disabling injury count to zero. “Either you have a safety culture, or you have someone checking all the boxes,” Domino said prior to the award presentation. “This group is a great example ... in an awful big state with a lot of folks.”

Several other industrial sites have been awarded VPP status — including Johnson Space Center and the International Space Station — but Huntsville's Entergy crew is the first mobile work force to receive the nod. Lawson, who audited the Huntsville Entergy group, presented the award to the group, applauding their “commitment to go above and beyond.” “I am real proud to be with you today,” Lawson said. “There are 491 VPP sites (in the six-state region) ... and you guys are the only mobile workforce.”

“Most VPP sites are power plants with a workforce that remains in one location,” said Stan Foley, Entergy Customer Service Manager for Huntsville. “Though (we) have distinct geographical boundaries, we have a mobile workforce that travels from place to place. Meeting high safety standards is a significant milestone for (us).”

Foley said that to be considered for a VPP award, the group had to have a safety record significantly better than the national average when compared to other utility companies and, not only meet OSHA guidelines, but exceed those set out by OSHA, the National Fire Protection Administration, the American National Standards Institute and others. “OSHA standards are very strict,” Foley said. “But at Entergy safety is the number one priority.”

Foley said the Huntsville network covers four counties, including Walker, Madison, Trinity and Polk, serving 28,000 to 29,000 customers. “Being a mobile workforce kind of raises the opportunity for situations to occur,” he said. “There are more opportunities for accidents to occur because people are traveling to and from the work site.”

Last December a four-person team from OSHA spent four days in Huntsville, touring and inspecting the company's service center on Farm-to-Market Road 2821, as well as interviewing employees and reviewing the company's safety policies and procedures. Foley said the OSHA team visited the work sites to “visually inspect what the men are doing and how they are performing their work. “Getting to the onsite audit is one thing, but then you go through the actual rigors. “It's like getting ready for a football game, and then you have to perform the game.”

Ronnie Steptoe, who after 38 years of service accepted a retirement ring at the ceremony, also accepted the award from OSHA. But Steptoe was quick to point out that a commitment to safety was a group effort. “Our employees work and play together,” Steptoe said. “They care about each other and their families.”

The service crew is comprised of 21 employees, maintaining a distribution network that covers four counties. Entergy Texas nominated Huntsville in part because of its safety record of 74 percent below the national average, Foley said.

Needlestick Injuries Common Among Surgery Students: Incidents that could pass on HIV, hepatitis often go unreported, study finds (By Ed Edelson
HealthDay Reporter, HealthDay News – June 27, 2007)

American surgeons-in-training stick themselves far too often with needles that could carry infection, and they often fail to report that they've done so. That's the conclusion of a new study in the June 28 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"We were all alarmed at how great the magnitude of the problem appears to be," said lead author Dr. Martin A. Makary, director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Surgical Outcomes Research.

The study of almost 700 surgeons-in-training at 17 U.S. medical centers found that 582 had experienced a needlestick injury. In more than half the cases, the needles were being used for high-risk patients -- those with particularly dangerous infections, such as hepatitis or HIV. And 297 of the 578 most recent incidents had not been reported to an employee health service, including 15 of the 91 cases involving high-risk patients.

That needlestick injuries occur in surgery and that many are not reported at once is not surprising, Makary said. "Part of the surgical culture has been maintaining the patient first at all cost, and when an accident occurs in the operating room, the surgeon's first inclination is to continue with the operation," he said. "But the extent of the problem is much greater than we thought. Previous estimates of injuries understate the magnitude of the problem, because most of the injuries are not being recorded."

It has been estimated that one of every 50 needlesticks involving hepatitis B and one of every 100 involving HIV results in an infection, Makary said, making them "a significant public health problem." He assigned blame for the problem to both medical institutions and individual physicians. "More hospitals need to do a better job in protection," Makary said. "They need more appropriate and timelier surgical systems so surgeons can get medical treatment immediately, not after a long bureaucratic process that takes them away from the patient."

The typical educational program about needlestick injuries "is practically worthless, it is just not working," Makary said. "What we advocate is peer-to-peer education on the topic, so it is not an outside administrator or occupational safety nurse saying that surgeons need to do a better job. Surgeons who have been stabbed should educate their fellow surgeons about what they should have done."

Needlestick incidents among surgeons could be reduced by having physician assistants and nurse practitioners do more of the work during surgery, by having hospitals require checklists of safer techniques and by using safer equipment, such as electric scalpels, clips and glues, Makary said. In fact, up to 20 percent of surgical procedures could be done without using any sharp instruments at all, he said. However, an estimated 1 million needlestick injuries occur each year in the United States, Makary said.

