



**American Society of Safety Engineers**  
*Protecting people, property, and the environment since 1911*  
**Greater San Jose Chapter**

<http://www.assesj.org> [email:gsjc@assesj.org](mailto:email:gsjc@assesj.org)



## September 2010 Newsletter



### **OSHA Proposes Exceptions to Consulting Program**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is seeking greater flexibility to respond to concerns or incidents involving employers it has recognized as safe and/or those that are working to improve their workplace.

In a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) published Sept. 3, OSHA is proposing a revision that would allow the agency to inspect worksites that are participating in its On-Site Consultation Program—currently, a risk-free opportunity for employers to identify and correct safety problems in their workplace.

Employers who carry Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) status could also face increased inspections.

### **Breaking Precedent**

The proposal is a radical departure for OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program, which has always been separate from the agency's inspection, reporting and enforcement functions. The program, authorized in 1974 and codified in 1998, encourages employers to work with OSHA and its consultants on a free, confidential basis to identify workplace hazards, ensure compliance with standards, and establish safety and health management systems.

Participants in the Consultation Program are not currently cited or penalized for unsafe conditions uncovered in the improvement process. Employers who complete the program may seek to participate in OSHA's SHARP initiative, which qualifies them for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections. To read the entire article go to: [http://www.paintsquare.com/news/article\\_news.cfm?id=4261](http://www.paintsquare.com/news/article_news.cfm?id=4261)

### **Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

To reserve a seat via e-mail, please send your name, telephone number and email address to:  
[reservations@assesj.org](mailto:reservations@assesj.org)

#### **Tuesday, September 14, 2010 - 12:00pm - Biltmore Hotel & Suites**

#### **Fall Protection: Cal/OSHA vs ANSI**

Presentation by Jay Jamali, CSP, CHMM, CHCM

Cal/OSHA regulates fall protection in general industry as well as construction. This presentation will cover the different trigger heights, training requirements, equipment selection and inspection, competent/qualified person, fall protection plans, post fall rescue and the new ANSI standard.

The presenter is Mr. Jay Jamali, CSP, CHMM, CHCM with a BS in Occupational Safety and Health and a Masters in Safety Management. Jay is a regular presenter at conferences such as ASSE PDC and Seminarfest. He has more than 25 years of experience in fall protection and teaches the fall protection competent person class.

### **2010 San Jose Chapter PDC in Monterey - Nov. 4-5. Reminder: Early registration deadline is October 8, 2010.**

THEME: "What's around the corner?"

DATES: Thursday 11/4 and Friday 11/5, 2010

LOCATION: Portola Hotel & Spa, Monterey, California

Early Registration (before 10/8/10) - ASSE, PASMA, SEMI members: \$195; Non member: \$245

Regular Registration (after 10/8/10) - ASSE, PASMA, SEMI members: \$220; Non member: \$270

Link to register online:

<http://www.assesj.org/pdc/registration.html>



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## **Safety Top Concern of U.S. Workers, Surveys Show**

Robert Preidt, HealthDay, Aug. 30, 2010.

-- Safety is the most important workplace issue, say 85 percent of American workers.

Workplace safety, in fact, ranked first in importance among labor standards, ahead of issues such as minimum wage, family and maternity leave, paid sick days, overtime pay and the right to join a union.

That's the finding of researchers who analyzed dozens of surveys and polls conducted from 2001 to 2010 by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago.

The study was conducted for the Washington, D.C.-based Public Welfare Foundation, which includes a workers' rights program.

Even though there is widespread public concern about workplace safety, the media and public tend to pay the most attention to the issue when there are workplace disasters, said the researchers. But they noted that even when such tragedies occur, the fate of workers is often overlooked, citing the recent BP oil well disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Workplace safety is too often ignored or accidents taken for granted. It is striking that coverage in the media and public opinion polls have virtually ignored the 11 workers killed by the blowout and destruction of the (BP) drilling platform," Tom W. Smith, director of the NORC's General Social Survey, said in a University of Chicago news release.

The disaster is an example of how poor workplace safety can have a wide-reaching impact, he said.

Smith noted that if high levels of safety had been maintained on the drilling platform, "not only would the lives of the 11 workers been saved, but the whole environmental disaster would have been averted."

The study also found that about 12 percent of workers reported an on-the-job injury during the past year, and 37 percent said they have required medical treatment at one time for a workplace injury.

"Workplace safety should be a constant concern," Robert Shull, program officer for workers' rights at the Public Welfare Foundation, said in the news release. "Given the importance that workers themselves place on this issue, we should not have to mourn the loss of people on the job before government and employers take more effective measures to ensure that employees can go home safely after work."



### **San Francisco's New Cell Phone Safety Ordinance**

Starting next February, San Francisco's so-called Cell Phone Right-To-Know ordinance, the first in the nation, will require retailers to include next to each phone the maximum amount of radiation that the model emits. It's measured by a SAR number, or Specific Absorption Rate, which reflects how much energy human tissue absorbs from a phone's electromagnetic waves. While the information is already available on the FCC's website and elsewhere, the Board of Supervisors felt consumers could make better informed buying decisions if the SAR numbers were included at the point-of-sale.



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### About the editor:



### Scott Sidlow

- **Occupation:**

Senior EHS Representative, Johnson Controls, Inc.

- **Short bio:**

I am a third generation safety professional. My Grandfather, Anthony Sidlow, was an early pioneer in air pollution research and policy in Cleveland and the LA basin in the 50's and 60's. My father, Jack Sidlow, was a CIH and PE, and worked for the AEC, Stanford University, and Hewlett Packard. In addition, my Uncle was in the Loss Prevention/Risk Management field, and worked for Liberty Mutual and Zurich International.

I started my career at the Santa Clara Valley Water District as a Laboratory Safety Officer, and have since worked for Hewlett-Packard, Agilent Technologies, and Applied Materials. I am currently the Senior EHS Representative with Johnson Controls.

- **Interests:**

Spending time with family, travel, cycling, coaching youth soccer.

## Chapter Officers 2010-11

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## Are Adhesive Stickers Allowed on Protective Helmets?

OSHA recently issued an interpretative statement indicating that adhesive stickers or paints are only allowed on protective helmets if the manufacturer authorizes the alteration or the employer can demonstrate that the reliability of the helmet is not affected by the paint or the adhesive on the stickers; and the paint or placement of stickers would not reduce the ability to identify defects (i.e., use of see-through stickers) or other conditions that would indicate a reduced reliability.

