



Malama O Pa!



Take care, lest you be hurt!

A S S E H a w a i i C h a p t e r N e w s l e t t e r

Your Elected Chapter Officers

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Mary Silva, CSP, BSchE

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Howard Hendricks, CSP

Pac-Rim 2010 Update

By Les Onaka

Speaker Committee Chairpersons **Howard Hendricks** has received speaker proposals and is currently obtaining letters of agreement from internationally renowned speakers such as **Mike Thompson**, Rick Pollack, Skipper Kendrick, Mark Hansen, Peter Furst, Gary Higbee and Carl Heinlein. Many of our Island favorites such as **Dan Vasilash**, **Tracy Lawson**, **Walter Chun** and **Stephen Stout** are also scheduled to join them.

Excellence in Safety Awards committee members **Joaquin Diaz**, **Jim Newberry** and **Les Onaka** still need nominees, particularly from

non-construction sectors. Anyone who knows of companies with safety programs that deserve recognition should contact Joaquin (e-mail jdiaz@hdcc.com) or visit the web page at <http://assehawaii.org/pacrim/ExSafAwds.htm>.

Need to flash your company name and logo at every Pac-Rim 2010 attendee? Contact **Jimmy Zane** (e-mail JZane@mhrhawaii.com) or go to <http://assehawaii.org/pacrim/sponsorship.htm> for sponsorship information.

Member in the News

Chapter Member Mary Browne's Success Story

An article in the November 30, 2009 edition of the Pacific Business News featured ASSE Hawaii Chapter member **Mary Browne** and her outstanding work with the safety program of Kiewit Building Group. Kiewit's "Safety Begins With Me" program has resulted in a safe working environment that has helped their workers avoid injury. See the article at <http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2009/11/30/focus1.html?b=1259557200%5e2514771>.

A Note of Mahalo from the Chapter ...

By Les Onaka

Those of us who helped plan for Pac-Rim 2008 know what a hassle it was to get meetings scheduled due to the lack of suitable places to meet and hold our discussions.

For Pac-Rim 2010, this has

not been an issue thanks to **Howard Hendricks** and his employer, Jas.W. Glover. Howard has graciously allowed us to hold our meetings in Glover's spacious training room at their facility on Sand Island Access Road. This has

allowed the committees to focus on more important issues than where to hold the next meeting. A great big Mahalo Howard and Jas.W. Glover for all your support for ASSE's Hawaii Chapter!



Howard Hendricks and his Employer, Jas.W. Glover have kindly allowed us to use their training facilities on Sand Island Access Road for many of our meetings.

H I O S H A d v i s o r y C o m m i t t e e U p d a t e

B Y L E S O N A K A

Once each quarter, a group of safety professionals representing most of the private and public sectors get together in the HIOSH training room on Queen Street to exchange ideas on numerous safety issues and concerns. This HIOSH Advisory Committee meets with Administrators from the State Department of Labor, usually Darwin Ching, Jamesner Dumlao and Jennifer Shishido.

At the November 19, 2009 meeting, the Department of Labor commended and thanked **Dan Vasilash** for his services as the HIOSH Advisory Committee Chairperson during 2009. **Rey Burgess** will serve as the Chairperson for 2010 and **Joaquin Diaz** was elected as the Committee Vice-Chairperson to succeed to the Chairpersonship in 2011.

Other agenda items covered included:

- HIOSH lost 11 more positions in the recent lay-offs in the Consultation and Training branch and support staff and training specialists. The compliance branch remains the same with four officers on Oahu, one in Kona and one in Hilo. HIOSH has consulted Federal OSHA and Ken Atha supposedly came in December to meet with Administrators and perhaps others in the safety community. Special Government Employees (private sector safety professionals who have been provided with training) may be one option to alleviate the shortages in Voluntary Protection Plan (VPP) and consultation areas.
- Two recent industrial fatalities involved forklifts, further emphasizing the need to provide full safety training and assessments for operators as well as workers in the areas where forklifts are being operated and parked.
- The OSHA Training Institute has come out with its 2010 schedule of programs for Hawaii. Oahu sessions will be held in the beautiful new Construction Training Center in Waipahu (see ASSE-Hawaii website for details).
- OSHA will be issuing H1N1 Influenza Directives for their compliance officers. N-95 masks will be required for healthcare workers and everyone else coming in contact with patients infected with the virus during the course of their duties. Employees will need to be assessed for risk of exposure based on their role in the scheme of patient care.

“ T h e r e ’ s t h r e e s i d e s t o e v e r y
s t o r y — y o u r s i d e , m y s i d e a n d t h e
t r u t h . ”



Dan Vasilash

- P a r t i n g a d v i c e f r o m D a n i e l
V a s i l a s h J r . , H I O S H A d v i s o r y
C o m m i t t e e C h a i r p e r s o n f o r
2 0 0 9 .

Editor's Notes

I had the honor of attending the ASSE Leadership Conference in October. I experienced many eye-opening firsts in Lombard (just outside of Chicago). I caught my first whiff of skunk while jogging (roadkill, OK—I'm not that naive). I also saw these huge Canada Geese flying

South just outside my hotel room window. My biggest surprise came on the night of the opening reception.

While talking to people at the reception, many of them asked about the Pacific-Rim conference! It seems

that our PDC here in the middle of the Pacific Ocean has gained a reputation for attracting top-notch speakers. Based on the speaker proposals we have received for 2010, the best is yet to come.

Les Onaka, CSP

Hawaii Chapter Newsletter editor

October Chapter Meeting Summary

Confined Spaces; Protection through Detection Presentation by Tom Bellit

Report by Les Onaka



Tom Bellit shared his expertise on confined spaces at our October meeting.

