



# NC-ASSE RECORDER

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## Fact:

- 30% of high school seniors say they have driven under the influence or have been in a car with an impaired driver.
- Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse study.

## Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| NIOSH unveils MRSA Webpage                     | 2 |
| Impaired Driving a Serious Problem Among Teens | 2 |
| S-MINER Act Passes House Committee             | 2 |
| Upcoming Events                                | 3 |
| NC Chapter Contacts                            | 3 |

## Kid's "Safety-on-the-job" 2008 Poster Contest

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is proud to sponsor the sixth annual ASSE kids' 'Safety-on-the-Job' poster contest for members' children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews as part of the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week. ASSE members and chapters can also sponsor schools or children from their workplace to enter the contest.

The poster contest began on September 19, 2007, and runs through Valentine's Day, February 14, 2008. Children in five age groups are invited to create and submit posters no larger than 11 x 14 that best illustrate being safe at work, to show an example of safety at work (check details below).

All entries must be postmarked by Thursday, February 14. The

four winners in each of the five age groups will be announced a week later and the first-place winners in each age group's poster will be featured on the ASSE NAOSH 08 poster distributed worldwide.

An independent panel of judges will select the winning entries that best illustrate the theme 'Safety-on-the-Job' in their poster.

The contest is broken down into five age groups -- 1) ages 5-6; 2) ages 7-8; 3) ages 9-10; 4) ages 11-12; and 5) ages 13-14. The first place winner in each age group receives a \$1,000 savings bond, the second place winner receives a \$500 savings bond and the third and fourth place winners receive a \$200 savings bond. All entrants will receive a prize and are invited to attend the ASSE poster contest awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., at the U.S.



NAOSH '08  
May 4-10, 2008

Capitol Monday, May 5, 2008. NAOSH Week, a tool we use to promote occupational safety and health, will be held country-wide and globally May 4 – 10, 2008. As part of NAOSH Week, the poster contest awards are distributed at the ASSE awards ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. All poster contest award winners, entrants and their family members along with all ASSE members are invited to attend the awards' event. Photos from last year's successful event can be viewed by going to [www.asse.org/naosh07](http://www.asse.org/naosh07).

(Reference: ASSE website)

## November 8th Meeting—Roundtable Discussion

If you have burning questions, then this is the meeting for you. Jim Semple from NC State University will be fielding questions concerning Risk Management; Ron Howell from the University of Chapel Hill will be covering Industrial Hygiene; and Rob Wilce, Consultant, NCDOL, will be assisting members from the view point NC OSHA.

Bring your questions!

This month's meeting will be at Buffalo Brothers, located in North Raleigh just off of US 1. The official address is 3111 Capital Blvd, Raleigh. It is located in the same shopping plaza as the Tiger Direct Outlet store (if you are heading north from I-440, the restaurant will be on

your left).

**Start time:** 5:30 pm.

**Cost:** \$20.00.



Staph infection, picture courtesy of NIOSH.

## NIOSH Unveils MRSA Webpage

A new resource to combat the spread of staph infections in general-industry workplaces is now available on NIOSH's website ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mrsa/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mrsa/)).

About one percent of the population is colonized with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is a bacteria carried on the skin that can cause health effects ranging from minor skin problems such as boils to serious infections like pneumonia when it comes into contact with another infec-

tion, NIOSH said.

The antibiotic-resistant bacteria spread through skin-to-skin contact, lack of cleanliness, contaminated items and other means.

NIOSH provides several suggestions to avoid a staph infection at the workplace:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage

until healed.

- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as uniforms and personal protective equipment.

For more information such as signs and symptoms or treatments, be sure to check out

NIOSH the website.

(Reference: NIOSH, NSC)

**Fact:**  
**Automotive incidents are the number one cause of death for persons aged 16—25**

(Reference: BLS, NSC)

## Impaired Driving a Serious Problem Among Teens

A recent study by the National Institutes of Health shows nearly one-third of high school seniors say they have driven while under the influence or have been in a car with an impaired driver.

The study was published in this month's issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. Researchers found that in 2006, 30% of high school seniors reported driving after

drinking heavily or using drugs or riding in a car whose driver had been drinking heavily or using drugs at least once in the prior two weeks. The good news is that this is down from 35% in 2001. The study also found that 13% of seniors drove after using marijuana, and 10% drove after having five or more alcoholic drinks.

A demographic characteristics showed widespread use

(religion, race, location, family structure and socioeconomic), however, a lifestyle analysis of seniors showed correlation between impaired driving and religiosity, grades, truancy, hours of work, and frequency of evenings out for fun).

For more information, go to [www.jsad.com](http://www.jsad.com).

(Reference: *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*).

## S-MINER Act Passes House Committee

In a 26-18 vote, the House Education and Labor Committee approved new mine safety and health legislation Oct. 31.

Committee Chairman Rep. George Miller, D-CA, said the Supplementary Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act builds on legislation signed into law in 2006 by addressing gaps in safety and health standards. Several Republican panel members sought unsuccessfully to scuttle the bill

with amendments during markup. Ranking member Rep. Howard Buck McKeon, R-CA, called the bill fundamentally flawed, claiming it would erase progress under the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006. Miller said the legislation adds new safeguards and will strengthen standards to contain explosions and fires inside mines. The bill, which will be taken up by the full House and must be reconciled

with companion legislation in the Senate, gives the Mine Safety and Health Administration subpoena authority and increases some penalties against mine operators that violate the law. (Reference: NSC)

For information on how this may effect NC operations, contact the NCDOL Mine and Quarry Bureau at 919.807.2790.



Founded in 1911, ASSE is the oldest and largest professional safety organization. Its more than 30,000 members manage, supervise and consult on safety, health, and environmental issues in industry, insurance, government and education. ASSE is guided by a 16-member Board of Directors, which consists of 8 regional vice presidents; three council vice presidents; Society president, president-elect, senior vice president, vice president of finance and executive director. ASSE has 13 practice specialties, 152 chapters, 31 sections and 52 student sections.

For more information, visit [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org).

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## Upcoming Events

### December ASSE Meeting

**Speaker:** Karissa Davan,  
Work Comp. Lawyer.  
**Topic:** What employers need to know about Workers' Compensation.  
**Date:** 12/13/2007  
**Time:** 11:30 am  
**Location:** Bentley's at Crossroads.  
**Cost:** \$15.00 or bring a toy for the NC ASSE Toys for Tots drive! Just bring in a toy valued around \$15.00 and we'll pick up lunch!

### January ASSE Meeting

**Speaker:** Dave Duke  
**Topic:** Fleet Safety  
**Date:** 1/10/2008  
**Time:** 11:30 am  
**Location:** Buffalo Brothers  
**Cost:** \$15.00

### NC State IES and NC

**ASSE 2008 PDC**  
**Date:** 2/8/2008

**Mark your calendars for this one, more information to come!**

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## Chapter Officers

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