

Jeffrey L. Malek, JD, RSSP
President/Programs
Malek & Malek
310-600-7861
jmalek@maleklaw.com

Bud Henderson, RSSP
President Elect
Pecos, Inc.
310-356-2373
bud@pecos-inc.com

Crist Wagner, RSSP
Vice President
Keystone Law & Justice
714-539-3496
omecrist@aol.com

Laura Rodehaver
Secretary
Pecos, Inc.
310-356-2375
laura@pecos-inc.com

John A. O'Toole, RSSP, FIAE
Treasurer/Membership
General Safety Services
323-258-2771
otoole47@adelphia.net

Peter Gin, RSSP, FIAE
Newsletter
Lockton Insurance Brokers
213-689-4203
petergin@earthlink.net

Joann Blayney, RSSP
Public Relations
Safety Dynamics Group
562-981-5335
joannb8041@aol.com



August 5, 2005 Lunch Meeting 12 Noon

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

Linda Hunter, RSSP, FIAE
Past President/Webmaster
Zee Medical
714-847-8852 ext 234
lhsafenet@aol.com

Vincent J. Takas, RSSP, FIAE
Nominations/Awards
The Walt Disney Company
818-553-4318
vincent.j.takas@disney.com

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

Dale Leuer, RSSP
Placement Chair
Pacific Coast Recycling
562-628-8115
dleuer@pacifcr.com

Joseph M. Kaplan
Corporate Memberships
President Emeritus, NSC
310-652-1932

Byron Jamerson, RSSP, FIAE
CSSSP Training Institute
562-602-2622
jammo70@hotmail.com

Andrew Asaro
Raffle Chair
562-864-9755



CSSSP – Los Angeles Chapter
2272 Colorado Blvd. Ste. 1368
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323) 258 – 2771
www.csssp.com



C S S S P

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals Los Angeles County Chapter

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August Speaker

Our speaker this month is Ms. Diane Visencio, MPH, BSN, RN, and PHN. She is currently the Public Health Nurse Coordinator for Bioterrorism Education and Training for the Disaster Management Unit.

She is responsible for the assessment of education and training needs of health care providers and public health staff. She has developed and implemented training in the area of background knowledge of bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, incident command system, disease surveillance, case investigation, and use of personal protective equipment.

She assisted in the development and planning for Mass Vaccination with the Strategic National Stockpile Plan for Ventura County. She also has developed and implemented disaster exercises for public health staff to enhance the capacity and skills of essential disaster workers. Coordinated the CISM trainings for mental health workers, assisted in the development of the Medical Reserve Corps for Ventura County.

New Lunch Meeting Prices

The cost for members to join the lunch and meeting has increased as follows:

Members in good standing (paid memberships) - \$15.00; Members with unpaid memberships - \$20.00; Visitors - \$20.00.

Calling for Articles

All members are encouraged to submit articles for inclusion into future newsletters. If you have a (n) topic for the newsletter, please submit them to Peter Gin at: petergin@earthlink.net.

Dear Fellow members:

I am very excited to be your President for this coming year. I want to congratulate Linda Hunter for an outstanding job of guiding us through the past year. This year I want to continue on Linda's theme of being prepared for safety and emergency issues, however, I want to also focus on workplace safety. I am going to ask everyone to think of recent experiences at work or on the news that we can discuss as a group about workplace safety.

Our certificate program through California State University Dominguez Hills continues to expand. In order to increase our scholarship contributions, and to increase networking and fellowship, I am hoping to have at least one evening get together where we can all net work and chat about the common issues that have brought us together.

I also hope to have breakfast meetings every other month in between each meeting where anyone that has some time can meet over coffee and discuss topical issues.

I am requesting that any member who has not yet paid their annual dues do so, so that we as an organization can stay healthy. If any one has any suggestions or comments, please feel free to at: jmalek@maleklaw.com.

Cheers,

Jeff Malek, Esq.

General workstation design principles to consider:

- Make the workstation adjustable and locate all materials and tools in front of the worker to reduce reaching and twisting motions.
- Provide adjustable, properly designed chairs.
- Provide floor mats for prolonged standing.
- Provide elbow, wrist, arm, foot and back rests as needed.
- Eliminate or minimize excessive noise, heat, humidity, cold and poor lighting.

Bill would hold employers liable in contractor deaths

By Lise Olsen

U.S. Rep. Al Green filed a bill that would hold employers criminally responsible in cases where private contract workers are killed on the job as a result of a willful violation of workplace safety rules.

Green's legislation comes in response to a story that pointed out a loophole in the current federal workplace safety law.

Under that law, the company could not be criminally prosecuted in connection with the 15 deaths that occurred in an explosion, even if OSHA regulators find that the company committed a willful violation of safety rules. That's because the 15 workers who died were all contractors and did not work directly for the company.

The OSHA investigation of the explosion is not yet complete and no citations have been issued. Green, D-Houston, wrote in a letter to his colleagues that he hoped the bill would serve as a deterrent for employers tempted to hire contractors for the most dangerous work because they "believe there will be fewer repercussions if the contract worker is killed than if an employee is killed."

Under current law, willful violations that lead to worker deaths are classified as misdemeanors and would remain so under Green's proposal. Other initiatives to reclassify workplace crimes as felonies have failed in Congress, though at least three related bills are pending.

