



Malama O Pa!

Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



Chapter Officers 2008— 2010

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June 2010

Fall Fatalities By Les Onaka

We happened to be at the Aloha Tower Marketplace one weekend so my family decided to take the elevator to the top of the Aloha Tower because we had not done so since our children had grown up. After a brief clearance procedure by the security guard, we rode the old elevator up to the 10th floor observation deck to take in the views.

On the ride down, we shared the elevator with a couple from Atlanta. They had done their research before coming and told us that we were riding in the first elevator in the then (1926) Territory of Hawai'i. That triggered thoughts of safety in my mind of what it must have been like building the then tallest structure in the Islands. Growing up in Kona, I remembered watching my father, as he built houses, walk along narrow beams high above the ground. No OSHA and no fall protection in those days.

The long strides we have taken to protect our workers from injuries and fatalities from falls from heights seems to have taken a step back since the begin-

ning of 2010. Seven reported falls resulted in four fatalities as of March 2010. This prompted HIOSH to launch a campaign

aimed at the families of workers to remind their loved ones leaving for work to remember to tie-off. A group of safety professionals led by **Joaquin Diaz** took the message to our keiki at schools to enlist their help in reminding their parents.

Joaquin's presentation on fall protection at our April 15th Chapter meeting exuded the passion he shares with all of us to prevent harm to our workers.

At the March HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting, the somber discussion on fall fatalities triggered serious dialog about what every attendee could

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Joaquin Diaz brought his fall protection training session and passion for safety to our April 15th Chapter meeting

Notes From Neil...

Aloha ASSE Hawai'i Members,

rundown.

Although our program year is coming to a close (June 30th) there is much exciting news happening here in ASSE World. Here's a

- As of June 7th, we officially have a Guam Section. Strategic changes with the

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OSHA Report

Ken Nishiyama Atha at PacRim 2010

In his remarks at the Opening Session of the 2010 Governor's Pacific Rim Safety and Health Conference, OSHA's Region IX Chief Administrator Ken Nishiyama Atha spoke of the changes in OSHA after 40 years as a government entity. He mentioned the recent Web Chat by Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSH Dr. David Michaels as a means to open up two-way communication channels with its stakeholders. OSHA also developed a six-year strategic plan to focus activities on increasing activities on a broader spectrum of industries and especially targeting those organizations that continue to endanger their workers by continuously ignoring Federal safety guidelines.

OSHA's Strategic Plan

The plan includes changing the penalty calculations, placing a greater emphasis on industrial hygiene, increasing the use of the General Duty clause to cite ergonomic hazards and looking at alternative methods of funding for the VPP Program. OSHA plans to publish the initial draft of this plan in July 2010 for public comment and then have the plan go into effect in September of 2010.

OSHA Proposes Rulemaking to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls.

Published in the May 24th edition of the Federal Register, this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) would require improved worker protection from tripping, slipping and falling hazards on walking and working surfaces. Fall protection has already been a part of construction and maritime workers, but this would require fall protection gear for general industry workers. This will include climbing ladders to heights above four feet. To view the complete NPRM, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-10418.htm>. The end of the document provides details for public comment submissions. Only comments received by August 23, 2010 will be considered.

OSHA publishes an e-newsletter that provides updates on the various current issues before them. Individuals may subscribe to this electronic service, called "QuickTakes," by simply going to the address below and entering their e-mail address.

http://www.osha.gov/pls/quicktakes/e_subscribe.subscribe

**2010 ASSE Hawaii Chapter Election Results
By Joanna Clark, Elections Committee Chairperson**

Congratulations to our 2010/2011 board members!
We currently have 183 members in good standing and out of the 183 ballots we mailed out we had over 50% of our membership who participated in this year's election. The term of the board begins July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

The election ended on May 31st and the results are as follows:

Secretary	Howard Hendricks
Treasurer	Mary Silva
Delegate	Jim Newberry

Remaining positions:
President Neil Yamamoto
President Elect Craig Shoji

We wish to thank all the candidates for running in this year's election.

There are still committee chairs and other positions available so if you are interested in contributing your time and talent to our chapter, please contact Neil Yamamoto.

