The President’s Catch—December, 2016

Fellow Safety Professionals:

As I was dusting off my propane fueled turkey fryer in preparation for the holidays, I was reminded of last year when I managed to misjudge the amount of oil needed and nearly had a melt down on my patio. Some holiday safety suggestions offered by the National Safety Council include:

- Set up the fryer more than 10 feet from the house and keep children away
- Find flat ground; the oil must be even and steady to ensure safety
- Use a thawed and dry turkey; any water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over
- Fryer lid and handle can become very hot and cause burns
- Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times

The Consumer Products Safety Commission reports that 672 people have been injured and $8 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.

On a related note, the increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire:

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace

(See Catch continued on page 2)
Government Affairs Committee:

by Gary Couture, MS-OSH, COSS

OSHA issues final rule updating walking-working surfaces standards and establishing personal fall protection systems requirements

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today issued a final rule updating its general industry Walking-Working Surfaces standards specific to slip, trip, and fall hazards. The rule also includes a new section under the general industry Personal Protective Equipment standards that establishes employer requirements for using personal fall protection systems.

"The final rule will increase workplace protection from those hazards, especially fall hazards, which are a leading cause of worker deaths and injuries," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "OSHA believes advances in technology and greater flexibility will reduce worker deaths and injuries from falls." The final rule also increases consistency between general and construction industries, which will help employers and workers that work in both industries.

OSHA estimates the final standard will prevent 29 fatalities and more than 5,842 injuries annually. The rule becomes effective on Jan. 17, 2017, and will affect approximately 112 million workers at seven million worksites.

The final rule’s most significant update is allowing employers to select the fall protection system that works best for them, choosing from a range of accepted options including personal fall protection systems. OSHA has permitted the use of personal fall protection systems in construction since 1994 and the final rule adopts similar requirements for general industry. Other changes include allowing employers to use rope descent systems up to 300 feet above a lower level; prohibiting the use of body belts as part of a personal fall arrest system; and requiring worker training on personal fall protection systems and fall equipment.

OSHA publishes guide on silica rule compliance for small businesses

Washington – OSHA has released a compliance guide meant to help small businesses in the construction industry adhere to a final rule regarding exposure to crystalline silica in the workplace.

The guide is intended as an advisory tool and does not create or change any obligations for employers, according to the agency. Resources for small business highlighted in the guide include specified exposure control methods, respiratory protection, housekeeping and a written exposure control plan.

Crystalline silica is a mineral found in sand, concrete, brick, stone, mortar and other common items used at construction sites. High-energy operations such as cutting, drilling or crushing rock may create small particles of respirable crystalline silica that are 100 times smaller than sand, the document states.

In March, OSHA issued a final rule lowering the permissible exposure limit to 50 micrograms of respirable crystalline silica per cubic meter of air during an eight-hour period for all industries.

OSHA launches amputation prevention initiative in four states

Dallas – OSHA has launched an enforcement initiative to emphasize the prevention of amputation hazards among workers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, the agency announced Nov. 1.

Starting immediately, inspectors will examine operations, working conditions, recordkeeping, and safety and health programs in these states for compliance, the agency stated. OSHA also will look at employers in industries using machinery that can be hazardous to workers.

The goal of the initiative is to “enforce safety regulations and hold employers responsible for protecting workers and reducing instances of worker amputations.”

(See Government Affairs, page 3)
Each year, amputations cause more than 1,400 serious injuries, according to OSHA. In 2015, the agency received reports of more than 2,600 amputations nationwide, with 57 percent occurring among manufacturing workers. Typically, workers are operating machines without proper or adequate safety guards when an amputation occurs.

“Our focus on amputation hazards reminds employers that safety and health should remain a top priority,” OSHA regional administrator Kelly C. Knighton said in a press release.

OSHA area offices will continue to conduct new inspections in response to complaints, hospitalizations and deaths.

**OSHA announces second delay for enforcement of recordkeeping rule’s anti-retaliation provisions**

Washington – OSHA has pushed back to Dec. 1 the deadline for enforcement of anti-retaliation provisions in its injury and illness tracking rule.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas sought the additional delay on Oct. 14, to allow the court time to weigh a motion that challenges the new provisions. Eight industry groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers and Associated Builders and Contractors, have filed a lawsuit to block the rule. According to the groups, the anti-retaliation provisions unlawfully ban or limit safety incentive programs and post-incident drug testing.

