



ASSE Chapter of the Year 2002

The American Society of Safety Engineers

# CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Hartford, CT and Springfield, MA



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- Delegates**  
Nate Fague [nathanfague@gmail.com](mailto:nathanfague@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members!

John Burgess, Kevin Galotti, Timothy Hussey, Joseph Levandoski, David Stevens, Amanda Twerago, Charlene Viet and Markus Wesaw Robert Hodsdon, Walter Czekaj, Steven Byrne & Sharon Burke

## New Member Promo!

**ASSE MEMBERSHIP OFFER:**  
*Join ASSE and your \$25 application fee will be waived PLUS you will receive a FREE Educational ASSE Webinar*

**PROMO CODE: 171CTV**  
Offer expires 3.15.17

[www.asse.org/join](http://www.asse.org/join)

If you know someone that is interested in joining, please pass this along!

## SAVE THE DATES-UPCOMING MEETINGS

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** Tour of ESPN campus in Bristol, CT  
**Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** - Past Presidents and Member Recognition Dinner – *Location to be announced*

### WMOSHA Alliance Meetings:

- 2/17- Electrical Safety – What's the difference 147 vs 333
- 3/17 - Crisis Management for Construction (Travelers Insurance)
- 4/21- Fire protection & Safety on Construction Sites- NFPA 241
- 5/19- Trenching and Shoring



## CT Science & Engineering Fair

Tim Healey, [timothy\\_healey@hsb.com](mailto:timothy_healey@hsb.com)

I have been the Point of Contact for quite a few years for our Chapter with the CT Science & Engineering Fair organization. This is the annual Spring event at Quinnipiac University where our chapter provides a small cadre of Special Judges to look at a gymnasium full of science projects from Middle and High Scholars from throughout our state, and some award monies to 3 Middle School and 3 High School projects. This is a volunteer job, and a significant outreach and education support effort by our Chapter (think of our annual chapter activities report to the Society...).

Our criteria used by our volunteer Special Judges is "Use of good science as applied to protection of people, property and the environment, or projects in which good safety practices are used."

I just received their annual invitation to again participate in this wonderful event. I have come to know it as my annual dose of intellectual humility – the kids and their projects span broad topics and reach incredible depths. If you ever had doubts about how the next Generation will deal with all that we are leaving to them, this will restore your confidence in our culture's future.

### I AM ASKING FOR:

1. the Chapter's continuing support and participation; the funding of the award monies (3 \$100 prizes for Middle School projects plus 3 \$150 prizes for High School projects = \$750.00 total);
2. a solicitation for Members to volunteer their time on March 16, 2017, at Quinnipiac University in Hamden to walk the floor as part of our Chapter's Panel of Safety Judges; and
3. the appointment of a Chapter Member to take over this role as I have retired, (but continue to work Part Time). I am willing to continue to coordinate our presence and effort once more for this 2017 event (and the 69th annual occurrence of this event!).

At the December 19, 2016 Executive Board Meeting, \$750 was approved for funding this event.

Currently, Allison Bresloff, Mike Stanczyk and Nate Fague have volunteered to judge this year's event, but an additional 3 judges would be most welcome.

It is time to identify a successor for coordinating our participation after the 2017 Fair. It doesn't entail much at all: being a point of contact with the Science Fair leadership (email or daytime phone), notifying our Chapter Leadership of the event dates/location, rounding up volunteer judges of our day of Special Judging (anywhere from 1 to 6 people can make it work), filling out the form for the Science Fair administrators identifying our 6 winners, and handing over our Chapter's check to them so it can be divided and awarded per our specifications.

Please consider taking on this once per year task. Contact Allison, Chapter President [allibrez@gmail.com](mailto:allibrez@gmail.com) or Tim Healey [timothy\\_healey@hsb.com](mailto:timothy_healey@hsb.com) for additional details or to offer your time.

## CT Valley Chapter Website

In case you haven't been there in a while, check out the CT Valley Chapter Website at <http://ctvalley.asse.org/>. Along the top there are the following specific pages to check out: About, News, Events, Photos, Files, Jobs and Resources. "About" has pull-down menus for "Officers", "Our Chapter", "History" and "Sections."

On the About webpage are the following and other items:

- CT Valley Chapter Accomplishments
- CT Valley Member Accomplishments
- Listing of CT Valley members who have received ASSE's Regional Safety Professional of the Year Award (SPY)
- Special Recognition items
- CT Valley Chapter SPY, and
- How the Chapter Started...

On the [News](#) page:

- Scholarships
- ASSE's *Professional Safety* journal
- Establish a Safety Fund
- [WISE](#) (Women in Safety Engineering) Mentoring Program



On the [Events](#) page:

- Listing of future events

On the [Photos](#) page:

- Pictures of past technical and social events (it sure looks like a fun group!)

