



NC-ASSE RECORDER

Volume 2, Issue 6

February, 28, 2008

“The tragic events at Northern Illinois University underscore the need for our nation’s colleges and universities to have emergency plans in place.”

—Sen. Dick Durbin, D-IL.

Inside this issue:

James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament 2

Study Says Temporary Workers Suffer More Injuries 2

OSHA Wants Members for Construction Advisory Panel 3

CDC Warns about “Choking Game” 3

Upcoming Events and Chapter Officers 4

NIU Shooting Prompts Lawmakers to Push Pending Legislation

Noting the tragedies of fatal school shootings at Virginia Tech last year and more recently at Northern Illinois University, some legislators are promoting various bills they hope will stem future mass fatalities at schools and universities.

“The tragic events at Northern Illinois University underscore the need for our nation’s colleges and universities to have emergency plans in place,” Sen. Dick Durbin, D-IL, said in a statement. Five people were killed Feb. 14 when a gunman entered a classroom on the DeKalb, IL, campus and began firing shots before taking his own life.

Durbin said the university responded “quickly and comprehensively” to the shooting, but

stressed the need for Congress to pass the Higher Education Act reauthorization. The act contains language originating from a bill sponsored by Durbin and Sen. Barack Obama, D-IL, that would require every college and university to have a written emergency response policy, to test those policies and procedures, and to promptly alert the community in the event of an emergency. It was introduced shortly after the April Virginia Tech massacre in which 32 people were gunned down in two shootings at separate locations on the Blacksburg, VA, campus by a single gunman. The bill currently is in the Congress Conference Committee to iron out differences between the Senate and House versions.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT, stressed from the Senate floor

the urgency of his own bill designed to strengthen law enforcement and school safety. Since being approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in early August, the Senate has taken no action on the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act. The bill would provide funding for the hiring and training of security personnel in K-12 school districts, and establish a \$50 million federal grant program to give higher education institutions funds for safety and security.

Study Says Wellness Programs Pay Off

Companies that offer an employee wellness program save an average \$71.41 per person over a nine-month period due to reduced doctor and emergency room visits, according to a white paper released this week by the American Institute for Preventive Medicine in Farmington Hills, MI. “The Health and Economic Implications of Worksite Wellness Programs” analyzed a number of studies on workplace wellness programs and concluded they

provide a return on investment. Findings in the report include:

- The average company is projected to pay \$9,312 per employee in health care costs. Health care constituted 44 percent of benefit costs in 2006.
- Many health care costs are driven by employees’ lifestyle choices: An estimated 87.5 percent of health care claims are lifestyle-related.
- Currently an average of 62

percent of companies offer a wellness program.

- Wellness programs provided a return on investment of \$3.48:1 through reduced medical costs and \$5.82:1 through decreased rates of absenteeism.

For more information, go to www.healthylife.com/template.asp?pageID=75

1st Annual James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament

Where:

Brook Valley Country Club, Greenville, NC.

When:

April 4th, 2008.



James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament

The First Annual James P. Kohn Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on April 4th 2008 at Brook Valley Country Club in Greenville, NC. The East Carolina University American Society of Safety Engineers Student Section will be administering the event. Dr. Kohn was a well respected faculty member at East Carolina University and proud supporter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. As you may know, success of the M.S. in Occupational Safety program at ECU is a result of Dr. Kohn's effort and vision.

The (foursome) golf tourna-

ment will begin "shotgun style" at 1:00pm with registration starting at 11:00am. Entry fees will include: golf, cart, prizes, and food. The top teams will receive cash awards. Additional prizes will also be awarded throughout the day! A local favorite, *CPW's: Fine Food and Spirits*, will be providing lunch and a remarkable dinner.

The price per tournament participant is \$75 (\$300 per team). We will have many individual golfers, and will create teams, so please don't be shy if you don't have a foursome. We are also looking for hole spon-

sorships. If you are interested in having your business, organization or name advertised on a tournament hole; the contribution minimum is \$100. Scholarship funds are handled directly by the East Carolina University Foundation and all donations are fully tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, a tax deduction receipt will be provided to you.

Please contact Mike Behm, PhD, CSP, Assistant Professor at ECU for further information (252.328.9674).

Study Says Temporary Workers Suffer More Injuries

Part-time, temporary or contract workers are at a higher risk of occupational injuries and illnesses than other workers, according to a new study conducted by NIOSH researchers.

"Contingent Workers and Contingent Health," published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, highlights several areas in which temporary workers are more prone to injuries:

- Fatal occupational injuries

are twice that among the self-employed.

- 19 percent of day laborers reported work-related injuries, compared with less than 5 percent of workers in all private industries.
- Contract coal miners with at least 15 years of tenure had more evidence of black lung than noncontract coal mine workers.