The provisions, announced in May, forbid employers from dissuading workers from reporting an injury or illness. They originally were set to go into effect on Aug. 10, but the enforcement date was first delayed to Nov. 10 to allow for additional outreach to the regulated community, OSHA stated.

Under the provisions, employers are required to inform workers about their rights to report work-related injuries and illnesses without the threat of retaliation. Employers can satisfy this requirement by posting the OSHA workplace poster. Employers’ reporting systems also “must be reasonable and not deter or discourage employees from reporting,” OSHA states.

The final rule, which requires certain employers to electronically submit worker injury and illness data annually to the agency, drew criticism from numerous employer groups because of OSHA’s intent to make the data available to the public.

**OSHA schedules informal meeting to discuss updates to hazcom standard**

Washington – OSHA has scheduled an informal public meeting to discuss potential updates to its Hazard Communication Standard. The meeting is set to take place Nov. 16 at the Mine Safety and Health Administration headquarters in Arlington, VA.

The agency is in the early stages of revising its standard to ensure it aligns with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, or GHS.

OSHA said it intends to solicit feedback on topics or issues to include during a rulemaking to update the standard, as well as any publications that stakeholders may find beneficial in complying with the standard.

OSHA is requesting that participants pre-register for the event.

**NIOSH issues recommended exposure limits for chemicals linked to ‘popcorn lung’**

Washington – NIOSH has released recommended limits for controlling occupational exposure to flavoring chemicals diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione, both of which have been linked to reduced lung function in food flavoring and production industry workers.

Published Oct. 31, Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Exposure to Diacetyl and 2,3-Pentanedione lists the recommended exposure limits for diacetyl at 5 parts per billion and 9.3 ppb for 2,3-pentanedione as an 8-hour time-weighted average during a 40-hour workweek. NIOSH stated that the limit for 2,3-pentanedione is higher because of “analytical method limitations.” For short-term exposures, the REL is 25 ppb for diacetyl and 31 ppb for 2,3-pentanedione in a 15-minute time span.

The RELs, which align with draft exposure limits NIOSH issued in 2011, are intended to lower the risk of bronchiolitis obliterans— an irreversible lung disease linked to occupational exposure to the chemicals. The disease, also known as “popcorn lung,” was identified among some workers at microwave popcorn packaging plants in the 2000s.

“We know these flavoring compounds can pose a great risk for workers who may be exposed on the job, causing serious and irreversible damage to their lungs,” NIOSH Director John Howard said in a press release. “This Criteria Document reflects not only our review of the science and understanding of the hazard, but also outlines our recommendations for controlling workplace exposures to these compounds.”

**U.S. appeals court upholds ELD rule for trucker hours of service**

Chicago – A federal mandate requiring commercial motor vehicle drivers to use electronic logging devices in place of paper logs remains on track to go into effect after an appeals court denied an attempt to block the rulemaking.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit issued its ruling Oct. 31 in response to a lawsuit from the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association of Grain Valley, MO, which filed on be- (See Government Affairs, page 4)
(Government Affairs, continued from Page 3)

half of two CMV drivers.

The court ruled that OOIDA’s objections fell short, and it reinforced the Dec. 18, 2017, compliance date set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

CMV drivers will be required to use ELDs to log their hours of service as opposed to paper logs, which FMCSA claims can be easily manipulated. ELDs record details from each vehicle at repeated intervals, including date, time, location, engine hours, vehicle miles and information identifying the driver, vehicle and motor carrier.

BSEE expands near-miss reporting system for offshore oil and gas industry

Washington – The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has expanded its near-miss reporting system to include the confidential collection of equipment failure reports, in an effort to further improve the safety of offshore oil and gas operations.

Effective Oct. 26, the SafeOCS program gives industry professionals the option to submit failure reports for well control equipment under the Well Control Rule. And as of Nov. 7, professionals are required to submit, through SafeOCS, reports on pollution prevention equipment failure as mandated by the Production Safety Systems Rule. According to a BSEE press release, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics will analyze the data to explore safety trends.

“We are encouraging industry to quickly begin taking advantage of the SafeOCS expansion,” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said in the release. “Shared awareness of safety trends better equips us all to quickly focus on emerging issues and thereby drive down the risk of serious incidents.”

FMCSA pushes back deadline for comments on speed-limiting devices

Washington – The deadline for individuals and organizations to submit comments on a proposed rule requiring speed-limiting devices on large trucks and buses has been pushed back to Dec. 7, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently announced.

