



Malama O Pa!

Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



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August 2010

Same-level Falls

By Les Onaka

We had just conquered what I considered the most treacherous part of the Wa'ahila Ridge Trail, complete with six-foot sheer drops on slick boulders about the size of our kitchen. All in our hiking party made it through without a scratch or incident. We then stopped for a breather and water break at a level shady spot. No sooner had we started hiking again then one of our party slipped and fell, injuring mostly her pride. The safety professional in me kicked in as I searched for root cause. My findings: (1) distraction (zipping up her backpack); (2) complacency (level, flat packed dirt with no hazards apparent) and (3) rushing (everyone else was moving along). I had to search for the actual hazard—three small pebbles on a patch of dried mud.

Thinking about all the workplace same-level falls I had investigated, the root cause profile sounded very familiar—distraction, complacency (letting down our guard because the situation seems innocuous), rushing and a hazard. Those pebbles may have represented a hazard that all of us had become complacent about as most of us often do when peb-

bles make up most of the trail. I got an eerie feeling two days later when **Joanna Clark** e-mailed me some Airgas "Daily Safety Bytes" from June 2010 on slips and falls in the workplace.

According to a 2007 Liberty Mutual report, same-level falls were the second leading cause of workplace injuries in 2005, costing U.S. businesses a whopping US\$6.6 billion in direct

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A particularly treacherous part of the Wa'ahila ridge trail on Oahu—about a 50-55 degree incline with dusty boulders and loose gravel

A Message from Neil...



Aloha ASSE Hawaii Members,

The 2010-2011 ASSE year is now in full swing and your chapter officers have an exciting year planned for you to em-

brace ASSE's 100th Year Anniversary. In addition to our monthly meetings, some of the events planned for the year include four, half-day workshops,

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President's Message (cont'd)

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the 1-day ASSE OSHA Hawaii Workshop (May 4, 2011), a North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week poster contest with the Department of Education, Chapter logo contest, career day for high school and college students and the list goes on.

A new and exciting benefit of being a Hawaii Chapter member is being eligible to apply for the Hawaii Chapter Professional Development Grant. This grant was recently funded at ASSE's annual professional development conference in Baltimore with a donation of \$23,000 to the ASSE Foundation. Hawaii Chapter members are encouraged to apply for this grant which will annually award two \$500 schol-

arships to help further your safety and health careers. Details will be forthcoming.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members located in Guam. On June 25 of this year, the Guam Section was officially chartered and is part of the Hawaii Chapter. We look forward to working with our peers in Guam to help them get "up and running" as efficiently as possible.

I look forward to serving all of you this year and please drop me a line if you have anything you'd like to share with me.

Aloha,
Neil

Next Chapter Meeting September 16, 2010: Walter Chun to speak

By Les Onaka

I had the pleasure of serving as the moderator for **Walter Chun's** session at PacRim 2010. Knowing he had been a member of ASSE for over 30 years, I was surprised to learn that in addition to CSP, CHSP and CHST designations, he had also earned a Ph.D. In addition to numerous other safety positions, he had also served as the Area Director for OSHA.

I had been struggling with defining my role as the

sole safety professional in my company. In his breakout session, Dr. Chun gave me ideas to take back to our Executive Safety Committee to define their roles and mine in terms of Responsibility for employee safety and lines of authority.

At our next Chapter meeting, Walter Chun will speak on our need to belong to and support professional safety organizations.

Same-level Falls (continued)

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costs. Almost 30% of same-level falls result in more than 21 workdays lost and are listed as the cause of more than 20% of all disabling injuries. Also, the problem appears to be worsening—incidence of these types of injuries has risen 25.6% between 1998 and 2005.

What can we do to make our workplaces safer? After reading at least a half-dozen articles on this, I found that they mostly list ways to reduce the risk, when climbing the boulders on the steep trail rather than avoiding the pebbles on the seemingly safe one. Yet in most of my same-level fall injury investigations, it seems that the pebbles or even virtual pebbles that cause the incident. Noting this, I came up with the following:

- ⇒ Where to find hazards. Let employees know where the hazards can be found as part of your site hazard communication program;
- ⇒ Regard moving as a hazardous process. Everyone needs to focus on the process of moving around because employees have fallen and gotten injured;
- ⇒ Everyone needs to report all hazards. Develop a quick and easy two-way mechanism to receive reports of hazards and let all employees know about them;
- ⇒ Distraction and injury go hand-in-hand. Safe practices require conscious effort and distraction negates this; and
- ⇒ Instill Safety as a value. No task or process is so important that we need to hurry and risk injury to do it.