On the [Files](#) page:

- [Connecticut Valley Charter](#)
- [Connecticut Valley Chapter Bylaws](#)
- Meeting Minutes
- Newsletters
- Presentations

On the [Jobs](#) page:

- Listing of current job postings

On the [Resources](#) page:

- Links to websites of interest to CVC members

## **Listen Up! – A toolbox talk could save your life**

Eric Giguere

Toolbox talks, tailgate meetings, safety timeouts, crew briefings. The name varies depending on the scope of work being done, but it doesn't matter what they're called. These mandatory, five to 10-minute conversations about safety at a jobsite have real value. That is, if you take them seriously.

When I was working in the field, we were required to have toolbox talks a few times a week, but we never did. We might have had them every other week. Regardless, they all pretty much went the same way. At 6:45 am, while we drank our coffee before our 7 am shift, my boss would come up to us and say something like, "Wear your safety glasses, don't get hurt, sign this and now get to work."

That was it. That was our safety meeting for the day. No time for feedback, or a conversation, just get to work. Sadly, we were okay with that.

Since then, I've learned that a toolbox talk should be more; it should encourage conversation on a safety

topic or changing condition at the jobsite that may affect the day's work, and everyone's safety. It's a tool to use to give every worker a chance to speak up and share any concerns that he or she may have.

So why is this important to you? Why should you consider it more than just a small social gathering where you can talk about last night's football game?

The answer is really quite simple.

Ninety percent of all workplace accidents are caused by unsafe acts or unsafe working conditions. If these acts and conditions can be addressed in a short, simple meeting, you'll be more aware, and have a better chance of going home to your family every night. A 10-minute talk that *you're getting paid for* can be the difference between going home from work or going to the hospital.

Don't be like my crew was back in the day and blow off these meetings. Don't tune them out. *Take them seriously.* Toolbox talks are the perfect chance for you to bring up safety ideas or concerns that you may have. Participate in your safety meeting. If you don't, you won't be heard. What you've learned through personal experience won't be shared. Who knows, the idea you share during that brief meeting could be the one that saves your coworker's life – or even your own.

Don't cheat yourself or your family. Take these meetings to heart and pay attention. Toolbox talks exist for *you*, the worker, and for *your family*, who appreciate it when you step through the front door each night.

This Article was reprinted with permission from "My Safety" magazine, Fall 2013 Issue. My Safety Magazine was published by safety advocate Eric Giguere, the victim of a horrific – but preventable – workplace accident in 2002. Today, Eric travels around the U.S. and Canada talking to workers about his own experience and the critical importance of safety in our daily lives. To learn more about him, visit [www.SafetyAwarenessSolutions.com](http://www.SafetyAwarenessSolutions.com).



## OSHA Summer Summit, Save the Date! Bigger & Better Than Ever!



### Fact or Myth!

Consider the following, and decide if they are fact or myth. Or, are they just excuses?

- Accidents just happen
- Being safe takes too much time and effort
- You cannot create a hazard-free workplace

Starting in reverse order, I contend that we can create a hazard-free workplace. Perhaps “create” is not the best word to use. We can surely “work toward” a hazard-free workplace. To do so requires that each employee be alert to potential hazards, avoids them, and, most importantly, reports them so that action can be taken to eliminate them.

Does it really take time and effort to create a safe workplace? The obvious direct medical and worker’s compensation payments are not the only costs associated with accidents. The hidden costs (lost productivity; cost of recovery and lost wages; impact on family life) can add up very quickly to 3 – 10 times the direct costs. There is a definite cost/benefit to having fewer accidents.

Accidents don’t just happen. The great majority of accidents happen because individuals let their guard down when it comes to their own safety. Whether this is called human error, unsafe acts, or, simply, mistakes, does not matter. Keeping one’s focus on safe behavior is what matters.

The premise of the DuPont STOP™ Safety Training Program is that 90% of all injuries are caused by unsafe acts. If that number seems high, let’s drop the number to around 70%, reflecting the author’s experience.

I’ve heard of research that concluded that 99% of all accidents are preventable. Maybe not always preventable, but definitely avoidable! If accidents were inevitable, we’d never get behind the wheel of an automobile.

Hazards and human errors are the reasons that people get hurt. Take away the hazards, and you take away that potential for injuries. Safe Operating Procedures, job training and Job Hazard Analyses are aimed at informing employees about known hazards, some of which may be part of the job.

Hazard-free can be attained only when everyone is actively identifying hazards, evaluating their impact, and applying the controls needed to negate the hazards. One example of eliminating a hazard is to replace fixed-blade box cutters with self-retracting cutters.

Safety is not passive. It doesn’t just happen. Situations change, requiring keeping a constant eye out for hazards. By so doing, you can control the circumstances to which you may be exposed.

If you feel that your safety is just a matter of fate, you are a danger to yourself and to others. If you believe that you have no control, you are likely to be a victim of a hazard. You take fate out of the equation by taking the time to keep an eye out for hazards.

Joseph Werbicki is a Safety Consultant, Trainer, Author, Lecturer with over 50 years of manufacturing, environmental and safety experience. He holds a Master’s Degree in Chemistry and is a Certified Safety Professional. He is a Past President and current member of the Board of Directors of the Safety Association of Rhode Island and a member of the Boston ASSE Chapter. Contact him at [jwerbicki@comcast.net](mailto:jwerbicki@comcast.net).

