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Worcester County Chapter Green Mountain Section American Society of Safety Engineers

Newsletter

December 2016

Presidents Message



Troy Gonyon, President

Dear Members,

We at the Worcester County Chapter & Green Mountain Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers wish to express our sincere appreciation to our members for their loyal support as we celebrate our sixtieth year of service. When our chapter was founded in 1956, I'm sure the leadership at that time could hardly foresee our growth. We could not have come this far without the loyal support and hard work of each member

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UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

- [01/26/17: University Safety](#)
 - [02/23/17: Gas Monitoring](#)
 - [03/31/17: Chapter PDC](#)
 - [04/06/17: Ergo Assessment Certification](#)
 - [05/19/17: Golf Outing for ASSE Foundation](#)
 - 06/??/17: Chapter Member Outing
- Check out [Events Page](#) for continual updates

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

- [Government Affairs Update](#)
- [State Legislative Report](#)
- [State Regulatory Report](#)

OPEN JOB LISTING

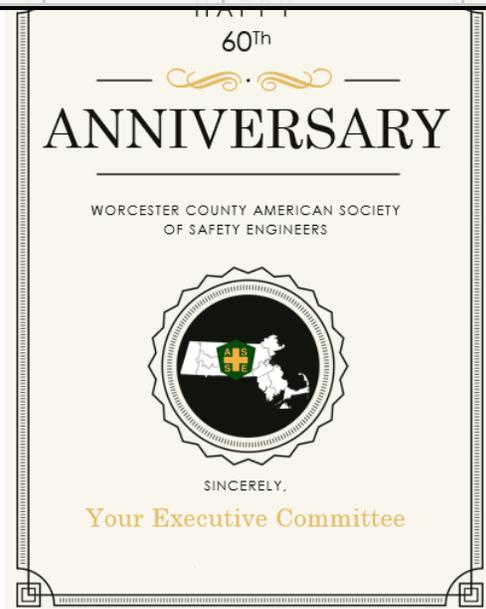
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Want to see your your companies safety job openings listed here and on our website?

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Then [click here to be brought to our Job Submission Form](#) or email your job description to worcesterasse@worcestercounty.asse.org

December 2016 Chapter Meeting Recap

Did you attend the Chapter's December Meeting, *Meaningful EHS Metrics - How Do you Measure your Company's Safety Performance?*, presented by our very own Chapter Secretary, Natalia Olive? For many organizations, safety metrics are usually seen as negative and cumbersome, and usually unattainable (think: "zero accidents"). This can change by implementing truly proactive metrics that ensure widespread engagement. This presentation covered the key performance indicators that will more strongly contribute to a proactive safety culture.

"I thought this was very well done, from the technical content to the ease of connecting. Natalia is a very good presenter!" - Maureen Johnson, Green Mountain Section Treasurer and Worcester County Chapter Government Affairs Chair

I "listen(ed) to the presentation until I was called away to put out fires. What I heard was good." - Martin Nugent, Worcester County Chapter Treasurer.

The Worcester County Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) would like to thank Natalia for donating her time with us to present at this online meeting. If you participated in the webinar and want to view it again, or if you missed the webinar and want to check it out, you can print the slide deck and view the video recording through the members only presentation portion of our website by [clicking here](#). The video is also on the Chapter's Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/worcesterasse>) site, with the [direct link to the video here](#). Both the Presentations page of our website and the direct link to the video on Vimeo are password protected. The password is ASSEWorcester.

Have you ever thought about some of the benefits of being an ASSE member? Well, this was one great example. Similar webinars put on by Ms. Olive cost \$149 a viewer, however she was

Fall Protection Gets a Face-Lift

Submitted by: Cathy Benjamin

Did you know ... Falls from heights and working surfaces are among the leading causes of workplace injuries and deaths? A new final rule for general industry was just published on November 18, 2016, updating OSHA's Walking-Working Surfaces standards specific to slip, trip, and fall hazards. The rule adds requirements for personal fall protection systems as well as training and inspection requirements. Why is this important? In 2012 General Industry reported 270 fatal falls to a lower level! This updated rule is expected to have an impact on reducing fatalities due to falls and save employers nearly 6000 days in lost time injuries. That's a lot of pain and suffering avoided! How did OSHA do this? The learning and benchmarking with the construction industry has paid off. OSHA has aligned the general industry standard for fall protection requirements with the construction standard.

The most significant update allows employers flexibility in choosing fall protection systems from a range of accepted options. For example, it eliminates the existing mandate to use guardrails as a primary fall protection method and allows employers to choose from accepted fall protection systems they believe will work best in a particular situation - an approach that has been successful in the construction industry since 1994. In addition, employers will be able to use non-conventional fall protection in certain situations, such as designated areas on low-slope roofs. The rule becomes effective on January 17, 2017, with delayed dates for some of the some requirements.

Timeline

Most of the rule will become effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, but some provisions have delayed effective dates, including:

1. Ensuring exposed workers are trained on fall hazards (6 months),
2. Ensuring workers who use equipment covered by the final rule are trained (6 months),
3. Inspecting and certifying permanent anchorages for rope descent systems (1 year),
4. Installing personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems on new fixed ladders over 24 feet and on replacement ladders/ladder sections, including fixed ladders on outdoor advertising structures (2 years),
5. Ensuring existing fixed ladders over 24 feet, including those on outdoor advertising structures, are equipped with a cage, well, personal fall arrest system, or ladder safety system (2 years), and
6. Replacing cages and wells (used as fall protection) with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems on all fixed ladders over 24 feet (20 years).

