



South Plains Chapter Newsletter & GA Update for August-Sept. 2006

Drive Continues for New Members

The South Plains Chapter continues in its membership drive to reach our goal of 40 members. We are currently at 38.

To assist us in gaining the new members, National is waiving the \$25 processing fee and South Plains Chapter is waiving the \$15 Chapter fee. A savings of \$40, plus the Chapter is providing a \$110 scholarship.

What Month Is It?

If you guessed September was National Preparedness Month, you are correct. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring this nationwide effort to raise awareness and provide assistance for emergency preparation in homes, schools and businesses.

Click here for more information on [National Preparedness Month](#).

ListServes Available to ASSE Members Only

By: Renee Witherspoon

There's a wealth of information at the national ASSE website but I promise you, this tool really works. It can be used as an additional resource in your health and safety toolkit.

It's located in the "Members Only" section at our national ASSE website www.asse.org. You must sign in with your member ID# and last name as your password to get started.

Take a look at the ListServes. Being an environmental person, I signed up for the "Enviro-List", and sent a question to the group regarding development of accountability standards following several landfill audits I recently completed.

I was pleased with the responses I had to my question. One respondent was in Abu-Dhabi, UAE, and the others were throughout the United States. So my respondents were varied, but all came to similar conclusions of development of a closed-loop tracking system.

Lots of good ideas were shared and I also made some new friends. For me, it was easy way to communicate with an entire group of EHS professionals.

Hope this will inspire you to give it a try too. And what a bargain...free.

Boiler and Combustion System Safety Seminar Set for October 10th

Our ASSE Chapter along with the West Texas Boiler Safety Association (WTBSA) is presenting a **Boiler Safety Workshop for Owners & Operators** on **October 10th** at Danny's Fish & Hens at 5101 Ave. Q in Lubbock from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Seminar will also include TCEQ highlights on permitting requirements for boilers.

The cost is **\$40 for general admission**, and free for all **ASSE & WTBSA members**, includes lunch & materials.

Go to our Chapter Website <http://southplains.asse.org/> for registration and sponsorship information.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

ASSE has a couple more technical audio conferences available. If anyone is interested in these, give Renee a call at 775-2519. If we have

enough folks interested, we may be able to sponsor the conference.

- Implications of Drug Testing September 20, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. central time.
- Technical audio conference call - Leadership in Ergonomics on October 18, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. central time.

Also we have the Texas Department of Insurance sponsoring a Health & Safety seminar at Lubbock Christian University on September 27. Check out our website for more information on this.

Standards Update

The "2006 Summer Construction Standards Spectacular" package, including the A10.3, the A10.31, and the Z390 series (both old and new versions), is now for sale for \$130 for ASSE members.

For details: <http://www.asse.org/fr3899.htm>

- ANSI/ASSE A10.3-2006 Standard "Safety Requirements for Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems"
- ANSI/ASSE A10.31-2006 Standard "Safety Requirements, Definitions and Specifications for Digger Derricks"
- ANSI/ASSE Z390.1-2006 Standard "Accepted Practices for Hydrogen Sulfide Safety Training Programs"

ANSI/ASSE Z15.1 standard, "Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operations" - On behalf of the Transportation Practice Specialty and the Standards Development Committee, the



Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) has developed a newsletter (<http://www.asse.org/SpecialZ15Issue.pdf>) devoted to the recently approved standard.

Worker Fatalities Down in 2005: BLS

A total of 5,702 workers died on the job in 2005 – down from 5,764 in 2004 – while the fatality rate declined to 4.0 per 100,000 employees in 2005 from 4.1 the previous year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Highlights from the report include:

- Fatalities among agricultural workers increased 23 percent to 178 in 2005, from 145 in 2004.
- Fatalities among workers younger than 20 rose approximately 18 percent to 166.
- Although the number of fatalities among Hispanic workers edged up 2 percent to 917 in 2005, the actual fatality rate declined. According to BLS, this is due to increased employment of Hispanic workers.
- Fatal work injuries in private construction – 1,186 – continued to be the highest of any industry sector, but fell 4 percent from 2004.

New OSHA Fact Sheet Highlights Hexavalent Chromium

OSHA recently posted to its Web site a new fact sheet focusing on the [Health Effects of Hexavalent Chromium](#).

The document, one example of compliance assistance materials that will complement OSHA's [final standard](#) on the compound (issued in February), offers preventative measures to reduce the harmful physical effects of hexavalent chromium, explains how employees can be exposed to it, and highlights some of the final standard's requirements.

More on Hexavalent Chromium

From: Labsafety.com

Hexavalent Chromium, Cr(VI), is found generally as a man-made compound used in industrial processes. Hexavalent Chromium easily gains electrons from other elements, which makes it popular for automotive, ship and aircraft paints because it will produce a hard coating. Exposures occur mainly among workers who handle pigments containing dry chromate, spray paints or coatings containing chromate, or anyone operating chrome plating baths. An example of a non-industry specific exposure is cutting or welding on metals containing chromium. Stainless steel is a common example.

