

Vincent J. Takas, RSSP, FIAE
President/Programs
The Walt Disney Company
818-544-5795
vincent.j.takas@disney.com

Peter Gin, RSSP
President Elect/Newsletter
Lockton Insurance Brokers
213-689-4203
pgin@lockton.com

Frederick D. Garcia, RSSP
Vice President/Legislative Affairs
The Walt Disney Company
818-754-4021
fred.d.garcia@disney.com

Patrick W. O'Toole, RSSP
Secretary/Raffle
General Safety Services
323-258-2771

John A. O'Toole, RSSP, FIAE
Treasurer/Membership
General Safety Services
323-258-2771
johnaot@earthlink.net

Joseph Jones, RSSP
Placement Chairman
CAL/OSHA Consultant
562-941-0454
jjones@hq.dir.ca.gov

Ted Gegoux, CSP, RSSP, FIAE
Chapter Website
VA Healthcare System Long Beach
626-357-6085
ted@gegoux.com

Michael Nicholas, RSSP, FIAE
Past President/Nominations
California Loss Control
909-596-8070
i4safety@aol.com

Charles A. Merriam, RSSP
Sgt. At Arms
Reaching Higher Risk Management
909-738-0651

Tim El-Shammaa, RSSP
Northern California Section
Cal/OSHA Compliance
408-452-7288

Bob Middo, RSSP
Government Affairs
CAL/OSHA Consultation
562-941-0454
mmiddo@hq.dir.ca.gov

Rosemary Domino
Member-At-Large
D/K Environmental
714-638-1237
rdomino@dkenv.com

Dolores Alvarez
Student Membership
American Medical Response
310-952-4991
dolores_alvarez@amr-ems.com



FEBRUARY 2, 2001 LUNCH MEETING

12 Noon in the Buffet Room of

Crystal Park Casino Hotel

123 E. Artesia Blvd. Compton, CA 90220

Hotel Phone: (800) 717-1000

Confirmation w/John O'Toole at (323) 258-2771

91 Freeway to Alameda Avenue Exit

Cost for lunch \$13.00



IASSP

International Association of Safety & Security Professionals
Los Angeles County Chapter

Volume 9

February 2001

February Speaker

We have contacted Arthur Goodwin, P.E. for this meeting. He will discuss the various safety efforts for work being done along the Alameda Corridor project.

December Speaker

Simon Turner, Director of Healthy Buildings International discussed about 'Indoor Air Quality'.

Welcome our New Members

Linda Susan Hunter
Dennis King
Paul Holehouse
Rocky Spadaro*
J. Carlos Del Barco*

Marjorie Del Toro
Evelyn Leyva
Janice A. Minasian
Coree A. Apaez*

*Joined last meeting but was not presented with their certificates.

LUNCH MENU FOR THIS MONTH

Garden Salad with House Dressing
Antipasto Salad
Broiled Chicken with Fettucinni in Alfredo Sauce
Mixed Vegetables
Garlic Bread
Dessert: Carrot Cake
Coffee/Decaf/Iced Tea

Attention All Members

In our continuing effort to minimize our cost for the newsletter, we are making every effort to send the newsletter out via e-mail. If you currently receive this in the mail, please send your e-mail address to: petergin@earthlink.net. Thank you for your consideration to help our organization save postage expenses.

President's Message

Congratulations are in order for two of our members. Peter Gin and Tim El Shammaa will become Fellows with the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering at the Oakmont Country Club in Glendale, California on Saturday, February 17, 2001. This achievement is a recognition for the efforts they have contributed during the course of their professional careers. If you are interested in attending the awards ceremony, please contact John O'Toole.

Thank you to I.A.S.S.P. Members who have paid their annual dues in full. Like any other organization, money is needed in order to make it work. If you have not paid your dues, you are encouraged to do so.

If your company wishes to become a Corporate Member of the I.A.S.S.P. please be aware that ALL Corporate Membership funds are earmarked for the exclusive use for our Scholarship Fund. This is a very good thing!

The goals of our organization include providing a forum for Safety and Security professionals to network with likeminded professionals to advance the goals of Safety and Security. Your continued participation is encouraged and appreciated.

Vincent Takas, RSSP, FIAE

NIOSH: No Evidence That Back Belts Reduce Injuries Among Retail Workers

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) says it has found "no evidence" that the back belts commonly used in the retail industry reduce back injury or pain.

Results of the two-year study, which NIOSH called "the largest of its kind ever conducted," were recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. It found no statistically significant difference between the incidence rate of workers' compensation claims for job-related back injuries among retail employees who reported using back belts daily, and that of employees who reported they never used the belts or only used them once or twice a month.

The belts, also known as back supports or abdominal belts, resemble corsets and are widely used throughout industry to prevent injury during lifting. According to NIOSH, there are more than 70 types of industrial back belts. The study focused on retail workers using a stretchable nylon belt.

NIOSH interviewed 9,377 retail employees involved in materials handling, between 1996 and 1998 at 160 newly opened stores owned by a national chain. The institute gathered data on the workers' back-belt wearing habits, work history, lifestyle habits, job activities, demographic characteristics and job satisfaction. The study also examined workers' comp claims for back injuries at the stores during the period.

NIOSH found that the back injury rate among workers who wore the belts every day was "statistically insignificant" from those who didn't regularly use them. For the first group, the injury rate was 3.38 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. Among the second group, the rate was 2.76/100.