Those injuries occur although the United States is the only nation that has a comprehensive needle safety program, said Ron Stoker, executive director of the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society, an organization devoted to reducing such injuries. The program came into existence when President Bill Clinton signed a bill passed by Congress in November 2000, Stoker said.

Under the law, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health reviews and updates safety measures, including the adoption of lower-risk equipment. Institutions that fail to use such equipment could be fined under the law, Stoker said, but "people don't use them, and now we have a lot of injuries." "The biggest problem is that individual surgeons don't want to use safety equipment," Stoker said. Nurses are more likely to want to use such equipment, he said, and they are more likely to report accidents when they occur, he said.

Under current practices, the operating room will remain a high-risk area, with "sometimes hundreds of needles used and passed from surgeon to surgeon and from surgeon to nurse," Makary said. "We need to create an atmosphere of speaking up to ensure that no accident occurs."

The Wilderness: 10 Things You Should Know About Preparing to Take a Hike In The Wilderness

1. Always carry a lighter or waterproof matches and clothes-dryer lint for starting fires.
2. Always tell at least one person where you are going and when you will be back.
3. Bring a pocketknife, compass, zip-closure plastic bags to protect nonwater-proof items, plenty of water and enough food such as granola/protein bars for your trip.
4. Check your cell phone battery for a full charge, and carry a spare.
5. Bring a map or use a global positioning system receiver to determine your location.
6. Put heavier items in the center of your pack, close to your back and bring
7. A hiking pole or walking stick can be very helpful in maintaining your balance in hazardous conditions.
8. Bring iodine tablets to purify water.
9. Pack sunscreen, a brimmed hat, and sunglasses even for cold weather environments.
10. Wear waterproof boots that are broken in and are comfortable. Also, bring extra socks.

Sources: *The Book of Survival*, by Anthony Greenburg; *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht

Tower of Blocks – Safety Training/Meeting Strategy (from "Safety Stuff" by Richard Hawk Inc. <http://www.richardhawkinc.com>)

Cheri Ashe from Honeywell is the chair of an integrated safety committee that is made up of the chairs of various safety groups (our behavioral safety group, our VPP steering committee, ES&H etc). Here is her Safety & health meeting/promotion idea:

"I set up a tower of blocks (similar to the game Jenga) three blocks wide with each layer alternating directions. Then the team had to remove blocks from the bottom using only one hand to build the tower higher without knocking it over. The team really enjoyed the game, laughing and joking with one another on their "technique" for removing the blocks. Finally, as more blocks were removed, the tower became more unsteady until it finally toppled.

I then asked the team why we did that activity. A good variety of suggestions were offered up, and I agreed that this game could be used to demonstrate many different interpretations.

However, I explained that this tower represents our safety culture and even as we work to build it higher and better, negative things can poke holes in it and work together over time to wear it down. Further I said that those blocks we removed represent things like bad attitude, complacency, negative comments toward the organization, action/inaction, and dogma and explained how each can work to wear down the very culture we seek to maintain and improve.

They got the message and enjoyed themselves at the same time!"

Is It Safe to Swat a Mosquito? (found in a book entitled *Can You Drill a Hole Through Your Head and Survive* by Simon Roger)

This question has gained unlikely prominence, thanks to Christina Coyle and her colleagues at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York. The team reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that a woman who died of a muscular fungal infection probably met her fate after smearing a mosquito into her skin.

Mosquitoes are carriers of fungus-like parasites called *Brachiola algerae*, which in rare cases can cause such infections. The verdict from the scientists is kill carefully: flick mosquitoes from your skin, don't just squash them dead.

But according to Gordon Leitch, an expert on *Brachiola* species at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, encouraging the world's inhabitants to change their preferred method of execution is a little rash.

"There have been three, at most four, infections from *Brachiola* ever, and I mean ever," Leitch says. Of these, one was a simple skin infection, another is an infection of the eye, unlikely to be caused by a mosquito bite. Leitch recommends the insects be dealt with swiftly. "Swat the little buggers." he says.

Wacky Warnings

- On a 12-inch CD rack: Do Not Use as a Ladder.
- On a bottle of dog shampoo: Contents Should Not be Fed to Fish.
- On a blanket: Not to be Used as Protection from a Tornado
- On a carpenter's drill: Not Intended for use as a Dental Drill.
- On a box of birthday candles: DO NOT use soft wax as ear plugs or for any other function **that involves insertion into a body cavity.**

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

- From 2001 to 2005, 812 deaths occurred in the U.S. in dentist chairs.
- According to a study by the University of Zimbabwe, approximately one-quarter of all poisoning cases in that African nation result from traditional healers' potions.
- Most new cars have interior emergency trunk release handles that glow in the dark.
- The poisonous copperhead snake smells like fresh- cut cucumbers.
- Since 1990, cheerleading injuries in the United States have increased by 110%.
- Parasites account for 0.01% of the average person's weight.