The new deadline is in response to a surge of comments that were submitted ahead of the original Nov. 7 deadline. At press time, more than 1,500 individuals and organizations had posted comments on the proposed rule.

The rule calls for all newly manufactured trucks, buses and multipurpose passenger vehicles weighing more than 26,000 pounds to be equipped with speed-limiting devices. FMCSA and NHTSA proposed capping speeds at 60, 65 or 68 mph for such vehicles, but indicated they might be willing to adjust the maximum set travel speed.

FMCSA states that speed limiters on heavy vehicles could prevent fatalities and save an estimated $1 billion in fuel costs every year.

BLS: Lost work time and injury severity rates drop in 2015

Washington – The overall rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work – as well as the number of median days needed to recover – decreased in 2015, according to data released Nov. 10 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2015, 104.0 injury and illness cases per 10,000 full-time workers resulted in days away from work – a 2.9 percent decrease from the 107.1 rate recorded in 2014. For private industry, the rate was 93.9 – a drop of nearly 4 percent from the 2014 rate of 97.8.

The number of median days away from work, considered a “key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses” by BLS, fell to eight in 2015 from nine in 2014.

Two occupations that experienced lower incidence rates in 2015 were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and nursing assistants. The rates among drivers fell nearly 16 percent to 298.7 cases per 10,000 full-time workers from 355.4 cases in 2014. Nursing assistants’ rates declined almost 7.3 percent to 327.8 in 2015 from 353.6 the previous year.

Other 2015 highlights from the data:

- 1.15 million injuries resulting in days away from work occurred in 2015 – virtually unchanged from the 2014 total.
- Overexertion and bodily reaction (376,190) resulted in 33 percent of total cases of occupational injuries or illnesses. The next most common event or exposure was slips, trips and falls (309,060), which accounted for 27 percent of total cases.
- The rate of injuries and illnesses resulting from cuts, lacerations or punctures was 9.6 cases per 10,000 full-time workers, up from 8.8 cases in 2014.

This data release is the second in a series of three annual BLS reports. The third report, slated for release in December, will highlight Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries findings.
Did You Resolve to Get Your ASP/CSP This Year?

Thinking about working on your ASP/CSP? If so, that’s outstanding and we are pulling for you! If you’d like to participate in an ASP/CSP study group, contact our Chapter Secretary, Enrique Medina, CIH, CSP to start the ball rolling.

A Virtual ASP/CSP Study Group meets twice a month via GoToMeeting to assist those studying for their ASP/CSP professional certification exams. It’s free and open to all Chapter members, and you can join at anytime from the comfort of your home or office.

Enrique can be reached at: (619) 297-1469 . Or emedina@pulse-point.com

This is a great opportunity our Chapter appreciates. Call today for dates and times of our next meeting!

Job-Line

By David Ferguson, CSP

Looking for a new job? Visit our job-line at http://sandiego.asse.org/current-openings/ to see current opportunities such as: EHS Senior Consultant; Safety Manager; Manager, Safety and Risk ; Environmental Health and Safety Engineer ; Emergency Programs Coordinator or Specialist. Check out these and other great jobs today!

Membership Chair:

by Steve Workman, CEAS

Welcome to our new members!

Andrea Diaz Pacific Safety Center
Eliezer Mendoza Alliant Insurance Services

New Members North County Section:

Call for Program Topics, Speakers, Events and Ideas

As your programs chair for this new chapter year, I am pleased to report that we have some great topics and events lined up for the remainder of 2016, but we still need your input and ideas on what you would like to see, hear or participate in at future meetings or events (dinner social, cookout or ??). Please send your ideas and comments to: Past-President@sandiego.asse.org

Remember, it’s your input and your chapter!
Editor’s Note: Do you have an item of interest, safety-related event, sister-organization meeting, special accomplishment or other newsworthy article that you would like to share with your fellow San Diego ASSE members? Send it to me via email no later than the 15th of the month and I will do my best to get it published. Here are some conditions: news articles, reports and other text-based submissions should be limited to a maximum of two pages, 10—12 pitch font. Artwork or graphics (flyers or posters) should be single-page, preferably in MS Word or MS Publisher format. Acrobat PDF files are sometimes difficult to import into MS Publisher (the program used to create this newsletter) and may need a lot of time and effort to convert. Please remember, this is not my full-time job. If you are “borrowing” a news item previously published somewhere else (i.e., not your own original work), please provide the source and whether or not you have permission to reprint it. All submissions should be emailed to gcourtue@san.org. Please also provide your contact information, including name, email address and phone number.

