



Hello, Penn-Jersey, and welcome to the December 2016 newsletter. In this edition, you'll find information on the following:

- **What's New**
- **Upcoming Events**
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- [Howard Talks Tech](#)

President's Message to Chapter

Hello Penn-Jersey,

It's hard to believe that the Holiday Season is upon us and in full swing. The hustle and bustle of shopping, extra traffic, holiday parties, etc. create new hazards that we as Safety Professionals need to address with our staffs. With that being said, please ensure that we talk to our staffs and ensure that everyone is in the right frame of mind to safety complete our tasks.

Just a reminder, there is no Technical Meeting for December. Our next Technical Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Your Executive Committee will be meeting next week to plan the remainder of the Chapter Year. If you have any suggestions or topics that you would like the ExCom to discuss during our meeting, please let me know as soon as possible.

Safe and Happy Holidays!!
Michael McGowan, CHMM
President, ASSE Penn-Jersey

What's New

OSHA News:

A final rule to update the general industry walking-working surface and fall protection standard was issued on November 18, 2016. The final rule addresses fixed ladders, rope descent systems, and fall protection criteria. The most significant update is allowing employers to select the fall protection system that works best for them. The effective date for this rule will be January 17, 2017. These changes are predicted to reduce fatalities and injuries, "OSHA estimates that these changes will prevent 29 fatalities and 5,842 lost-workday injuries every year." The published document can be read through the [Federal Register](#) and additional information including an OSHA Fact Sheet can be read via [OSHA](#).

ASSE News:

On January 25, 2017 there will be 2 back-to-back webcasts entitled the Confined Space Safety-Palooza. Registration is \$145.00 and includes copies of the standards, slides from the session, and 0.4 CEUs. The speakers are Terry Krug, president and senior scientist for a consulting business and former OSHA employee and Travis Parsons, senior safety health specialist for Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America. Additional information can be found on the ASSE website or at this link: <https://learn.asse.org/products/confined-space-safety-palooza-an-asse-live-webcast-double-feature>.

Pam Walaski CSP, CHMM wrote an article in Professional Safety this past November, "Moving From Compliance to Risk-Based Systems." This interesting article offers the reader 5 tips for taking the not so easy leap into risk-based systems. One tip stresses the idea

of encouraging the workforce to think about risk and not compliance “...stop relying on regulations to ground our recommendations.” This article can be read at the following link:

http://www.asse.org/assets/1/7/BP_1116.pdf?ref=home

ASSE Local Chapter News:



Check out the latest [Howard Talks Tech](#) written by our very own Howard Spencer. These articles are perfect discussion starters that are useful in guiding others to safety so please take a moment and explore the collection of topics. Howard’s articles titled “*Caution vs. Careful: Careful Decisions Can Lead to Cautious Behavior,*” “*Are You a Zipper Pull?*” and “*OSH Professional & Open-Source Safety*” appears in the November 2016 issue of The Communicator. The articles can also be viewed on the training and Education SIG Portal. Nice work Howard!



If you are currently signed-up for LinkedIn don't forget to connect with the ASSE Penn-Jersey Chapter network. We have 61 members and counting! Will you be the next member?

Are you looking for a great holiday gift? Look no further because we are still selling “I LOVE SAFETY” t-shirts for \$20/each. All proceeds from the sale benefit the ASSE Foundation. Please contact Danielle DiGironimo if you are interested in making a purchase at ddigironimo@hotmail.com.



Upcoming Events

Technical Session:

There is no technical session for December 2016, but our next session will be January 17, 2017 so please stay tuned for details.

App of the Month

Every year approximately 400 people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. This hazard can happen anytime of the year, but



typically more of these poisonings occur during the winter months due to fuel-burning appliances. There are various alarms on the market that will help to keep you safe from this invisible killer. One such product is the [Nest Protect](#). This system includes a smoke and CO alarm that verbally indicates the exact location of the danger. The system also synchs to your smartphone to enable controlling of the alarms, phone alerts, safety checkups. You can monitor your home or business remotely. So if you rely on a gas or oil burning furnace or a boiler for heat or if you use a gas stove please be prepared and know the facts about CO leaks and be protected.

Have Something to Share with the Chapter?

Contact our newsletter editor, Julia Toth at jtoth@pppl.gov.

