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Save The Dates!

May 21st – CBIA Safety Expo, Crowne Plaza, Cromwell. CVC ASSE has been provided booth space. We are looking for volunteers to staff the booth that day. Please contact Marc Nettleton, mnettleton@themdc.com if you would like to help with this.

June 3rd – Member/Guest Golf Outing and Charity Event with CT Safety Society. A portion of the proceeds will go to Survive The Drive. Contact Dave Gelpke to register.

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

June 23rd – OSHA Summer Summit, UMASS Amherst. See more info below, Register today!

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.

Mark your calendars.

PS: By the way 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
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2nd Annual OSHA Summer Summit,
UMASS Amherst

Register today! The 2nd Annual Summer Summit is scheduled for June 23, 2015 at UMASS Amherst. The first event was an outstanding success with approximately 370 attendees, sponsors and presenters. There were 28 vendor tables providing a wide range of products and services.

Click here for Registration Form, click here for Vendor Form. Also, you can register directly here:

https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=17572

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.

Frontiers in Fall Prevention:
Online Inventory of Residential Fall Protection Devices

Falls from height remain the most common cause of construction worker fatalities, and falls continue to happen at an alarming rate, especially in residential construction. After years under special "interim" fall protection guidelines, OSHA is now enforcing the same stringent standards in homebuilding that have long applied in commercial construction.

One of more than 150 fall protection devices for residential construction

Many residential construction contractors are still learning about the array of fall protection devices available, some of them quite new. A Washington University at St. Louis research team supported
by CPWR and NIOSH has stepped up to help by creating an online inventory of fall protection devices suitable for use in residential construction.

The team brought a wealth of experience to the task having spent years collaborating with framing contractors and frame carpenters in the St. Louis-area to reduce falls. Their efforts included a fall prevention technology lending program that enabled contractors to borrow, field-test and rate various fall prevention devices, from hanging scaffolds to anchorage systems aimed at the challenges of wood-framed construction.

The resulting inventory is an impressive list of more than 150 products made by 23 different manufacturers. Visitors to the website can access the devices by product type (e.g., hole covers, or personal fall arrest systems) or by phase of construction (e.g., setting trusses, or installing siding). The site is obviously meeting an essential need: within two weeks of its unveiling, the site drew more than 1,000 unique visitors. Please visit the Fall Protection Resource for New Home Construction -- and share it with your peers and colleagues in the industry.

If you’d like to learn how it all was done, visit cpwr.com for a report describing the effort: Fall Protection Resources for New Home Construction.

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

Picture of the Month

Quotes of the Day

“Fear defeats more people than any other one thing in the world.”
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer

“Have patience. All things are difficult before they become easy.”
-- Saadi, poet

“Indecision and delay are the parents of failure.”
-- George Canning, statesman

“Ill habits gather by unseen degrees, as brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.”
-- Ovid, poet

“Attach yourself to those who advise you rather than praise you.”
“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”
-- Mahatma Gandhi, Indian independence movement leader

“Every artist was first an amateur.”
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer

“The one thing all famous authors, world-class athletes, business tycoons, singers, actors, and celebrated achievers in any field have in common is that they all began their journeys when they were none of these things.”
-- Mike Dooley, American author

Southbury, Connecticut residential home builder exposes workers to potentially fatal fall hazards

OSHA proposes $52,360 in fines for Rock Hard Homes, Inc.

Employer name: Rock Hard Homes, Inc., residential home builder, Southbury, CT

Inspection site: 13 Pembroke Road, Danbury, CT 06811

Date inspection initiated: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Bridgeport Area Office began an inspection on Nov. 7, 2014, after OSHA inspectors driving by the worksite observed fall protection hazards and immediately opened an inspection.

Investigation findings: Rock Hard Homes, Inc., was cited by OSHA for four repeat and one serious violation of workplace fall safety standards. These include: failure to equip employees with an adequate fall protection system while they worked on a pitched roof approximately 28 feet above the ground; allowing employees to walk and work on surfaces without fall protection and exposing them to falls through holes, including skylights; improperly using portable ladders to access upper landings in which the ladders did not extend beyond the landings by the required three feet; and use of defective equipment.

Falls are the leading cause of death among construction workers, with 294 fatalities in the nation and 5 in Connecticut in the most recent figures from 2013. To help combat this deadly trend, OSHA is hosting a National Safety Stand-Down from May 4 to 15 in which employers will talk to their employees about safety practices and procedures on the job sites.

The repeat citations stem from this employer's history of similar fall protection violations cited by OSHA in August 2011 in Brookfield, CT, as well as May and June of 2013 in Norwalk, CT.

Proposed Penalties: $52,360.

Quote: "While an accident did not prompt this inspection, the penalties proposed in this case demonstrate the severe nature of the cited hazards and the employer's lack of concern for its workers," said Robert Kowalski, OSHA area director in Bridgeport. "Fall hazards can and should be prevented through the use of proper equipment, training and safeguards for workers."

Next Steps: Rock Hard Homes, Inc. has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and proposed penalties to comply, meet with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint or report workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Bridgeport Area Office at 203-579-5581.