SD ASSE Peer-to-Peer Resource Directory Coming Soon

The SD ASSE Chapter is developing a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Resource Directory of members willing to share their expertise in a number of practice areas with other members on a pro-bono professional courtesy basis. As part of building our local safety community, local members willing to participate can fill out a simple registration form indicating their areas and levels of expertise following the ASSE Body of Knowledge categories, and also state whether they are willing to mentor other members. The P2P Resource Directory will be available to SD ASSE members only. To register in the P2P directory download the registration form at the Chapter website, or contact Chapter Secretary Enrique Medina at secretary@sandiegoasse.org.

Calendar of Special Events:

October, 2016

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<td>International AIDS Awareness Month</td>
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<td>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention (3D) Month</td>
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<td>Safe Toys and Gifts Month</td>
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<td>International Volunteer Day</td>
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<td>National Hand Washing Awareness Week</td>
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ASSE San Diego Chapter

Holiday Lunch and SPY award Celebration

12/13/2016

Register on line: http://sandiego.asse.org/events/chapter-luncheon/

11:15 a.m.- Registration
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - Lunch and Chapter SPY award

We are once again partnering with San Diego Youth Services and specifically we are asking for donations to assist young people ages 18-25 who are aging out of the foster care system and getting their first apartments.

A selection of small appliances/kitchen items such as:

- Crock pot
- Rice Cooker
- Blender
- Bakeware
- Pots such as for pasta with a strainer
- Other pans or good cookware for oven/microwave
- Cooking utensils, spatulas, etc.
- Kitchen towels, oven mits, etc.
- Nice bath towels, maybe a bathrobe to match

Self-care or fun activity packages:

- Movie tickets and popcorn
- San Diego attractions such as Sea World, LEGOLAND, Zoo, etc. for families with young children
- Adult fun such as Belmont Park or Boomers
- Bowling
- Any other such ideas...
SAVE THE DATE

March 14, 2017 Handlery Hotel Mission Valley 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
“Survivor San Diego; Building Successful Safety Alliances”

San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers’
Professional Development Conference

Keynote Lunch Speaker: Kevin D. Bland Esq. Ogletree Deakins –

“The Story Behind Bumble Bee Tuna; The 6 million Dollar Settlement and Successful Felony
Prosecution of the Leadership Team Resulting From An Employee Fatality”

Outwit - Motivate employees who may take shortcuts to become actively engaged in a workplace culture that
“celebrates safety”

Outplay - Influence management to better understand that the "Investment" in proactive safety measures is a
solid business decision

Outlast - Overcome the obstacles created by employees and management that cling to traditional ideals of "this
is the way we have always done it"

For vendor and sponsorship opportunities contact Chris Malicki @ president@sandiego.asse.org
To register click on: http://sandiego.asse.org/events/survivor-san-diego-building-successful-safety-alliances/
The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, November 1. Attending: Chris Malicki, Allison Long, Brian Vernetti, David Ferguson, Steve Workman, Amy Leung, Isaac Scmulowicz, Vaughn Osterhout, and Enrique Medina.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Brian reported that the month’s financials are not available until after November 1 (see * below). He said that he and Vaughn met and worked out an arrangement to consolidate NC financials into the chapter’s monthly report. He also worked with Allie and Cathi to pull Paypal funds into the financials. The breakfast meeting is losing money due to attendance below the minimum head count at ABC. We need to bump up attendance.

*On 11/3, Brian sent out the financial report for October 2016. Members may view a copy of the report upon request to our President, Chris Malicki.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Review / Approve Minutes from October 4, 2016:** Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion to vote, passed and carried.

2. **Feedback on October breakfast meeting:** Topic was nuclear disasters with John Marsden. Great presentation. The topic was very interesting and had lots of good information. The influence of the media and movies on the public’s perception of nuclear energy was noted.

3. **Subject Matter Expert directory / Peer to Peer Coaching:** Enrique has provided a template form. EC members to review and comment: Enrique reported that the template was modified to address comments, and he has received four completed forms. There were no new suggestions to modify it, so the next step is to talk about how to introduce it to the members. Chris will arrange a call with Isaac and Enrique to talk about that. In the meantime, he asked that Enrique make a brief one-minute pitch at the breakfast meeting.