A New Face at HIOSH

HIOSH Advisory Committee Meeting August 19th

By Les Onaka

As **Jim Newberry** and I walked into the HIOSH training room for this meeting, a new face greeted us at the head of the table. I had seen her picture in the newspapers before, but could not remember for what. After the meeting I went home and looked her up and I found out some totally awesome facts about her...

New Director of Labor and Industrial Relations

With the departure of Darwin Ching, Pearl Imada Iboshi, our State's top economist, agreed to serve as the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (at least until December 6, 2010). A list of her impressive credentials and accomplishments since receiving her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa suggests Ms. Imada Iboshi may provide some practical solutions to deal with some of the issues HIOSH faces.

New HIOSH Operations Manager

Jamesner Dumlaio has apparently left HIOSH and

Ryan Markham has assumed his duties as Operations Manager.

Cranes and Derricks Standard

This has been sent to the State Attorney General for review due to issues with licensing options, crane definitions and the lack of licensing of signalmen and riggers—two other worker groups that affect crane safety.

Veterans of Safety Representative

The Committee voted to include former OSHA Area Director **Walter Chun** as a HIOSH Advisory Committee member as a representative from the Veterans of Safety.

Military Base Projects back to OSHA

Director Imada Iboshi announced HIOSH's intention to return jurisdiction of private construction projects on military bases back to OSHA. She cited issues with civilian access to military bases and staffing as the main concerns.

OSHA Update

Injury and Illness Prevention Program Update

Dubbed I2P2, this proposed rulemaking nears the end of its public comment period. Based on comments from attendees of public hearings, the program will likely contain the following proactive elements:

- ◆ Management duties including establishing policies, setting goals, planning and allocating resources and assigning and communicating roles and responsibilities;
- ◆ Employee participation in various aspects;
- ◆ Hazard identification and assessment;
- ◆ Hazard prevention and controls;
- ◆ Education and training; and
- ◆ Program evaluation and improvement.

OSHA seems to be interested in public feedback on the advantages and disadvantages of using rulemaking to proactively address workplace hazards. If so, are the above elements appropriate and if not, what

should be changed.

Stakeholders seemed most concerned with the complexity of the final rule and whether small businesses would be able to implement and maintain an effective I2P2. Other concerns expressed question the effect of this program might have on end-user interpretation of the existing consensus standards and actual mechanisms for employee participation.

Cranes and Derricks Final Rule

Updated from the previous 1971 rule, OSHA published this new rule in the Federal Register on August 9, 2010. It will then go into effect 90 days later on November 8, 2010. The rule will effect about 267,000 construction, crane rental and crane certification establishments and about 4.8 million workers. Among other changes, the new rule contains significant changes in the qualifying and certification of crane operators.

Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



*Protecting People, Property and the
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**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

[Jim Newberry] 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!**

Society Announcements From Diane Hurns, ASSE Public Relations Manager

Mark your calendars for Safety 2011 to be held in Chicago on June 12-15.

ASSE kids' Safety-on-the-job poster contest for kids aged 5-14. Members may find the rules and entry forms at www.asse.org/newsroom. Submissions will be accepted September 19, 2010 through February 14, 2011. Members may sponsor schools, other kids, co-worker's children, etc.

Historical information on the safety profession may be found at www.asse.org/newsroom/100/toolkit.php.

NAOSH week in 2011 will be May 1-7. May 4th has been designated Occupational Safety and Health Day.

Mark your Calendars...ASSE Symposium to Examine Human Error

This two-day symposium in San Antonio, Texas focuses on the underlying causes of human error based on body and mind function/dysfunction. Through observation of worker behavior, the safety professional may detect situations that increase the chance of error and design proactive processes that prevent incidents which may lead to injury or property damage. The deadline for early bird registration for this symposium is October 2, 2010.

Other Society Training Opportunities

September 21-23, 2010: Safety in the Petroleum Industry. In this ASSE VIRTUAL symposium, ten webcasts will be presented over three days and registrants will have the opportunity to interact with the experts presenting information that focuses on:

- ⇒ Emerging Safety and Health Issues;
- ⇒ Environmental Issues; and
- ⇒ Planning and Execution.

Registrants unable to make the sessions may access the sessions later at their convenience.

VIRTUAL Safety 2010. For those of us who could not make it to Baltimore, our Society offers eight of the top-rated sessions from Safety 2010. Registrants may purchase individual sessions or all of them and receive audio/visual access and the slides for each. A 0.1 CEU per session may be earned from the comfort of your own home or office. Group rates are also available.

January 23-29, 2011: Seminarfest 2011. To be held at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel, the 2011 Seminarfest offers 57 seminars to attendees who may earn up to 5.0 CEUs/COCs. Each session lasts from one to three days and is individually priced, but discounts kick in as more sessions are selected. Visit www.seminarfest.org or call (847) 669-2929.