



**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)



## February 2011 Newsletter

### THIS DATE IN HISTORY

#### **February 7, 1967: Alabama Restaurant Inferno** [Glenn Demby, Esq.](#)

"I was in World War II, and I never went through anything like that."

So remarked Dr. J.J. Kirschenfeld, one of the survivors of the fire at Dale's Penthouse, an upscale restaurant in Montgomery, AL. The fire broke out in the cloakroom of the restaurant on the 11th floor of the Walter Bragg Smith apartment building just before 10 pm on Feb. 7, 1968.

Firemen thought they were responding to a small fire; but it turned out to be an inferno. As fire trucks arrived, panes of glass began falling from the upper floors. Desperate patrons were breaking the windows to find clear air. Tragically, the air let in by the open windows fueled the fire even more: "It was like someone turned a blowtorch on it," recalls retired Montgomery Fire Chief William C. McCord.

The restaurant chef managed to get 2 groups of people out in the elevator before it stopped working. He and the firefighters then had to slide down the elevator cable from the 11th floor to escape. Some patrons, including Dr. Kirschenfeld and his family, managed to crawl out onto the ledges and around to a patio where they were eventually rescued.

Others weren't so lucky. Most of those trapped inside died of asphyxiation. Their bodies were found in the back office (which lacked an exit) piled like cordwood, and so badly burned they couldn't be identified. Investigators later discovered that a stairway up the building to the 10th floor had not been extended to Dale's when the restaurant was built. The elevator was the only way out. The stairway was directly underneath the exit-less office.

The fallout from the Dale's fire? Assistant Fire Chief William Davis said it best: "It changed the way high-rise fires were handled." The tragedy drew national attention to the problems of high-rise fires, resulting in the enactment of new state and municipal fire regulations and changes to national fire codes. The new rules covered, among other things, the number of exits, emergency sprinklers required and occupants permitted in a building.

**Tuesday February 8, 2011 - 12:00pm - Biltmore Hotel & Suites, Santa Clara, CA**

#### **Topic: Showing EHS Value Through Return on Investment (ROI)**

**Presentation by:** David Pais, MS, REA, CSP, Senior Environment, Health and Safety Program Manager at Seagate Technology

**Session Abstract:** Financial measurement of environmental health and safety (EHS) programs are not common practice. Historically, EHS professionals have not quantified their financial value in the work place. Successful EHS professionals speak the same language with business leaders by showing EHS value in financial terms, especially important within today's economy and tough business climate. This presentation will highlight why financial communication is vital for successful EHS program implementation and explain key financial measurements terms. A few case studies will be provided to demonstrate how to utilize return on investment (ROI) financial tools. When incorporating financial analysis, EHS professionals can increase effectiveness by quantifying their business value to an organization.





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**FEMA**

## **National Burn Awareness - February 2011**

### **Winter Months Increase Fire Risk - Children Particularly Vulnerable**

SEATTLE, Wash. -- Each year on average 18,300 Americans are injured, and more than 3,500 die in fires, with children age 14 and under making up 10-15 percent of all fire deaths. National Burn Awareness Week is traditionally observed the first full week in February, and according to FEMA Regional Administrator Ken Murphy, it's the perfect calendar observance to focus on preventing fires and protecting children.

"Children under the age of 5 account for fifty-two percent of all child fire deaths, and home fires tend to spike in winter months, placing younger children and toddlers at even greater risk," said Murphy. "Many children are unable to escape from fire on their own, and I encourage parents and caregivers to use National Burn Awareness Week as an opportunity to take actions that keep their loved ones, and particularly children, safe from fire and burn hazards."

Top tips to avoid fire and keep kids safe around the house include:

- Keep children at least 3 feet from hot stoves and cooking appliances. When cooking, use back burners with pot handles turned towards the back of the stove.
- Have fireplace flues and chimneys inspected for leakage and blockage from creosote or debris.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Store ashes in fire-resistant containers; cover the container with a lid, and dispose of ashes carefully.
- Place space heaters on a floor that is flat and level—Do NOT put space heaters on rugs or carpets. Keep space heaters at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials and place them out of the flow of foot traffic. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Always tuck cords from appliances where children cannot reach them.
- Install smoke alarms on every level in your home, and inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms each month and replace the batteries at least once a year.

Excellent online resources for fire prevention education materials and protecting children from fire and burns include: <http://go.usa.gov/rfF>; [www.usfa.dhs.gov/kids/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/kids/); [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org); [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org); [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). Learn about FEMA's Children's Working Group (CWG) at [www.fema.gov/about/cwg.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/about/cwg.shtm).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.



## Valentine's Day message: Top 5 Ways to Love Your Eyes at Work

February 11, 2011

[Phil Johnson](#)

1 - Have an eye exam.