For more information see the following link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/18/2016-24557/walking-working-surfaces-and-personal-protective-equipment-fall-protection-systems>

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Workplace Violence Prevention Standard

Reprinted from: *Joint Commission Online* (14 Dec. 2016): 2

On Dec. 7, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a [Request for Information \(RFI\): Preventing Workplace Violence in Healthcare and Social Assistance Services](#) in the Federal Register. This RFI solicits information to determine the need for a standard to protect health care and social assistance workers from workplace violence. Questions also solicit input on various aspects of violence prevention programs and strategies. Comments are being accepted by mail, fax or hand delivery, as well as at www.regulations.gov until April 6, 2017.

According to a recent [Government Accountability Office report](#), the rate of workplace violence against health care employees is higher than the rest of private industry.

OSHA is also hosting a stakeholder meeting on Jan. 10, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building Great Hall, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington D.C., 20210, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Register for the meeting.

Earlier this year, The Joint Commission created a [Workplace Violence Prevention web portal](#), with resources for health care organizations.

Holiday Electrical Safety Reminder

Stockings hung at least three feet from heat sources with care.

Have you made **your list** and checked it **twice**?

For more information and free downloads on home and electrical safety go to www.esfi.org

Or did you **forget** to be **proactive** about electrical safety?

Do not overload electrical outlets. ❌

From all of our hearts, Worcester County & Green Mountain along with the ESFI, wish you and your family a safe holiday and rewarding year ahead.

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently implementing the recently amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The Agency just announced the first 10 chemicals it will evaluate for potential risks to human health and the environment and at long last asbestos is on the list. The EPA has also listed five persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals that will undergo expedited regulatory action. PBT chemicals (lead is an example that has been in the news in Flint, MI) are of concern because they remain in the environment for significant periods of time and concentrate in the organisms exposed to them. The two lists contain the following chemicals.

EPA TACA Expedited Actions List	EPA PBT Expedited Actions List
1,4-Dioxane	Decabromodiphenyl ethers (DecaBDE)
1-Bromopropane	Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd)
Asbestos	Pentachloro-thio-phenol (PCTP)
Carbon Tetrachloride	Tris (4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate
Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster	2,4,6-Tris(tert-butyl)phenol
Methylene Chloride	
N-methylpyrrolidone	
Pigment Violet 29	
Tetrachloroethylene, (Perchloroethylene)	
Trichloroethylene	

The statutory deadline to complete risk evaluations for these chemicals is three years. If EPA's evaluation determines that a chemical presents an unreasonable risk to humans or the environment, EPA has a 2-year time frame to mitigate the identified risk(s). The EPA deadline to propose action for these chemicals is June 22, 2019. For more information you can link to the following website. <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/tsca-work-plan-chemicals>

Massachusetts Tier II Reporting Requirements

Special Instructions: Massachusetts requires facilities to submit electronic reports using the Tier II Manager System. Detailed information may be found on MEMA's website here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/serc/> Exit

It is anticipated that the Tier II Manager System will be available for 2016 reporting by January 9, 2017. MEMA will provide notice to all Tier II Manager System users when the System is available. Reports are due March 1, 2017.

Submitting a report via the Tier II Manager System does NOT fulfill your EPC and Fire Department reporting requirement. Filers must still submit reports to their respective EPC and Fire Department.

Facilities will receive an email acknowledgement of their submission.

Submissions are required for these entities:

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3. Your local fire department

The list of all EPCs is available on the MEMA Website listed above. Please contact the Massachusetts SERC at 508 820-2001 for additional information or assistance.

OSHA Summer Summit: June 13, 2017



OSHA Summer Summit

Save the Date: Tuesday June 13, 2017

UMassAmherst

UMASS Amherst Lincoln Campus Center
1 Campus Center Way, Amherst MA 01003

For more information: OSHASummerSummit@gmail.com

Registration opens March 1, 2017 at www.scwne.org

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- Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards OSHA Consultation Program

Western PA ASSE Upcoming Events

The Western PA Chapter will be presenting the highly popular Risk Assessment Seminar in Pittsburgh in March 2017 along with an ASP Prep course conducted by SPAN ExamPrep™.

ASSE Risk Assessment Seminar – Over the course of 3 days, participants will learn how to implement the 3 steps of the risk assessment process (hazard identification, risk analysis, risk evaluation and treatment). Upon completion of the seminar, a final project and 10 elective hours of continuing education in risk-based topics, participants can apply for the Risk Assessment Certificate awarded by ASSE. More information can be found <http://www.asse.org/education/risk-assessment-certificate-program/>.

ASP Examination Preparation Workshop – This workshop will prepare you for the Board of Certified Safety Professionals Safety Fundamentals Examination, which leads to the ASP designation. You will review more than 600 problems addressing the complete examination blueprint. Workshop includes a 500-page workbook (two volume set), approved

Happy Holidays Worcester & Green Mountain



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