4. **Survey Monkey member survey:** How do members utilize ASSE resources? Cindy distributed a draft template on October 4. What were the results? Tabled this topic until Cindy can give an update. ExCom members should try to fill out the sample questionnaire she sent out.

5. **Contributions to the community:** CA-VO sponsored SD Youth Services painting event Saturday, October 15. How did things go? Chris reported that the meeting went well. The Chapter provided pizza. Chris asked for other ideas of community support activities to consider.

6. **EC members to review current bylaws and make suggestions for changes / updates**—Allison suggested that maybe a committee would be in order for this activity: Chris will make an announcement at next breakfast meeting asking for a specific number of volunteers to form a committee to review the bylaws and make recommendations to the EC for changes. He will ask for people with experience in bylaws, legal, and contracts, and mention a few of the main issues to consider, including the composition of the EC, quorum, etc. (See Executive Committee, on page 13)
(Executive Committee, continued from page 12)

7. SPY Award nominations needed: Currently, two nominees under consideration for the Chapter SPY award. SPY Cathi working with nominees to complete applications.

8. PDC March 2017: Allison is committee chair. A “Survivor” based theme is planned. No date conflicts with other events. Two hotel venues are being considered: The PDC committee is scheduled to meet after the EC meeting to review Cathi’s cost sheet from several hotels, and updates on Cuyamaca College from Allie. Amy, Cathi, Steve, and Enrique agreed to participate. She will schedule an organizational meeting this month.

9. Admiral Baker: Did Cathi sign contract for future meetings? Cathi signed the contract and made a commitment to ABC for next year. A suggestion was made to hold the PDC at ABC, but there are questions about their ability to accommodate this size group, and break-out sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chris report on ASSE Leadership Conference in Chicago October 13-15: Chris reported that the 3-day conference at McDonald’s Hamburger U was very well arranged and staffed with good information on Society’s support, and ample networking opportunities. He had mixed feelings about the conference because he expected more discussion from the “30,000 feet” perspective, and a chance to acquire higher level leadership skills. The break-out sessions dealt more with “housekeeping” items, such as how to use Survey Monkey. He thought that the conference may be more useful to returning members. Chris was encouraged to provide feedback to Society on his experience.

2. Newsletter. Gary continues to do a great job producing the newsletter every month. Do we want to consider a new format? The newsletter has lots of good information but has grown from 8 to 30 pages, and the question is whether we continue with the current format, revamp it a little or take it in a new direction. One suggestion was to put in brief topic descriptions with links to other references or resources. We need to get feedback from the membership via a survey or live polling at the breakfast meetings to learn how they use the newsletter and what they would like to see in it, and how. Chris will talk to Gary about it, and report back to the EC.

3. Tom Bernitt – replacement needed for Government Affairs Chair: Chris will check in with the region to find out how to recruit the right person as new chair.

CHAIR REPORTS

North County Section: Cindy – Absent, no report.

Programs: Amy Leung - Amy Leung – Chris will coordinate the speakers and AV equipment in Amy’s absence. He will contact the speakers. Amy has a speaker on hold for either the PDC or the February meeting. Amy donated a laptop to the Chapter. Steve will bring the PowerPoint to the meeting.

Membership: Steve Workman—Steve will attend the International Personnel Management Association meeting and will hand out ASSE flyers, and make an announcement about the breakfast meetings. He is also working with two other HR groups.

Public Affairs: Isaac Szmulowicz – Things are going well with the American Red Cross. Isaac will meet with Chris and Steve to advance safety partnerships with other organizations

Governmental Affairs: VACANT; NEEDS CHAIR.

Newsletter: Gary Couture—Absent - November newsletter is out.

Website: Cathi – Absent. Cathi will be asked to remove Tom Bernitt’s name from the website officer’s roster.

Job line: David Ferguson – 13 current openings, job line is up to date and going well.

Next Committee Meeting: December 6 – IN PERSON @ SMART SAFETY or CALL IN 7:00am – 8:00am. 1-605-477-2100; Access code 878498#.

