

# NC-ASSE Newsletter

## NAOSH Safety Poster Contest Winner!

Congratulations goes out to Haley Bock who won a second year in a row in the 'Safety-on-the-Job' poster contest.

Haley Bock, seven, of Apex, NC, recently won fourth place in the 5th Annual American Society of Safety Engineers kids 'Safety-on-the-Job' poster contest in the 7-8 age category. Haley is the daughter of Stephen

Bock who presides as the chapters current President-Elect.

The winning posters were selected from five age groups aged 5-14 and will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) 2007 as part of the May 6 -12, 2007 NAOSH Week and May 9 Occu-

pational Safety and Health Professional Day.



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## NC-ASSE April Meeting

Our April 12th meeting will bounce you into spring as Bob Andrews will be our guest speaker. The meeting will include a discussion on ANSI/ASSE-Z15.1, Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operation

The purpose of this Standard is to provide organizations with a

guideline for the development of policies, procedures, and management processes to control risks associated with the operation of motor vehicles.

**LOCATION:**  
Buffalo Brothers  
3111 Capital Blvd.  
Raleigh  
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).*

## 10th Annual Central Carolina Safety & Health School

Just a reminder that the 10th Annual Central Carolina Safety & Health School is coming up on March 19-21, 2007 at NC State's McKimmon Center so

mark your calendars. 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).

## State Safety Programs Prove Effective

States such as North Carolina that run their own work safety programs have fewer work fatalities than those states whose work safety programs are run by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, according to a study released by an economics professor at Kennesaw State University.

The study found that in states such as North Carolina, workers experience 27 percent to 35 percent fewer fatal work accidents.

The study by John Charles Bradberry reviewed data from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's National Traumatic Occupational Fatalities report from 1981 to 1995. The estimates indicate that the average federal OSHA state would save 46 lives a year if they operated in the same manner as state-administered programs," Bradberry said.

Over the 15-year period, state plans have saved about 14,000 lives, according to Bradberry.

The study sites innovation, more inspections and flexibility as keys to

states' success. State plans have larger staffs and can conduct more inspections. These states also can develop programs that target their unique workforce. Bradberry's findings are supported by figures compiled in North Carolina.

"We know the needs of our workers in North Carolina," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "We know the industries here and know where we need to target our resources. As a state plan, we can do that, and it has proven very effective. Work safety in North Carolina has improved over the years, especially so in the last few years."

The N.C. Department of Labor in recent years has implemented special emphasis programs to focus on industries with high injury rates, including construction, furniture manufacturing and long-term care.

State labor officials also have launched new programs that have introduced safety and health seminars throughout the different regions of the state. The seminars are specifically designed for the different trade groups

that are at higher risk at work.

"The furniture industry is big in this state, and construction is booming," Berry said. "That's why we put an emphasis on these two areas. Two entirely different industries may need attention in another state."

Labor officials also have introduced concepts such as safety "blitzes" that saturate selected counties with NCDOL experts who comb the area to help with safety expertise. Last year the state adopted the first communication tower standard in the nation after a high number of deaths in the growing industry.

Labor officials had noticed the fatality spike and began developing a new standard that took effect in 2005.

North Carolina in 2005 had the fourth highest number of inspectors and number of inspections, behind California, New York and Washington.

*By Heather Crews  
Public Information Officer*

*Obstacles are things we see when we take our eyes off our goals.*

*-Zig Ziglar*

## 77th Annual Statewide Safety Conference

The 77th annual statewide safety conference is scheduled for May 15-18 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The conference includes a broad range of safety and health topics along with

presenters who are safety professionals from around our state.

This year's theme for the conference is **Safety—A New Look** and the guest speaker is Donald A. Jones who is with Dow Chemical. Tickets are

required. Cost for the luncheon is \$23.

To pre-register for this conference please visit the NC Industrial Commissions website at

[www.comp.state.nc.us](http://www.comp.state.nc.us)

## NC ASSE Nominations

Just another 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 new letter, sending out meeting

announcements, 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 people, 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!**



## Who Wins With a Strong Safety Culture

The title of this article raises a question that may seem to have a simple answer - everyone wins. But lots of questions need to be answered in order to fully understand the question, "Who Wins With a Strong Safety Culture?"

Everyone wins is true, but how? Why is that answer true? What does win mean? Winning has different meanings to different people. To the hourly worker winning could mean going home each day with both eyes, both ears, all fingers, toes, limbs, skin and lungs in the same or better condition than when they started their shift. To management winning could mean having strong, healthy workers to come back the next day to make the product, which in turn generates the profits, which grow the business and pay the wages, that ensures the company can stay competitive - and on it goes.

Winning is mutually inclusive in a strong safety culture. When hourly folks work in a manner consistent with solid safety training, in a safe environment provided by management, everyone's goals can be met.

So, how do we get people to work safely? How do we provide a safe and healthful workplace? By building and implementing a strong safety culture.

Combining training with hazard management is essential for eliminating work-related injuries. Hazard awareness is severely limited if hazard elimination isn't applied. Hazard elimination is difficult if workers can't recognize a hazard for what it is. Awareness is good, but how do we ensure that each and every individual in the workplace is aware of a hazard? Do we greet new hires at the door with a rundown of our safety hazards? Well, no; doing that would be silly. If we eliminate the hazard, though, we no longer have to think about it. We don't have to manage behaviors related to avoiding the hazard every day. We don't have to worry about workers forgetting about the hazard.

It is behind us and we can spend our efforts on other functions, in building progress rather than maintaining the status quo. When training people and eliminating hazards is done out of a deep

respect for the individual worker, a culture has begun.

Requiring employees to work safely, using solid safety techniques, and providing a safe, healthy work place is one sure way to reduce pain and suffering, cut costs, and protect people, our only real asset.

But guess what. . . building a safety culture is a hands-on, highly interactive process. Just as no machine or process has spontaneously started producing more and/or better products, a strong safety culture will simply not spontaneously appear. Building a good safety culture takes responsible management, (both as a verb and a noun). It takes responsible employees with safety training and education that augments their physical workplace environment. It is a shared desire and commitment to supporting each other in the workplace that creates the strong safety culture that makes everyone a winner.

*By Mike Bingham*



An anti-theft system for under \$10.00