Regular back-belt users reported back pain at a 17.1 percent rate, while 17.5 percent of non-users reported pain. And the rate of back injury claims (2.98/100) in stores requiring use of back belts was similar to the claim rate in stores where belts were voluntary (3.08/100).

"A history of back injury was the strongest risk factor for predicting either a back injury claim or reported back pain among employees, regardless of back-belt use," NIOSH reported. The back-injury rate among workers with a history of back pain, 5.14/100 FTE, was nearly twice as high as the rate among workers with no such previous history (2.68/100).

Even employees in the most strenuous types of jobs showed no appreciable difference in either back pain complaints or injury claims by using back belts.

COR has posted a copy of the NIOSH study on our web site (www.cal-osha.com) under Resources.

HOW TO TEST FLOOR TREATMENT YOURSELF

In the study we conducted with the cooperation of 10 floor treatment product manufacturers, we scrupulously cleaned and shipped identical marble and ceramic tiles to each manufacturer. They were instructed to apply their product and return the tiles for slip resistance testing with a Variable Incidence Tribometer, the English XL. Our results (both dry and wet testing, with three sets of four readings generating 12 data points) were then statistically analyzed by an independent statistician who is a member of the ASTM F-13 committee, the group that oversees many slip resistance related standards.

The analysis gave us scientific proof of what was generally suspected: Often, product effectiveness had almost nothing to do with product claims. Also, we found that there were statistically significant differences among products, in terms of their ability to reduce the likelihood of slip-and-fall accidents.

We recommend an abbreviated version of our controlled study for safety professionals as a first step in their search for the perfect floor treatment product for their companies' floors. To conduct such a study, first create a list of products that are designed for use on your particular floors with your particular traffic demands (for instance, marble floors in the main office lobby, heavily trafficked). Next, study this handful of products in terms of their ease of application. Some products require professional application; some are easy to apply; some require regular maintenance routines. Pick those you can apply and maintain given the resources at your disposal.

Now, conduct a patch test of the few products you have selected based on the above parameters. We recommend that you hire a professional who is experienced in using the tribometer (or slipmeter).

Finally, using those products that tested best, conduct a 30-day trial on a selected area of your floor surface. Get results by monitoring any changes in slip incidents, listening to staffers' feedback, and formally re-measuring the slip resistance on your floor. This should further narrow the field to just a few products. Test these for an extended, 90-day trial period. Pick the product that does best.

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter National Safety Council Training Institute will be offering the following courses over the next two months. You can sign-up by calling (213) 385-6461.

Forklift Operators – 2/6/01 – Anaheim
Fire Safety – 2/6/01 – Burbank
Emergency/Disaster Preparedness – 2/7/01 – Burbank
Confined Space – 2/8/01 – Burbank
Ergonomics – 2/8/01 – Burbank
Ladder Safety & Scaffolding – 2/13/01 – Burbank
DDC-4 Instructor Course – 2/14 & 15/01 – Burbank
Machine Guarding/Lockout & Tagout – 2/21/01 – Burbank
Forklift Instructor Training – 2/22/01 – Anaheim
Handling Hazardous Material – 2/22/01 – Burbank
Fundamentals of Cal/OSHA – 2/27/01 – Burbank
Personal Protective Equipment – 2/28/01 – Burbank
Safety Committee – 3/1/01 – Anaheim
Forklift Operator Training – 3/6/01 – Burbank
Workplace Safety – 3/7/01 – Anaheim
Accident Investigation 3/8/01 – Anaheim
Advanced Industrial Safety – 3/13/01 – Anaheim
Preventing Violence in the Workplace – 3/14/01 – Anaheim
Forklift Instructor Training – 3/15/01 – Burbank
IIPP Hazcom – 3/20/01 – Anaheim
Risk Management – 3/21/01 – Anaheim
Boat Safety – 3/22/01 – Anaheim
Respiratory Protection – 3/27/01 – Anaheim
Forklift Operator Training – 4/3/01 – Anaheim
Worker's Compensation – 4/3/01 – Burbank
Secrets of Cal/OSHA – 4/5/01 - Burbank

ADA MAY NOT PROTECT MENTALLY ILL EMPLOYEES WHO THREATEN WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

A recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit indicates that mentally ill employees who threaten violence in the workplace may not have protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act. In *Borgialli vs. Thunder Basin Coal Co.*, the court granted summary judgement to an employer who fired an employee who refused to submit to additional psychological testing in order to return to work after he expressed suicidal thoughts and was diagnosed with several psychological disorders. The employee, Dennis Borgialli, argued in his suit that his employer "perceived him as disabled" and that the firing was a result of discrimination. For more information on this, go to: <http://www.prqo.com>.

COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PROGRAMS SAVE MONEY

A superior safety program uses safety incentive promotional products to get the following benefits:

- Reduce on-the-job accidents
- Reduce insurance costs
- Lower worker's compensation costs
- Avoid costly interruptions to operations
- Lower workplace stress
- Improve productivity
- Reduce the need for training and retraining of replacement workers
- Improve employee attitude and morale
- Enhance unity and teamwork
- Lower recruiting costs with a better work environment
- Improve overall product quality
- Extend equipment life
- Lesson intrusion from government and insurance inspectors
- Lower level of bureaucratic paper work
- Lower legal bills