



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

November 2016

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## Useful & Helpful Links

<http://www.asse.org>

*Link to the National ASSE webpage for information on great topics in EH&S*

<http://hudsonrivervalley.asse.org>

*Link to the Hudson River Valley Chapter web page. Information on the Local items and events as well as good information. Check us out.*

<http://www.DigSafelyNewYork.com>

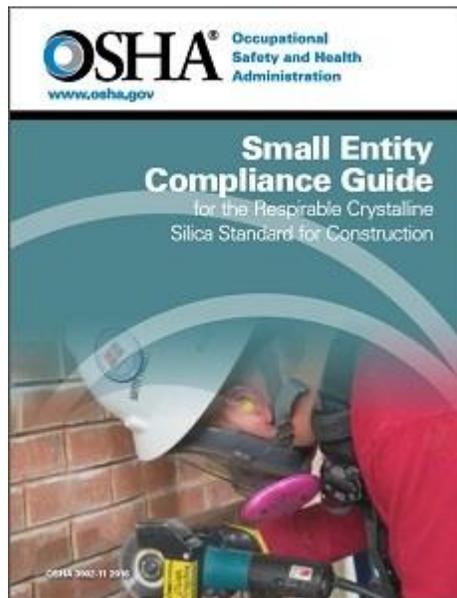
*Link to Dig Safely New York, Inc.*

Hotlinks in articles are in **Bold Red font**.

Newsletter Editor:  
Charles R. Von Dietsch

## Small Entity Compliance Guide for Silica Rule for Construction.

OSHA has released a **Small Entity Compliance Guide for Construction** that is intended to help small business employers comply with the agency's **Final Rule** to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica. The guide describes in easy-to-understand language the steps that employers are required to take to protect employees in construction from the hazards associated with silica exposure. All covered must: provide respiratory protection when required; restrict silica exposure from housekeeping practices where feasible; implement a written exposure control plan; offer medical exams to workers who will need to wear a respirator for 30 or more days a year; communicate hazards and train employees; and keep records of medical examinations. Enforcement of the final rule in construction is due to begin June 23, 2017. The guide cover is pictured here below.



Article requested and submitted by TJ Lyons.

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## Your Work Has Dignity: Labor Rights Week 2016.

A worker falls from a roof and is injured, but instead of medical care, he gets fired.

Another worker with limited English language skills is told to remove asbestos-laden flooring, with no warning that the material is dangerous and requires special equipment.

A third worker toils for an entire day, and is paid by personal check – that bounces.

At CASA de Maryland, they hear these kinds of stories all the time. They are a nonprofit that offers training and job placement for vulnerable workers, including the foreign-born, in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Many of the workers seen on a daily basis are reluctant to stand up for themselves because they are afraid or don't realize that they have the same rights and protections as all workers. CASA de Maryland is there to tell them that, in fact, they do have the right to fair wages and a safe workplace, and in speaking up they protect not only themselves but all other workers.

During Labor Rights Week, CASA de Maryland is teaming up with federal and state agencies, embassies, and worker advocates in a coordinated push to deliver that message to those who need it to hear it most.

Join us for Labor Rights Week, Aug. 29 – Sept. 4. To find an event in your area visit **OSHA's website**.

Editor's note: Labor Rights Week began as an effort of the Mexican Embassy with federal agencies that are involved in worker rights, including the Department of Labor. The week of activities now involves **11 foreign embassies and their consulates** along with education, labor and community organizations. In urban and rural settings, the events educate workers on minimum wage laws, their right to protective equipment, and how to get help if their rights have been violated. **Most importantly, they learn that they have the right to a safe workplace, a fair wage, and protection from discrimination, regardless of immigration status.**

This article sourced from the OSHA Quick Takes Newsletter, November 2016 edition.

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## Hudson River Valley Chapter Web Page Update.

In the next few weeks, we will be updating the Chapter web page. This is being done to reflect how some of the more successful ASSE chapters currently present their chapter web pages. More to come on this as we get into the updating process. Your assistance and cooperation are asked in reviewing the web Page and making constructive comments on its appearance and content. Also members are encouraged to test out the links on the page and let us know which ones are not working, and which ones are working well.

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## OSHA RECORD KEEPING TIP for 2016.

As the end of 2016 approaches quickly, now is the time to ensure you have an accurate listing of your incidents that require reporting. Often details are lost when workers are laid-off for the season or go on to other opportunities. This is the first year that electronic submittals are required by OSHA. For more information and guidance use this link; <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/>.

## Pipeline Blast in Alabama, One Killed, Several Injured.



HELENA, Ala. – For the second time in two months, a pipeline that supplies gasoline to millions of people was shut down, raising the specter of another round of gas shortages and price increases.

The disruption occurred when a track hoe – a machine used to remove dirt – struck the pipeline, ignited gasoline and caused an explosion Monday that sent flames and thick black smoke soaring over a forest in northern Alabama, Colonial Pipeline said. One worker was killed and a half-dozen were injured in this blast. Perhaps this incident could have been prevented by calling the Dig Safely hotline. Please make every effort to do so on your projects in New York State, and elsewhere. For more information on this incident, please use this link; <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/10/31/at-least-7-people-injured-in-gas-line-explosion-in-alabama.html>

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## Perspective on Leadership Conference from our President-Elect Crystal Turner-Moffett.

Our very own President-Elect Crystal Turner-Moffett, attended the ASSE 2016 Leadership Conference in Oak Brook, Illinois on October 13 – 15, 2016. What follows is an edited down descriptive narrative of what sessions she attended at the conference in the hope that they would help her become an effective Chapter President in the near future. The sessions were held at Hamburger University, which is the training facility of McDonald's Corporation.

Crystal was an active participant in breakout, lightning and in-depth sessions that were developed to help her skills and leadership potential as it relates to her role with ASSE and career. Some of the sessions attended were:

1 – Charting Your ASSE Leadership Path.

Participants in this session heard about different paths taken from current ASSE Leaders. They also gained an understanding of the broader mission of ASSE, the programs and communities in place to fulfill this mission, and how these programs and communities are connected.

2 – Succession Planning.

Effective succession planning is a 365 days-a-year effort. There are several steps in the process and last minute planning can short circuit the process with poor results. This session provided an overview of an effective succession planning process that is easy to manage and encourages the team approach so you can fill your leadership positions with greater ease.

### 3 - Social Media.

As the ASSE Hudson Valley's new Social Media GURU, Crystal attended the Lightning Session on Social Media presented by the ASSE for using the platforms of Twitter, Facebook, and/or LinkedIn to aid our members. You may have already seen some of the announcements sent out by our Chapter that this is available now.

### 4 – Getting the Most Out of Membership Meetings.

One of the most important things we can do is to host welcoming and exciting meetings that our members are eager to attend. This workshop did not just cover the ABC's of hosting a meeting, but explored on a deeper level how to leverage the meeting (and beyond) to maximize member benefits going forward.

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## Request Members to Review the Hudson River Valley Chapter By-Laws.

To our Members, a request has been made of you by the Board Members to please go to the Chapter web page and review the Chapter by-laws posted there. If you have any suggestions or recommendations to make to these by-laws for the coming year of 2017, please get in touch with any Board member.

Our Chapter Web Page can be found here; <http://hudsonrivervalley.asse.org>

Log onto the web page and review the by-laws.