Hexavalent chromium is considered a potential lung carcinogen. Effects on the respiratory tract can range from irritation of the nose, throat and lungs to damage to the mucous membranes of the nasal passage. Increased rates of lung cancer have been shown in workers in the plating, pigment and chromate production industries. Direct contact with chromate dust or chromic acid can cause permanent eye damage. Even prolonged skin contact can result in dermatitis and skin ulcers

and some cases of kidney damage have been linked to high levels of skin exposure.

On Feb. 28, 2006, the Department of Labor published the Hexavalent Chromium Standard addressing occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. (General Industry standard 1910.1026) OSHA determined that the new standard was necessary to reduce significant health risks posed by occupational exposure to Cr(VI). The new standard provides greater protection by lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from 52 micrograms of Cr(VI) per cubic meter of air (52 µg/m³) to 5 µg/m³ and the action level for the standard where requirements such as medical surveillance may be required is 2.5 µg/m³.

OSHA Seeks Comments on GHS

OSHA published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Sept. 12 Federal Register seeking comments on the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

The GHS includes harmonized provisions for classification of chemicals for their health, physical, and environmental effects, as well as for labels on containers and material safety data sheets.

Adoption of the GHS would require proposed changes to the Hazard Communication Standard. To help individuals better understand the GHS approach, OSHA prepared a guidance document that summarizes the requirements. Comments must be submitted no later than Nov. 13.

Safety and Health Information Bulletin Addresses Automotive Brake Repair Hazards

Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair Work is the focus of a new OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin. The document alerts employers and employees about the potential exposure to asbestos and the appropriate precautions to take when working with automotive brakes and clutches containing asbestos. It offers four types of control measures that can effectively reduce employees' asbestos exposure. OSHA updates inspection guidance for maritime industries

A new OSHA directive (.pdf file) for the ship and boat building and repair industries updates enforcement inspection scheduling guidance to include the agency's Site-Specific Targeting and Enhanced Enforcement Programs, the agency announced.

The instruction also includes new documents and updates inspection data guidance to include information regarding the North American Industry Classification System, OSHA said.

Manual aims to help building designers assist firefighters

A new OSHA publication, "Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems" (.pdf file), explains how building features affect fire operations and how firefighters should proceed in different environments.

The manual offers tips to help building designers create features that streamline fire service operations, including building and site design, sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire department connections, alarms, and communications systems.

'QuickTips' from QuickTakes

OSHA requires employers to make first-aid supplies readily available to its employees. The Medical Services and First-Aid standards (general industry and construction), however, do not dictate what should be included in a first-aid kit. OSHA recommends employers follow American National Standard Institute Z308.1-1998, Minimum Requirements for Workplace First-Aid Kits. Here are some basic products that may help tackle many types of injuries encountered on the job.

- Absorbent compress, 32 sq. in. [no side < 4"] (1); adhesive bandages, 1" x 3" (16)
- Adhesive tape, 5 yd. (1); antiseptic, .5g application (10)
- Burn treatment, .5g application (6); medical exam gloves (2 pair)
- Sterile pads, 3" x 3" (4); triangular bandage, 40" x 40" x 56" (1)

Employers should routinely survey the needs of their workplace and supplement first-aid kits accordingly. OSHA has more resource information in its Medical and First-Aid Safety and Health Topics page to help employers prevent minor injuries from becoming major ones.

EPA Stuff

EPA Proposes Steps to Improve New Source Review

Contact: John Millett, (202) 564-4355 / millett.john@epa.gov

The Bush Administration is proposing improvements to three specific areas of its New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. These improvements will simplify the process facility owners and operators must follow in determining whether plans to modify their facility would trigger NSR requirements.

The Bush Administration's NSR improvements would accelerate investments in cleaner energy-saving technologies. Existing permit limits on emissions would not be affected, and the proposed changes would encourage investments in refining capacity, improve industries' efficiency and reduce demand for natural gas. The improvements would also lower energy costs to households and consumers.

Today's proposal includes the final set of proposals from EPA's 2002 recommendations to the president on how to clarify the NSR program to improve investment in utility and refinery capacity.

These proposals are also a part of the president's clean air initiatives, which are designed to bring cleaner air to Americans: the Clean Air Diesel rule will dramatically cut pollution by more than 90 percent from heavy-duty diesel engines used in construction, agricultural, and industrial equipment and the Clean Air Interstate Rule will require coal-burning power plants to make the steepest emissions cuts in over a decade.

Together with other Clean Air Act programs, these landmark rules will improve air quality so nearly all areas of the country will meet air quality standards.