Seeing clearly can have a huge impact on your ability to perform your job and to do so safely. Have your eyes checked at least every other year to determine whether you need corrective lenses or if your prescription needs adjusting.

2 - Know the safety dangers at work.

It is the responsibility of both you and your employer to be aware of the potential eye hazards on the job. Check MSDS and consider the potential for splashing chemicals, flying debris, dust, sawdust, other harmful materials and gases that could make contact with your eyes.

3 - Choose the right eye protection.

Once you've assessed the hazards, be sure to choose safety eyewear that is designed specifically to protect your eyes from them. Consider the fit, coverage, lens tints and coatings that will help the eyewear – and you – perform best all day long.

4 - Wear your eye protection.

It sounds simple, but experts agree that nearly all workplace eye injuries could be avoided by wearing the proper protective eyewear. That includes not taking them off to rub your eyes or clean the lenses until you are out of harm's way.

5 - Check your eyewear often for damage.

Check for scratches on the lens that may affect vision, and check frames and lenses for signs of wear or possible breakage. Replace your eyewear if it shows any signs of wear or damage.

### Chapter Officers 2010-11

#### President

Ron Scholtz

#### President-Elect

Fred Norton

#### Past-President

Tyler Nguyen

#### Treasurer

William Kroutil

#### Secretary

Becky Pereira

#### Delegate

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#### VP Jobs/Consultants

David Krack

#### VP Government Affairs

John Steele

#### VP Newsletter Editor

Scott Sidlow

#### VP Special Projects

George Mallinckrodt

### Topic: EVALUATING JOB OFFERS

## Give Prospective Employers a Thorough 'Reference Check'

February 11, 2011 Lauryn Franzoni

The employment relationship is supposed to be based on *mutual* trust and communication. In reality, the trust and communication burden often runs in one direction. At no time is the imbalance more pronounced than during the recruiting process. Recruiting should be a mutual feeling out period. But while job candidates are expected to provide persuasive evidence of their brilliance, companies too often cover up their warts. That's why it's so important for you men and women of safety to do your own reference checks on prospective employers before agreeing to work for them.

More at [http://www.safetyxchange.org/the-safety-profession-and-your-career/give-prospective-employers-reference-check?utm\\_source=emailmarketer&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=3705](http://www.safetyxchange.org/the-safety-profession-and-your-career/give-prospective-employers-reference-check?utm_source=emailmarketer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3705)



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## ASSE Greater San Jose Chapter 2011-12 Executive Board Election Slate

President – Fred Norton (President-Elect ascends to President automatically)



President Elect - David Krack



In 2002, David founded Occupational Health Performance, Inc., a management consulting practice in environmental and occupational health and safety management.

Over the course of his career, David managed regulatory compliance initiatives regarding farm labor housing as a county environmental health specialist, lead in battery manufacturing, DBCP and organophosphate poisons in the chemical pesticide industry, and ergonomic injury in the automotive sector. His last corporate management position was as the manager of safety and industrial hygiene at New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) since the company's start-up in 1984 until 2002. He is also a lecturer since 2000 in occupational health and safety engineering at San Jose State University, College of Engineering. David is certified in the comprehensive practice of industrial hygiene, a certified safety professional and is registered with the California State Department of Health as a registered environmental health specialist. He graduated from the California State University, Northridge master's degree program in environmental and occupational health and a bachelor's degree in environmental health from San Diego State University.



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Treasurer – Karen Bouvier



Karen has managed safety, environmental, emergency preparedness and quality programs for manufacturing organizations in the Bay Area for the past 20 years. She has a BS in Chemical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and worked first as a process engineer. She saw opportunities to improve R&D and manufacturing procedures with the integration of safety and environmental considerations so she moved her career in that direction. Karen's experience has ranged from worker protection to environmental and quality management systems, in roles from an individual contributor to a site and corporate group manager. She has worked for Raychem, Free-Flow Packaging and dpiX. Her most recent endeavor has been the four-year start-up of a new plant site, including regulatory permitting and certification to ISO 14001 and 9001. She is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) and Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence (CMQ/OE). Karen has been on the leadership team of the Bay Area Environmental Safety Group (BAESG) and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce EHS Forum. She frequently facilitates cross-functional project teams; recent examples include auditor training development, design and implementation of a corrective action system, and coordination of action items for the site Enterprise Resource Planning system launch. Karen has managed annual expense budgets of \$700k.

Karen is running for the office of Treasurer for the San Jose Chapter to give back to the organization which has provided her with so many opportunities for professional development, via both the meetings and the colleagues she has met there.

Secretary - Becky Pereira



Delegate - Betsy Leff





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Delegate - Betsy Leff



Delegate - Stephen Motzko



Immediate Past President – Ron Scholtz

