

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chapter President

Marc Nettleton mnettleton@themdc.com

President Elect

Nate Fague nathanfague@gmail.com

Vice President

Chip Darius cdarius@safetypriority.com

Secretary

Mike Stanczyk mikes@mcphoeusa.com

Treasurer

Tom Benedict tbenedict99@comcast.net

Past President

Jeannine Derouin jeanninederouin@gmail.com

Western MA Section Chair

Maryanne Steele msteele@ehs.umass.edu

Membership Chair

Sylvia Malinski smalinski1@msn.com

Construction Chair

Joe Bongiovanni, CSP jbongiovanni007@gmail.com

Government Affairs Chair

Walt Tucker walt.tucker@att.net

Newsletter Editor

John Able, CSP able.john@dol.gov

Communication & Jobs Chair

Dave Gelpke, CSP dave.gelpke@canberra.com

Awards & Honors Chair

Dave Boutin, CSP boutin.david@dol.gov

Nominations Chair

Will Reardon will.reardon@canberra.com

Student Affairs Chair

Tim Healey timothy_healey@hsb.com

Chapter Historian

Tim Healey timothy_healey@hsb.com

Foundation Liaisons

Tom Benedict tbenedict99@comcast.com

Jack Braddock john.braddock@cox.net

NAOSH PDC Planning Chair

Walt Tucker walt.tucker@att.net

New England Area PDC Planning Committee Chairs

Dave Gelpke

dave.gelpke@canberra.com

Tim Healey

timothy_healey@hsb.com

Scholarship Chair

Ralph Willing

willingrw1@cox.net

Save The Dates!

April 22, 2015 – Past Presidents Recognition Night, State of the Society and OSHA Update.

June 3rd – Member/Guest Golf outing with CT Safety Society.

June 7th - 10th – National PDC in Dallas TX.

June 23rd – OSHA Summer Summit, UMASS Amherst.

November 17th and 18th, 2015, Falmouth, MA. New England Area Chapters Professional Development Conference (PDC) and Expo – Call For Speakers. If you want to get involved by presenting at this high caliber event, submit your idea NOW.

Go to <http://region8.asse.org/2014/12/2015-new-england-area-pdc-call-for-speakers/>

Mark your calendars.

PS: *If anyone would like to volunteer to help out on a committee for the OSHA Summer Summit or the New England Area PDC, please contact me.*

Dave Gelpke

CT Valley Chapter, ASSE

Communications Chair

dave.gelpke@canberra.com



Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

Your Chapter's stalwart servants, Dave Boutin, Sylvia Malinski and Yours Truly, completed our annual trek into intellectual humility today by representing the ASSE CVC as Special Judges for the 2015 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair. We each walked the rows of Middle School and High School science projects in search of work that focused on the protection of people, property or the environment, OR made noteworthy use of safe work practices in the conduct of their projects.

Our challenge this year was identifying winning efforts from among the 514 projects completed by 628 students, representing 140 schools from throughout the state. The Middle School projects outnumbered the High School projects with regard to our focus on safety topics or resulting applications, as happened last year for the first time.

After careful deliberation, conversation and re-visiting several projects, our consensus opinion gave us the following projects that earned ASSE CVC recognition. High school projects are awarded \$150.00 and middle schoolers receive \$100.00 per project.

High School:

Efficient Soundproofing: Design of a System Using Multiple Technologies, (use of materials, structures to reduce possible noise hazards) by Tucker Calcano from the Brunswick School in Greenwich (image 591);

Ultraviolet Bacterial Eradication Using Low Cost Light Emitting Diodes, (portable, affordable germ-killing without the mess of chemicals) by Tyler Fallas from Oxford High School (image 592); and

An Optically Self-Healing Metallo-Suramolecular Polymer Encapsulated UV-NIR Organic Soar Cell for Transparent Energy Harvesting and Electronic Skin Applications, (don't need to climb the roof to repair damaged solar panels) by Maximillian Minichetti from Greenwich High School (image 590).