Respectfully,
**Joanna Clark, Jason Iwamasa, John Ramos
Elections Committee Members**

HIOSH Advisory Committee Notes

By Les Onaka

The HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting of May 20, 2010

The Role of the HIOSH Advisory Committee

Our initial discussion focused on defining our role in relation to HIOSH. This carried over from ideas brought forth on May 6th during our “Talk Story” with Ken Nishiyama Atha, OSHA’s Region IX Director. At that time the committee members expressed concern that our ability to advise HIOSH appeared to be hampered by not having sufficient information on HIOSH activities to provide feedback on. At this meeting DLIR Director Darwin Ching indicated rules and laws limit the information that HIOSH may share publically. The committee expressed concern that HIOSH staffing issues may be an internal issue, but that the safety of workers in Hawai’i would be impacted by levels of services. Training and Consultation services have provided a key anchor for many safety professionals and a decline in this key HIOSH department would likely result in a gap in the transfer of safety regulations. The committee voted to establish a sub-committee to study the feasibility of establishing teams of experienced safety professionals to fill the consultation void. Many questions were raised regarding liability and accountability and member status of such a group. The sub-committee will seek answers to these and other issues and report back on August 19, 2010—the date of the next HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting.

Director Ching Resigning

Darwin Ching announced his resig-

nation as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, effective June 15, 2010. He refused to elucidate on his future plans other than to “pursue other interests.” Jamesner Dumlao, HIOSH Operations Manager, will continue the HIOSH representation to the meetings with the committee.

Fall Protection Campaign Continues

The seven fall injuries represent 70% of the major injuries investigated by HIOSH thus far in 2010. HIOSH inspectors have been conducting sweeps—visitations of construction sites looking at fall protection behaviors in plain view. They have noted both compliant and non-compliant practices. Inspectors have reported 55 serious fall protection violations and plan to issue the citations for these. The sweeps cover all islands. HIOSH will also continue with the radio media spots on ESPN 1420 and Clear Channel Stations.

The Hawaii Safety Alliance

A number of organizations that include the ASSE and Veterans of Safety (VOS) comprise the Hawaii Safety Alliance (go to <http://sites.google.com/site/safetytraininghawaii/> for a complete listing and their mission statement). The Alliance meets to coordinate safety training programs to minimize overlap of training topics and conflict in their scheduling in order to maximize utility by the safety community. ASSE and VOS member **Mary**

The Most Recent Industrial Fatality

On May 2, 2010 as a coconut tree trimmer worked on a tree about 40 feet high, he may have slipped and gotten into an awkward position and became entangled in his harness. Unable to free himself, the worker expired while still in the tree. The incident is still being investigated and the autopsy results pending.

While we do not really know what happened yet, the incident suggests that a fall protection harness alone may not be sufficient to prevent a fatality. Training may have been an issue and certainly a rescue plan may have been lacking or ineffective.

Browne maintains a calendar of training events. To see what training is coming up, go to the website and click on the link to the Safety Training Hawaii Event Calendar.



Mary Browne

Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



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

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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

[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!**

Notes from Neil

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military in Guam, brought in 40 safety professionals from around the world there. We took this opportunity to work with them in establishing an ASSE presence on the island.

- In May, our Honolulu Community College Student Section approved new officers for their upcoming year. Thank you to the outgoing officers for their dedicated work and Welcome to the incoming officers. We look forward to working with you!
- At Safety 2010 in Baltimore, the Hawaii Chapter announced the establishment of the ASSE Hawaii Professional Development Grant through the ASSE Foundation. By establishing this grant, Hawaii members will be able to apply for up to \$1,000 in grant money starting in 2011. Although we are still developing the evaluation criteria, this money may be used to prep for safety certifications such as the ASP and CSP, registration to safety courses and conferences or for pursuing formal education in the occupational safety field. Stay tuned for more details.
- On June 25 & 26, Mary Silva and Barbara Goto conducted a math review for the ASP/CSP exams. Please check www.assehawaii.org for the latest information on training opportunities such as this.
- Last but not least, for the first time in a very long time, all chapter board positions up for election this year were contested. Thank you to all who threw

their name into the proverbial "hat" and ran for office. More information on the election results may be found in Joanna Clark's article in this newsletter.

I encourage all of you to come to our monthly chapter meetings at Hale Ikena. Although we normally hold these lunch meetings on the third Thursday of each month, we will be holding our meeting on the fourth Thursday in the month of June due to ASSE's annual conference "Safety 2010" in Baltimore.

Have a GREAT summer and take care,
Neil

Fall Fatalities

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do to help lower the risk of such tragedies. HIOSH officials asked all of us present to report fall protection violations if we happened to see them. Several members related incidents where they had done so and commended HIOSH on the quick response that resulted in corrective action. Members also reported instances where peer-pressure resulted in quick corrective measures.

Congress also seems to be addressing this by increasing the fines in their current legislation (Protect American Workers or PAW Act).