The proposal addresses the following three components:

1. **Debottlenecking:** EPA is proposing to change how NSR applies when an owner or operator modifies one portion of a facility in such a manner that production or throughput in other unchanged portions of the facility increases, thereby increasing overall efficiency of the facility. This type of modification is known as a "debottlenecking" project. Under the proposal, unchanged portions of the facility would not be subject to NSR if emissions from those portions have already been taken into account in a prior permit or regulatory action.

2. **Aggregation:** EPA is proposing to clarify how NSR applies when multiple projects are implemented at a facility. EPA is proposing that projects that are related should be treated as a single project (e.g. aggregated) if one of them is dependent on another. The rule provides additional information about how EPA makes this determination.

3. **Project Netting:** EPA is proposing to simplify the step in the calculation used to determine whether NSR applies when emissions increases and decreases are added together (called "netting").

Both aggregation and debottlenecking have been implemented through EPA guidance on a case by case basis in the past. The proposal would provide certainty to both the regulated community and the permitting authorities.

EPA will accept comment on this rule for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

More information about the proposed improvements to the NSR program: <http://epa.gov/nsr/>

EPA orders Destruction of Illegal 'Silly String' Products

This week, EPA [ordered](#) national retail chains to remove from their shelves cans of illegally imported confetti string products that contain banned hydrochlorofluorocarbons. According to the agency, the banned substances deplete the earth's protective stratospheric ozone layer and increase the risk of skin cancer. Millions of cans of the novelty items – imported from China or Taiwan and known by various names such as Zany String, Crazy String and Party Streamer – have been sold illegally in the United States, EPA said.

U.S. Continues to Set Bar on Pesticide Safety

Contact: Enesta Jones, (202) 564-4355 / jones.enesta@epa.gov

EPA is proposing to cancel all uses of the pesticide carbofuran and to revoke the associated tolerances (legal residue limits on food). The agency announced today its conclusion that there are considerable risks associated with carbofuran in food and drinking water, risks to pesticide applicators and risks to birds that are exposed in treated fields.

"Whether planting crops, de-bugging a home, working in the garden, or just sitting down at the dinner table, Americans everywhere can now be assured the pesticides used in the U.S. meet the highest health standards in the world," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By maintaining the highest ethical and scientific standards in its pesticide review, EPA and the Bush Administration have planted the seeds to yield healthier lives for generations of American families."

"EPA is committed to moving America away from high-risk pesticides to newer, safer alternatives that deliver results, while ensuring the public, pesticide applicators, and the environment are protected," said Jim Gulliford, assistant administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances at EPA.

EPA is proposing to immediately cancel the majority of carbofuran uses. A four-year phase-out is being proposed for six, minor agricultural uses, which will provide time to find effective alternatives.

New Manifest Form Required for All Hazardous Waste Handlers

Contact: Roxanne Smith, (202) 564-4355 / smith.roxanne@epa.gov

On Sept. 5, 2006, all hazardous waste generators and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities must use EPA's standardized hazardous waste manifest form. Since 1980, the manifest form has provided a complete paper trail of a waste's progress from generation to disposal.

It also identifies the type, amount, and toxicity of hazardous waste being shipped. The standardized form that is being implemented today, will save waste handlers and regulators time and money, while guaranteeing the continued, safe management of hazardous waste.

The standardized form reduces or eliminates many of the variables in state requirements. EPA's new manifest form also provides check boxes and adds fields that allow for better tracking of complicated shipments, such as container residues, rejected wastes, and interstate shipments.

The new form also makes it easier to collect data for hazardous waste reporting. EPA has ensured uniformity by authorizing printers and providing them with precise specifications.

Like the old form, each standardized form carries a unique preprinted manifest tracking number. The standardized form

also allows multistate waste handlers to register and use their own manifest forms everywhere they do business.

EPA estimates about 139,000 businesses in approximately 45 industries ship about 12 million tons of hazardous wastes annually. These businesses use between 2 and 5 million hazardous waste manifests.

Information on the Standardized Manifest Form:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/gener/manifest/>

List of EPA-approved printers for the forms:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/gener/manifest/registry/printers.htm>

Please print or type. (Form designed for use on elite (12-pitch) typewriter.)

UNIFORM HAZARDOUS WASTE MANIFEST		1. Generator ID Number	2. Page 1 of	3. Emergency Response Phone
5. Generator's Name and Mailing Address		Generator's Site Address (if different than Mailing Address)		
Generator's Phone:				
6. Transporter 1 Company Name				
7. Transporter 2 Company Name				
8. Designated Facility Name and Site Address				
Facility's Phone:				
GENERATOR	9a. HM	9b. U.S. DOT Description (including Proper Shipping Name, Hazard Class, ID Number, and Packing Group (if any))		10. Containers No. Type
	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			

Example of the new Hazardous Waste Manifest – No more color-coded forms ☺

Our next regular ASSE meeting is on October 17th at River Smiths Chicken & Catfish, 5th & Ave. Q. Delwin Jones Room 6:00 p.m. for Dinner/Networking; 6:30 p.m. for the Meeting