Middle School:

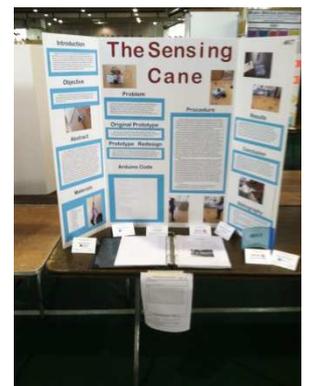
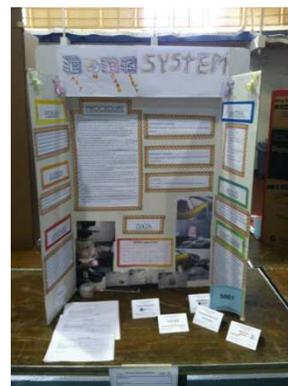
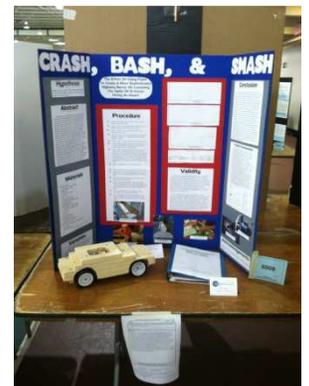
The Effect of Using Foam to Create a More Sophisticated Highway Barrier and Lessening the Spike of G-Forces During an Impact, (along the lines of Safer Barriers being brought into play by NASCAR) by Daniel Colgate of the Christian Heritage School in Trumbull (image 588);

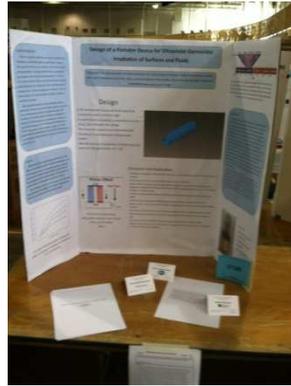
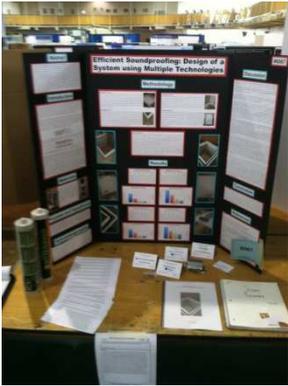
BOBS – Baby on Board – System (reminding parent/caregiver of the presence of a child remaining in a car) by Johann Warren of the Park City Prep Charter School in Bridgeport (image 587); and

The Sensing Cane (application of proximity sensor technology to aid those visually impaired) by Kate Yuan and Catalina Betancur of the Amity Regional Middle School, Bethany Campus (image 589).

Congratulations to all. And thanks to the Chapter for continuing to participate and support this community outreach effort.

Respectfully Submitted, Tim Healey





- Lift anything beyond your ability?
- Not report a safety hazard?
- Not think before you act?

Do you give any thought to how close those little mistakes may have come to having major consequences? What about low probability events that don't get your attention, because the chances of them happening may be "one in a million"? When low probability events happen, we can't understand why, because "I've done that a million times and never got hurt".

KERMIT AND SAFETY

Joseph J. Werbicki, M.S., CSP

Just like, for Kermit, it's not easy being green, it's not easy for us to be accident-free.

We're human, and we make mistakes. We do so many things in an unthinking manner that mistakes are bound to happen. The problem is, we keep making mistakes. Fortunately, most of our mistakes have fairly benign consequences, so we consider them to be part of life. In so doing, we fail to learn from them in order to prevent their recurrence, possibly leading to more significant consequences as they are repeated.

How many times have you done something that you'd be embarrassed to have others know about? For example, would you ever:

- Remove anything from the oven without hot mitts?
- Shovel snow without wearing gloves?
- Climb a rock wall without fall protection?
- Cross a busy street without looking both ways?
- Drive without a seat belt?
- Climb a ladder barefoot?