Next Event: December 13 Holiday Luncheon, Admiral Baker Club

ATTENTION SD ASSE MEMBERS! Tom Bernitt, CSP, CHMM, CMQ/OE, CQA, our illustrious and long-time Government Affairs Chairperson has stepped down from his position. The Executive Committee is seeking an interested volunteer to fill this interesting, cutting edge position. If you like staying informed on the latest news from Sacramento and Washington DC concerning safety-related legislation, then this is the ideal opportunity for you! Get involved, stay informed, make a difference to the chapter and the profession. If interested, please contact our Chapter President, Chris Malicki, at President@sandiego.asse.org.
WASHINGTON - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has scheduled a meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health's OSH Professionals Pipeline Work Group. The meeting will be Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels has asked the OSH Professionals Pipeline Work Group to develop recommendations to grow the next generation of occupational safety and health professionals. "The size of the field is small and there is increasing concern about how these gaps will be filled as the workforce ages," Michaels said.

The meeting will allow the work group to hear from representatives of professional safety and health organizations and other stakeholders about their initiatives, best practices and model programs to promote careers in occupational safety and health.

The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 1 p.m. ET in Room N-3647 at the U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210. Those interested in attending the meeting in person or by teleconference, submitting written comments, or making an oral statement should contact Ms. Michelle Walker at 202-693-2235 or Walker.Michelle@dol.gov by the day before the meeting.

NACOSH was established by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the secretaries of labor and health and human services on occupational safety and health programs and policies and matters relating to the administration of the OSH Act.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

Inventors selected in first-ever noise safety challenge

WASHINGTON - The Occupational Safety and Health WASHINGTON - Three inventors were recognized for their ideas to reduce work-related hearing loss during the first 'Hear and Now - Noise Safety Challenge' hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Mine Safety and Health Administration, in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on October 27, in Washington, D.C.

The challenge was launched with the dual goals of inspiring creative ideas and raising business awareness of the market for workplace safety innovation. Ten finalists, selected from 28 submissions to Challenge.gov, were invited to Washington, D.C., to present their solutions to reduce workplace-induced hearing loss.

"This event was an innovative way for government to help better protect workers from job-related hearing loss by connecting the entrepreneurial community with inventors developing solutions," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels.

A panel of judges awarded first place to Nick Laperle and Jeremy Voix for their custom-fitted earpiece designed to provide a worker with protection, communication, and monitoring.

Brendon Dever was selected for second place for a wearable sensor technology that affixes to glasses or protective equipment such as hardhats. The sensor detects noise levels and provides warnings and other communications via color-coded lights.

Third place was awarded to Madeline Bennett for an interchangeable decorative piece that attaches to silicone earplugs. The attachments are manufactured with licensed designs for sports teams, businesses, or music festivals.

For more information and pictures, please visit the DOL Hear and Now webpage.
PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS:


U.S. DOT National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Recalls

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V641
Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Make / Model Years : AUDI / 2017
Subject : Third Row Seat may Move Forward Under Load

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V736
Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
Make / Model Years : DODGE / 2016
Subject : Improper Driver Air Bag Wire Routing

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V738
Manufacturer : Subaru of America, Inc.
Make / Model Years : SUBARU / 2007-2014
Subject : Power Relay may Fail Allowing Air Pump to Overheat

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V739
Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
Make / Model Years : DODGE / 2011-2014
RAM / 2007-2013
Subject : Alternator may Fail Resulting in Engine Stall/Fire

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V741
Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
Make / Model Years : TOYOTA / 2016-2017
Subject : Parking Brake Cable may Disengage from Lever

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V746
Manufacturer : BMW of North America, LLC
Make / Model Years : BMW / 2007-2012
Subject : Loose Fuel Pump Wiring may cause Stall/Fuel Leak

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V750
Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
Make / Model Years : DODGE / 2016
Subject : Passenger Air Bag Door May Detach

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V752
Manufacturer : Polaris Industries, Inc.
Make / Model Years : POLARIS / 2016-2017
Subject : Brake Fluid Leak from Overtorqued Pressure Switch

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V754
Manufacturer : Polaris Industries, Inc.
Make / Model Years : POLARIS / 2015-2017
Subject : Fuel line may Leak from Abrasion Against Hood

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V755
Manufacturer : Polaris Industries, Inc.
Make / Model Years : POLARIS / 2015-2017
Subject : Swing Arm may have Decreased Strength

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V758
Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Make / Model Years : MERCEDES BENZ / 2017
Subject : Fuel System Failure due to Wiring Harness Damage

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V759
Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Make / Model Years : MERCEDES-BENZ / 2016-2017
Subject : Low-Beam Headlights out of Adjustment/FMVSS 108