Green's staff said four other members of Congress have joined the bill as co-sponsors and that the AFL-CIO is supporting the bill.

NOT FOLLOWING LOCKOUT RULES

As an employer or supervisor, you must ensure that lockout/tagout procedures are followed to the letter. If you don't, something else could follow – injury, death and penalties.

An Ontario manufacturer of electronic chips found this out recently when it was fined \$60,000 for a safety violation that resulted in a worker suffering a broken hip.

What happened:

A plant worker was servicing a machine and had disabled a safety interlock. At one point he instructed an operator to press the 'on' button so that the cause of a noise could be observed.

The operator pressed the button 10 times, causing a carriage shuttle to move suddenly at high speed. The shuttle subsequently pinned the worker against a safety gate, which then fell to the floor, along with the worker.

The investigation:

The investigation determined that the worker did not properly follow the manufacturer's manual for troubleshooting. It was also learned that lockout procedures were not to be found within workplace rules.

The plea:

The company pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that control switches were locked out on a machine that was having repairs or maintenance performed on it.

The penalty:

In addition to the \$60,000 fine, the court imposed a victim fine surcharge of 25 percent as required by the Provincial Offences Act.

OSHA Debuts Pocket Guide on Construction Safety

Employers and workers in the construction industry will benefit from a new OSHA "*Pocket Guide on Construction Safety*." This quick-reference tool helps identify potential hazards and possible solutions to those hazards for the most frequently cited standards in construction. It also offers safety checklists on personal protection equipment, scaffolding, electricity, floor and wall openings, elevated surfaces, hazard communication, cranes, and forklifts to help avoid hazards that cause injuries, illnesses and fatalities. This guide is one in a series on worker safety being developed by the agency. The publications can be downloaded from OSHA's Web site at:

www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list or can be ordered by calling OSHA's publications office at (202) 693-1888.

Fuel Efficiency: Conserve Energy/Save Money

With the cost of fuel at or near record levels, it is important that your drivers operate as efficiently as possible. Factors drivers can control when it comes to efficient operations include:

- Preventive maintenance;
- Idling; and
- Driving practices.

Preventive Maintenance

Simple maintenance steps can make a difference in fuel consumption. This includes making sure the vehicle's axles and wheels are properly aligned, tires are properly inflated, and that the engine is tuned up on a regular basis.

Idling

On average, an idling truck uses about one gallon of diesel fuel per hour. Trucks that idle at a lower rpm burn less fuel than trucks that idle at a higher rpm.

Engine idling also has an impact on maintenance costs. According to Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics, idling-related maintenance costs are about \$2,000 per truck annually.

As well as fuel and maintenance costs, in some areas of the country, idling is illegal and can lead to fines and penalties. Most of the idling prohibitions are state or municipal law/regulation/ordinance and include exceptions in certain cases.

Driving Practices

Another way to cut fuel consumption is by following some common sense driving practices.

Starting the engine — Long periods of cranking waste fuel. If after 30 seconds of cranking the engine doesn't start, stop and wait a couple of minutes before trying again. Don't pump the accelerator and never unnecessarily rev the engine after starting.

Smooth acceleration — Accelerate smoothly. Uneven acceleration wastes fuel.

Steady speed — Maintain a steady speed. Braking unnecessarily causes a vehicle to lose momentum. The only way to regain that momentum is by accelerating, which means burning more fuel. Use cruise control when possible, as it helps maintain an even speed.

Speed limits — Tests have shown that every mile per hour of additional speed over 55 mph costs an additional 2 to 2.2 percent in fuel.

The faster speed also increases air resistance. This causes the engine to work harder at 65 mph than it would on the same stretch of road at 55 mph.

Progressive shifting — Shifting before running the engine up to the governor saves fuel by not relying on the governor to limit the engine's power.

Get the most out of your toolbox talks

A toolbox talk — the brief safety meeting at the start of the shift — is a great way to remind workers to stay safe on the job. The best thing about a toolbox talk is that it only takes a few minutes. Your challenge is to make the toolbox talk meaningful in such a short time period.

Start by prioritizing the information you want to cover. Don't spend too much time on why a certain safety rule is in place; rather, concentrate on what you want the workers to do on the job. Focus on individual tasks by reviewing a procedure or checklist. A toolbox talk is not the time for in-depth training.

The toolbox talk should be interesting, too. Give demonstrations on how to follow a procedure or use equipment. If the workers are already familiar with the topic, have an employee conduct the demonstrations. When workers are involved in the toolbox talk, the interest level increases.

Bring the information to life. Your workers have valuable experience, and you can use the toolbox talk to encourage them to share their knowledge. Have a discussion about how your equipment or procedures are similar to or different from those previously used by your employees at other jobs. Ask for their suggestions to improve safety.

Emphasize the importance of the topic. The workers will learn more if they see a real need to cover the information. Bring up recent close calls or incidents related to the topic in a discussion on "how can we keep this from happening again." Let the employees voice their concerns, and relate the actions the company is taking to address the issue.

Whether you use question-and-answer sessions, discuss case studies, conduct drills or role-play exercises, review written instructions, or just have general discussions, involve your workers so they look forward to the toolbox talk.