Then, why would you ever:

- Use a fixed-blade box cutter?
- Not hold the hand rail on a stairway?
- Not wear required personal protective equipment?
- Wear inappropriate footwear on snow or ice?
- Text or use a cell phone while driving?
- Carry items that block your view?

Consider for a moment the word "aware". It may be the most important word when it comes to protecting your safety. To be aware means that you KNOW the risks, you SEE the risks, and, you DO whatever it takes to avoid the risks.

Everyone sees daily events in a different light. One of my favorite sayings is, "Why can't everyone think like a safety professional?" The think about hazards and unsafe behaviors because they believe that by eliminating them everyone involved will be safer. Safety professionals are constantly on the alert to spot and correct unsafe conditions and unsafe behaviors. They weren't born with that awareness. They have developed a sense of awareness.

What do people think when there is news of an accident? The first thought is to ask if the victim is O.K. The second thought might very well be, "How could that happen?" That's a reasonable question to ask, since so many accidents could be avoided if only we were to think before acting.

There are 8 major accident causes, which, according to the BLS, accounted for over 90% of all accidents in 2012. These are: Slips/Trips/Falls; Struck By; Struck Against; Overexertion; Transportation incidents; Caught in/Between; Exposure to harmful substances; and, Ergonomic/Repetitive Motion. The first four of these accounted for over 76% of all accident causes. These figures should provide a starting point for changes to improve safety.

Causes have consequences, which can range from a near-miss to a fatality. However, if we look only at causes, we have missed the boat on safety.

I believe that we can put too much emphasis on the causes of accidents, and not enough on the reasons



for accidents. To reduce the number of accidents, we must address the reasons for accidents. In so doing, we must not place blame, but expend effort to alert the workforce to the risks involved when safety is not a part of each job. Recognizing the reasons for accidents goes a long way toward insuring individual safety.

What are some of the reasons for accidents? To name a few:

- Complacency
- Rushing
- Inattention
- Boredom
- Failure to follow procedures
- Distractions
- Anger
- Fatigue
- Failure to recognize risk

All of these reflect the need to take personal responsibility for our own actions.

There are many activities, both on and off- the-job that entail some hazards, ranging from minimal to life threatening. Yet, there are countless people who perform these jobs safely on a daily basis. How do they do it?

Basically, it boils down to managing risks. To do so you must KNOW the hazards, SEE the hazards when they are present, then ACT accordingly and safely. Talk yourself through risky situations. Use a checklist if the activity is complicated. Really use a checklist. Pencil-whipping defeats the purpose of a checklist.

You can do a lot to insure your own safety. It's important to take responsibility for our own safety, and not depend on others to do it for us.

Joseph Werbicki holds a Master's Degree in Chemistry, in addition to the Certified Safety Professional designation. He is an independent consultant and safety trainer. He can be reached at jwerbicki@comcast.net.

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, or NAOSH Week, occurs every year during the first full week of May (May 3 – 9, 2015). NAOSH Week is intended to raise awareness about occupational safety, health and the environment.

Each year ASSE urges everyone to get involved in NAOSH Week in an effort to better educate the public about the positive benefits a safe workplace provides not only for workers, but for their families, friends, businesses, their local community and the global community. In 2013, more than 4,000 people lost their lives from on-the-job injuries and never made it home. We'd like to move that number to 0.

Also, 2007 was the first year that [Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day \(OSHP\)](#) was celebrated. OSHP Day falls on the Wednesday of NAOSH Week. The day was established to honor occupational safety, health and environmental professionals who have dedicated their lives to protecting people, property and the environment. For more information about OSHP Day, visit the OSHP Day 2015 [web page](#). For more information go to [NAOSH](#).

CT Valley Chapter Website

The CT Valley Chapter website has been completely updated with a new format and content, check it out! CTVALLEY.ASSE.ORG

Quotes of the Day

"Respect your efforts, respect yourself. Self-respect leads to self-discipline. When you have both firmly under your belt, that's real power."

-- Clint Eastwood, American actor and filmmaker

"The door to safety swings on the hinges of common sense."

-- Unknown

"Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles."

-- Thomas Browne, English author