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V760
Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Make / Model Years : MERCEDES-BENZ / 2016-2017
MERCEDES-BENZ / 2016-2017
Subject : Low-Beam Headlights out of Adjustment/FMVSS 108

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V775
Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
Make / Model Years : TOYOTA / 2016
Subject : Brake Fluid Level Sensor Inoperative/FMVSS 135

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V777
Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
Make / Model Years : FORD / 2010-2012
MERCEDES-BENZ / 2010-2011
Subject : Fuel Delivery Module may Crack and cause Fuel Leak

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V778
Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
Make / Model Years : FORD / 2017
Subject : Drain Valve Opening May Cause Fuel Leak

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V779
Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
Make / Model Years : FORD / 2015-2017
Subject : Oil Leak from Engine Cooler Hose
U.S. DOT National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Recalls

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V781
Manufacturer : General Motors LLC
Make / Model Years : CHEVROLET / 2016
Subject : Side Air Bag Fabric May Tear During Deployment

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V797
Manufacturer : Isuzu Technical Center of America, Inc.
Make / Model Years : CHEVROLET / 2016 ISUZU / 2014-2016
Subject : Throttle may Stick in the Open Position

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V799
Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
Make / Model Years : JEEP / 2017
Subject : Improper Welds on Driver's Knee Air Bag Inflator

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V753
Manufacturer : Mazda North American Operations
Make / Model Years : MAZDA / 2017
Subject : Turn Signals do not Cancel Automatically/FMVSS 108

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V770
Manufacturer : Kia Motors America
Make / Model Years : KIA / 2016
Subject : Inadequately Welded Driver Seatback Frame

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V788
Manufacturer : Mazda North American Operations
Make / Model Years : MAZDA / 2010-2011
Subject : Fuel Delivery Module may Crack and cause Fuel Leak

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V791
Manufacturer : Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Make / Model Years : MITSUBISHI / 2007-2013
Subject : Water Intrusion may cause Wiper Link Corrosion

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V792
Manufacturer : Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Make / Model Years : MITSUBISHI / 2011-2015
Subject : Water Intrusion may cause Wiper Motor Failure

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V798
Manufacturer : Volvo Car USA LLC
Make / Model Years : VOLVO / 2016-2017
Subject : Seat Belt Buckle may Separate/FMVSS 210, 209

CDC: Number of adult smokers drops but disparities remain

Washington – The number of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes fell below 40 million for the first time since modern recordkeeping began in 1965 – but not everyone has benefited from the trend. Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the country, according to two new reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


Other highlights from the report:
- Smoking was more common among males (16.7 percent) than females (13.6 percent).
- Prevalence was highest among American Indian/Alaska natives (21.9 percent), non-Hispanic black men (20.9 percent) and gay/lesbian/bisexual adults (20.6 percent).
- The Midwest had the most smokers (18.7 percent).

The November issue of CDC’s monthly Vital Signs report focused on new cases and fatalities from cancers related to tobacco use.

Among the findings:
- About 3 in 10 cancer deaths are caused by cigarette smoking.
- Lung cancer remains the leading cancer killer of men and women.
- 660,000 people were diagnosed with, and 343,000 died from, tobacco-related cancers between 2009 and 2013.
- Quitting tobacco use at any age can cut the risk of contracting or dying from cancer.

“The smoking rate is almost a third of what it was in 1965,” American Lung Association National President and CEO Harold P. Wimmer said in a press release. “This is remarkable progress, and as a nation, we have seen some of the health benefits. However, as ‘Vital Signs’ reports, tobacco use still accounts for an unacceptably high number of cancer diagnoses and deaths each year, especially lung cancer, which accounts for more than 126,000 deaths each year.”
HELPFUL LINKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

American Red Cross: [http://www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)
American Society of Safety Engineers Main Website: [http://www.asse.org/](http://www.asse.org/)
ASSE Body of Knowledge: [http://www.safetybok.org/](http://www.safetybok.org/)
ASSE Center for Safety and Health Sustainability [http://www.centershs.org/](http://www.centershs.org/)
California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), (Cal/OSHA): [http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): [http://www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)
FEMA “Be Ready” Website: [http://www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/)
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Main Website: [https://www.osha.gov/](https://www.osha.gov/)
San Diego ASSE Website: [http://sandiegoasse.org/](http://sandiegoasse.org/)