

# NC-ASSE Newsletter

## NC-ASSE Member appointed to State EMC

Tom Cecich, CIH, CSP, who chairs ASSE's Government Affairs Committee, has been appointed by North Carolina Governor Michael F. Easley to the state's Environmental Management Commission. The Environmental Management Commission

is a 19-member Commission responsible for adopting rules for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the state's air and water resources. The Commission oversees and adopts rules for several divisions of the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including the Divisions of Air Quality, Land Resources, Water Quality, and Water Resources.

*Congratulations Tom!*



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## NC-ASSE March Madness



Our March 8th meeting will be a slam dunk! The meeting will include a discussion on workers compensation by Stephen Bock who is the chapters current President-Elect.

The meeting will include; understanding

the basics of workers' comp, costs associated with workers comp, keys points to consider about workers' comp and return to work.

**LOCATION:**  
**Hibernian Pub**  
**1144 Kildaire Farm Rd.**  
**Cary**  
**Time: 11:30AM**

*Are you interested in being a presenter at one of our monthly ASSE meetings? Perhaps you know someone who would be interested in being a presenter. If so, please feel free to contact Wanda Hughes at [Wanda.Hughes@co.wak.nc.us](mailto:Wanda.Hughes@co.wak.nc.us).*

## NCDOL to Offer New Workshop Series

The N.C. Department of Labor is offering free general industry and construction workshops in 2007 through a new series that began in January.

One-subject courses are being offered in areas such as hazard communication, the big four construction hazards,

bloodborne pathogens, electrical safety, heat stress and noise. The courses range in length from one hour to four hours. Several topics also will be offered in Spanish.

The workshops will be held at the NCDOL field office training rooms located in Raleigh,

Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

Visit the NCDOL Web site, [www.nclabor.com](http://www.nclabor.com), and click on "Calendar of Events" to register for the workshops.

*By Marcy Collyer  
Health Education Specialist*

## NC Work Fatalities Continue to Drop

The emergence of North Carolina as one of the safest states to work in the United States continued in 2006 as a key work safety indicator—fatalities at work—once again dropped, according to figures released in January by the N.C. Department of Labor.

In what has been an unparalleled period of work environment improvements in its history, North Carolina saw a drop in fatal work accidents to 62 last year from the previous 68 in 2005. Of the 79 work-related fatalities investigated in 2006, 17 involved medical conditions such as heart attacks and seizures.

"I'm not saying that (62) is acceptable, anymore than you can say one fatality is acceptable," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "But we can say North Carolina has become among the safest in the country although our population keeps growing by leaps and bounds. We also have a lot of high-hazard industries such as construction, logging, manufacturing and fishing." The state labor department investigates work-related fatalities.

In 2000, North Carolina had a work injury and illness rate of 5.7 cases for every 100 full-time workers. The latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show that by 2005 the state's injury and illness rate had dropped to 4.0 in the private sector. The continuous yearly improvement has placed North Carolina among the 10 safest states. "We're doing something good in North Carolina," Berry said. "The fact that we have a safe environment for our workers resonates with people. It helps draw new business to North Carolina. A safe work environment contributes to economic development. It's good for workers, and it's good for our economic well-being."

Of the 62 fatalities, 21 occurred in construction. Another 11 took place in manufacturing and nine in the service industry. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had seven fatalities, with five fatalities in the transportation and public utilities industry.

Of the five N.C. Department of Labor districts, the Raleigh district with its 38 counties experienced the most fatalities

with 22. The Charlotte district with 15 counties followed with 15 fatalities. The Winston-Salem district with 15 counties had 12 fatalities, followed by Wilmington and its 13-county area with 10 fatalities. The Asheville district with its 19 counties had three work fatalities. Among racial groups, whites had 34 fatalities, followed by Hispanics with 14. Blacks had 13 fatalities. There was one Asian fatality.

Eighteen of the fatal accidents involved being struck by an object such as a truck, forklift or falling equipment. Another 18 North Carolinians suffered fatal falls. Eleven workers were crushed to death; five died in fires or explosions; and three were electrocuted. Another seven workers died in various other event categories.

***EDITORS NOTE:** Annual fatality numbers may change if a fatality was not reported to the N.C. Department of Labor as required by law. Figures also may change if death occurs in the calendar year following the accident.*

*By Heather Crews  
Public Information Officer*

**Never see  
failure as  
failure. See  
failure as  
experience!**

## 10th Annual Central Carolina Safety & Health School

The 10th Annual Central Carolina Safety & Health School is March 19-21, 2007 at NC State's McKimmon Cen-

ter. Keynote address is "Lessons Learned from CSB Investigations" presented by Mr. William E. Wright with U.S. Chemical Safety

Board. For more information on other presentations and to register please visit [www.CCOSH.org](http://www.CCOSH.org).

## NC ASSE Nominations

Just a reminder that the NC ASSE chapter is beginning the nomination process for 2007-2008. We are looking for anyone interested in being more involved within the chapter.

There are several ways to participate within the chapter. Whether it's taking on an executive committee position of President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, or Membership Chair, or helping put together the newsletter, sending out meeting an-

nouncements, or helping with web posting, there is a place for you!

Every position is very important in helping our chapter operate smoothly, as well as helping us achieve our mission of being a global organization that works to advance the technical, scientific, managerial and ethical knowledge and skills of occupational safety, health and environmental professionals, and is committed to protecting peo-

ple, property and the environment.

*Please contact either Stephen Bock (President-Elect) or Heidi Hatcher (Treasurer) if you are interested in becoming more active within your local ASSE chapter.*

**We Want You!**



## The REGION VI PDC Will Be Here Before You Know It!

We are well into 2007, winter will be winding down, and spring upon us soon. If you did not keep all you New Years resolutions because they were too hard, then here is one you can keep. Plan on coming to the 2007 Region VI PDC! It is cold now but it will be warm and sunny in September, the beach will be nice and

family will be in need of a vacation. So why not get the continuing education that we all need in this profession, and have a great time at a top vacation destination as well. Keep an eye on the PDC section of the Region VI website <http://www.asse-region6.org/conference.html> for all the details and registra-

tion as it becomes available.

Mark you calendars now for Sept 19 - 21 2007 and the Region VI PDC in Myrtle Beach. SC



Cost effectiveness at its best!

## Call for Papers for Safety 2008

ASSE invites those interested in presenting at its SAFETY 2008 Professional Development Conference to submit a proposal to speak for review by the Conference Planning Committee. Safety 2008 will provide a forum for attendees to learn the profession's best practices and to:

\* Examine key issues fac-

ing SH&E professionals.

\* Gain new and improve their professional skills and knowledge.

\* Prepare for the challenges in the SH&E fields.

\* Engage in the professional discourse on matters concerning the profession.

- Identify emerging issues relevant to the profession.

The committee is particularly interested in advanced, technically oriented and practical presentations.