



**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:gsjc@assesj.org)



## July 2011 Newsletter

### **Regulatory Update: CalChamber, Coalition Opposing Elimination of Cal/OSHA Board**

The California Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of more than 15 industry groups are opposing a proposal to eliminate the Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Standards Board.

The CalChamber and coalition argue that the board is an effective rulemaking body providing a forum for balanced consideration, technical expertise and public input in developing safety standards that balance employer and employee concerns.

#### **Bringing Balance**

Workplace safety rules should be as fair and balanced as possible, carefully considering the policy with the perspective of employees and employers. Cal/OSHA Standards Board members are appointed for staggered terms and include members of labor, management, health and safety, reflecting the diversity critical to the rulemaking process.

The board brings value to the rulemaking process through its success in bringing labor and management to the table to find common ground. When all parties buy in and contribute to the regulation, compliance is higher and litigation becomes almost non-existent against the board, which leads to a safer workplace for employees.

Regulations adopted without significant stakeholder involvement can result in litigation at a cost that far outweighs the cost of the board.

#### **Key Votes**

On May 25 the Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 5 unanimously voted to eliminate the board.

Ayes: Anderson (R-El Cajon), Hancock (D-Berkeley), Wolk (D-Davis).

On May 26 the Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 4 voted unanimously to maintain the board.

**Action Needed:** CalChamber is urging businesses to [contact their legislators](#) and urge them to [protect the Cal/OSHA Standards Board from elimination](#).

### **Monthly Meeting Information:**

#### **Tuesday July 12, 2011 – No Chapter Technical Lunch Meeting - Special Meeting for Chapter Planning**

There will not be a regular Chapter technical meeting and presentation in July. After the recent Chapter elections, a new slate of Chapter Officers has been elected. In place of the monthly technical meeting, the Chapter Board of Directors is planning to hold a special Board meeting on Tuesday July 12, 2011 to establish plans for this year and to discuss how the Chapter can best serve our membership.

This planning meeting will be open to any Chapter Member who is interested in participating in Chapter activities or who would like to have some input into the planning process. If you are interested in attending this please email the Chapter President, Fred Norton at [Frederick.norton@libertymutual.com](mailto:Frederick.norton@libertymutual.com).

The August monthly meeting will be our annual joint event with BAESG. It is their turn to host the joint meeting so instead of our August Tuesday meeting, we will hold our monthly meeting with BAESG on **Wednesday August 17th at the Santa Clara Hilton** from 11:30 am to 1:00pm.





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## **Emergency Management A Growing Field**

By [Marie Nordberg](#)  
Associate Editor - EMS World

Over the last decade, emergency management has grown as a field, and certified emergency managers are in charge of disaster planning both across the country and around the world. As proof of its popularity, one need look no further than the Falls Church, VA-based International Association of Emergency Managers.

"We have almost 3,000 members around the world, 90% or more of whom are in the United States," says IAEM's marketing and communications director, Dawn Shiley-Danzeisen. "We're a nonprofit educational organization that is dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. These are the folks who coordinate the first responders, local government officials and anyone else, including private industry, who would be involved in planning for and mitigating a disaster and providing help after the event."

There are numerous benefits for members of IAEM, including a monthly newsletter, representation on legislative and regulatory matters at the federal level, list-serves where members can communicate and exchange resource information, and an annual meeting that drew more than 1,500 attendees in 2006. A big draw at the annual meeting is the presence of all the significant suppliers of emergency management and homeland security products and services. Members receive discounted fees for the annual conference, as well as the organization's many educational programs.

"We also have a certification program for both members and nonmembers," says Shiley-Danzeisen. "IAEM created the Certified Emergency Manager program several years ago with a FEMA grant, in order to raise and maintain professional standards. We're currently updating the program with another grant from FEMA. This is a very coveted certification that is maintained in five-year cycles. We also run a scholarship program—a 501(c)3 that provides scholarships to full-time students at the college level in emergency management or other related programs. This is not a needs-based scholarship; it's an awarded scholarship based on merit."

Although homeland security and disaster planning are a major focus for emergency management, the increased interest in IAEM doesn't seem to be linked to the events of 9/11 or any terrorist-related activity, says Shiley-Danzeisen.

"Emergency management has come into its own over the past decade or more," she says. "Ten years ago, there might have been one college program offered; now, there are programs at more than 100 universities. The whole field has grown from the local fire chief being emergency manager for the county to having an emergency manager who coordinates all the fire chiefs, rescue squads and government agencies. You want to have people who are educated and have the right resources at their fingertips to coordinate your response plans and be there if a disaster happens. You have to know how to manage the disaster as it's occurring and know how to clean up after it's over."

For more information, visit [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com).



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**Topic:** THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - July 6, 1944

[Catherine Jones](#)



Today marks the anniversary of a terrible tragedy that took place in Hartford, Connecticut, 20 minutes into a matinee show of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

About 7,500 people were enjoying the performance of the famous trapeze artists, the Great Wallendas, when the band suddenly began to play the “Stars and Stripes Forever.” Most of the audience thought it was just part of the show. But the ringleader and ushers recognized the song as show-business code signaling a life-threatening emergency.

In fact, a small fire had started on the southwest wall of the tent. As circus personnel struggled to coordinate an orderly evacuation of audience and animals, people clamored for the exits. At least two exits were blocked. Some people stampeded through and over the crowd, some leapt from the bleachers and others frantically searched for family members rather than an escape. Others remained in their seats waiting for the fire to be extinguished.

But the flames spread quickly and soon the tent was engulfed. It collapsed within minutes, trapping hundreds. More than 700 people were injured in the fire and resulting chaos, many badly burned by melting paraffin. Of the 167 who died, more than 100 were under age 15. The cause of the fire remains undetermined, but what we do know is that the fire was fed by the big top’s coating of paraffin and gasoline, a common waterproofing method of the time. Shortly after the fire, the military made its waterproofing compound available to the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and since 1945, all circus tents have been treated with a flame retardant compound.

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**The Employer's Guide to Hiring a Safety Professional**

The newly released "Employer's Guide to Hiring a Safety Professional" was designed to assist employers and human resource managers in the process of hiring safety professionals at all levels. The Guide provides recommendations on the education, experience, and certifications to look for on five levels of practice: entry level, technician, manager, director, and executive levels. It also includes an FAQ section, an interview guide, information on the certification accreditation process, and hiring tips. ASSE will be working with human resource organizations and other professional associations to distribute the Guide to organizations that hire safety professionals. [Click here for a copy.](#)