Confined space: is (1) large enough to enter; (2) not designed for continuous occupancy; and (3) has limited exits.



For those of you who missed it, the chicken hekka at Hale Ikena on October 15th tasted ono to me - not quite the way Mom used to make it, but fine any way. Even better than the chicken hekka, ASSE member **Tom Bellit** spoke to us about confined spaces and gas monitoring.

Tom had served some 20+ years as an officer in our U.S. Navy before being sent to Charleston, South Carolina to Navy Safety School. Since retired from active duty, Tom is now employed by Rae Systems (San Jose, CA), a manufacturer of gas monitoring devices.

Tom first defined a confined space as one that meets three criteria: (1) large enough to enter; (2) not designed for continuous occupation; and (3) has limited exits. He listed some of the common ones such as storage tanks, sewers, underground pipelines, etc. and also some that have open tops with hatches. Tom then discussed the difference between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and toxic gases. While both are hazardous, he pointed out that

VOCs may be worse because since their presence is difficult to detect, they may have already done significant damage by the time they are noticed. This points out the need to know what's inside before entering a confined space.

Detection systems have come a long way since miners used canaries to monitor mine air (Note: I was surprised to learn that canaries were in use until 1986!). Air normally contains about 20.9% oxygen. When oxygen content drops to below 19.5%, the air is considered oxygen-deficient and humans may begin to experience impaired judgment, increased pulse and respiration rates, fatigue and decreased coordination. Toxic gases and vapors all have well-defined exposure limits. Hence devices to monitor their level play a critical role in confined space safety. Tom mentioned three types of sensors: (1) colorimetric tubes that contain

chemicals that change color when exposed to certain gases; (2) electrochemical sensors that are electrodes sensitive to certain chemicals; and (3) photoionization detectors that use a high-intensity light to ionize the gas and measure its ionization potential.

Sensors eventually become fatigued and need to be periodically replaced. Manufacturers normally provide a sensor life warranty, but if the sensor still passes calibration, its useful life may be extended. Exposure to extremes in hot or cold or contact with moisture may shorten sensor life. Handling and storing a gas monitor like the sensitive electronic life support device that it is helps to prolong its utility.

The ASSE Hawaii Chapter sends a big mahalo to Tom for sharing his expertise with us. Please contact him [Tbellit@hawaii.rr.com or (808)265-3754] should you have any questions.

ASSE Hawaii at the Hawaii Construction Career Days

BY Neil Yamamoto

On October 21st & 22nd, ASSE Hawaii participated in the 2009 Hawaii Construction Career Days as a Bronze Sponsor. This 2-day event drew an estimated 1,200 high school and community college students, teachers and counselors from across the state with the purpose of providing Hawaii's youth with an insight into the career opportunities available in the multi-faceted construction industry.

At the ASSE tent, members had the opportunity to talk with attendees about the safety profession and answered a wide range of questions, such as:

"What do you do?"

"Who hires safety people?"

"What kind of education do you need?"

"What's the starting pay?"

...and my favorite,

"You mean you can go to college for this?"

Thank you to the following members who braved the heat and staffed the ASSE tent to make this event a success.

Mark Behrens, Department of Education

Tom Bellit, RAE Systems

Larry Chun, United States Postal Service

Cont. on next page



Three of the Chapter volunteers who fielded questions from students on Construction Career Day at KCC. From left to right: Tom Bellit, Craig Shoji and Larry Chun

(See Career Days on page 4)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.ASSEHAWAII.ORG



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**Protecting People, Property and the
Environment since 1911**

Stay up to date with chapter activities and other news items related to our profession by visiting the chapter website at . . .

www.assehawaii.org

Write to the webmaster at ASSE Hawaii [he's got a B.S. in Safety] jnewberry@islandinsurance.com

- Got safety news? Let me know and I'll post it.
- Got safety ideas? Let me know I'll post it.
- Got safety training? Let me know I'll post it.

Web motto: Working in partnership with industry and government for a safer tomorrow!

Career Days (continued)

Joanna Clark, Airgas/Gaspro

Howard Hendricks, Jas. W. Glover, Ltd.

Jim Newberry, Island Insurance Companies

Les Onaka, Clinical Labs of Hawaii, LLP

Craig Shoji, Goodfellow Bros.

Mary Silva, Maryl Group, Inc.

Zoe Williams, The Gas Co.

Neil Yamamoto, Kamehameha Schools

the printed material for distribution.

We look forward to even greater participation at next year's event!

In 2011, the American Society of Safety Engineers celebrates its 100th birthday. Safety 2011 will be held in Chicago at the remodeled McCormick Place. One hall in the new facility is said to be so large that one of Tiger Woods' heftiest drives could not travel from one end to the other. Rick Pollock, Chairman for the 100th Anniversary celebration promises a very special event.

Mark Your Calendars

January 21, 2010. ASSE Hawaii Chapter meeting 1100-1300 at Hale Ikena. Only \$18 by credit card: call **Mary Silva** (545-6458), or \$20 at the door. **Dan Vasilash** will speak on NFPA 70E.

February 14-20, 2010. ASSE Seminarfest in Las Vegas, Nevada.

March 11-12, 2010. ASSE Symposium on "Delivering Safety Results in Changing Times" in Scottsdale, Arizona.

May 5-7, 2010. ASSE and HIOSH present the 11th Governor's Pacific Rim Health and Safety Conference 2010 at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Thank you to **Sean Tanaka** of Watts Constructors for donating key chains and other items to pass out to those who stopped by the tent. Thank you also to **ASSE Headquarters** for providing all



YOUR SAFETY IS OUR BUSINESS. YOUR FUTURE IS OUR MISSION.