Researchers speculated that

personal health could be a factor in why contingent workers are more likely to become injured or ill on the job, as the unpredictability of job schedules may contribute to poor eating and exercise habits. Additionally, contingent workers were more likely to have lower incomes and fewer benefits, according to NIOSH.

For more information, go to <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/299/4/448>

OSHA Wants Members for Construction Advisory Panel

OSHA is seeking nominations to fill several seats on the agency's Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health. The 15-member committee is seeking members for its employer, employee and public categories. The committee meets two to four times

annually; members serve staggered two-year terms.

For more information, go to http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=20279

“Over 5,900 pedestrians are killed by cars each year. Thousands more get seriously injured.”

Are Cell Phones and iPods a Peril for Pedestrians?

You see it everywhere and many of us do it ourselves...

Whether trying to squeeze the most out of our busy day or out of simple boredom, we talk on the phone or listen to music, news or audio books while we're walking. The business person trying to get a little work in while going to pick up lunch, the mom or dad having a tense conversation with one of the kids or the teenager listening to her iPod on her way home from school - it's just part of everyday life now.

Most of the controversy around cell phones has been related to driving a car while talking or dialing but they pose a risk to pedestrians too.

Just the other day, I saw a pedestrian almost get hit by a car while walking through the parking lot of the local supermarket - not once, but twice! The first driver saw her at the last minute and thanks to another driver who honked his horn, the driver of the second car stopped moving too. If you can't already guess, she was talking on her cell phone and was engrossed in her conversation. She kept right on talking - still oblivious, as she walked

into the market.

All handheld devices; cell phones, iPods, Walkmans, and portable CD players can pose a safety risk to pedestrians. One of the biggest risks they present is the fact that they are huge distractions for the pedestrian.

Often times, the pedestrian is so engaged in their phone conversation, text message or their music that they fail to see what is going on around them - focused on everything BUT the street or the parking lot. Another key factor is that cell phones and music players can block the user's hearing so the listener can't hear what's going on around them. A critical safety sense is stripped away and it could easily cost someone their life.

Here are some quick reminders to make your walking trips a bit safer:

- Pay attention to what is going on around you! Minimize or remove all distractions that prevent you from staying alert and aware.
- Make yourself as visible as possible and never enter

traffic from between parked cars.

- Turn down the volume on your phone, iPod, or other device so you can also hear what's going on around you.
- Be especially careful in parking lots. Look for backup lights and engine noise to alert you to moving cars.
- Be aware of drivers who may not be paying attention themselves.
- Always be extra cautious at night.
- Cross the street in crosswalks only!
- Cross at a corner if there is no crosswalk.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.

Over 5,900 pedestrians are killed by cars each year. Thousands more get seriously injured. A little more attention on your part could make a critical difference so make sure you stay alert to the dangers around you by limiting distractions as much as possible and following the simple safety rules outlined above

CDC Warns about “Choking Game”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned Feb. 15 that some children and adolescents are at risk from a dangerous activity called the “choking game.”

CDC said in the Feb. 15 edition of its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that “choking game” activities have led to the deaths of at least 82 children

and adolescents since 1995.

Researchers from CDC's Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention found older children and early adolescents sometimes play the game to get a brief high – either choking each other or using a noose to choke themselves. CDC warned that after a short time, children can pass out, which

may lead to serious injury or death from hanging or strangulation. Eighty-seven percent of the deaths were boys and 89 percent were between 11 and 16 years old, CDC said.

For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5706a1.htm>



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.

Upcoming Events

February ASSE Meeting

Tour: EPA Building
Guides: Tim McClellan,
Marshall Gray
Date: 2/14/2008
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, RTP 27711

BEST Conference:

Date: 2/20/2008
Time: Vendors open at 7:30 am
Location: McKimmon Center at NC State University
Cost: Free

March ASSE Meeting

Topic: EQ Industrial Services Disaster
Speaker: Brian McFeaters, Apex Fire Chief
Date: 3/13/2008
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Bentley's at Crossroads (Cary)
Cost: \$20.00

Chapter Officers

President:

Stephen Bock
sbock2@thezenith.com

President-Elect:

Dave Duke
dduke@smeinc.com

Treasurer:

Horace Rosier
hrozier@bd.com

Secretary:

Steve Kaasa
stevekaasa@ncmail.com

Delegate:

Wanda Hughes
wandahughes@co.wake.nc.us

Governmental Affairs:

Bob Andrews
rkandrews@dot.state.nc.us

Membership Chair:

Marvin Perkins
mperkins@piedmontac.com

Public Relations:

Russell Bowen
russ@bowenehs.com