



Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

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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.

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

Newsletter Editor:
Charles R. Von Dietsch

Outdoor Workers and Ticks, Once Again.

Outdoor workers face many hazards on the job from severe weather to extreme temperatures and bad drivers. Add to this the threat of ticks! Ticks can be infected with bacteria, parasites and viruses which can be passed on to humans. Common tick-borne illnesses include Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and now introducing in the Hudson Valley of New York State a new tick-borne disease called Powassan, or POW, for short. This is a dangerous, potentially deadly illness, as the CDC states there is no vaccine for this disease yet. Outdoor workers are at elevated risk for a tick-borne illness when working in wooded or brushy areas, high grass, or areas of leaf litter. According to the CDC the highest risk for tick-borne disease is present from April through September in our Northeast area. Warmer areas may have active tick colonies all year long. The CDC and NIOSH recommend wearing light-colored clothing, including a hat, long-legged pants tucked into boots and a long-sleeved shirt. Other recommendations include using insect repellent that contains 20 to 30 percent DEET on any exposed skin, and reapply as often as necessary (like sunscreen – every 2 hours or less under sweaty conditions). It is also recommended that a repellent that kills ticks on contact with at least 0.5 percent Permethrin be used on your work clothes only – not on your skin. This substance is still effective after several washing cycles. Those cycles should be with hot water and tumble drying on a high heat setting. Workers should check themselves at the end of each workday. Areas to check are under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and in the hair on your head. If you do find a tick on your body, grasp it firmly and as close to your body as possible with a fine-tipped tweezers. Pull the tick away in a steady motion, and clean the area of the bite with soap and water. Removing infected ticks within 24 hours reduces your risk of being infected with disease bacteria. For more information on ticks use the CDC website link; <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

OSHA Training Deadline Arrived May 2017.

Were you aware that some of your employees might have to have been retrained by May 17, 2017? The workers exposed to fall hazards should be retrained to recognize fall hazards, how to minimize the hazards, and how to correctly use personal fall protection systems.

Training for the installation and maintenance of the overall personal fall protection system must include correct procedures for installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining, and disassembling the personal fall protection system used. Regarding the specific use of personal fall protection system, (PFAS), workers must be trained on proper hook-up, anchoring, tie-off techniques, methods of equipment inspection and storage as specified by the manufacturer. This training is required under the November 17, 2016 update of the Walking-Working Surfaces standard. For more information and the entire standard update, please use this link; <https://www.osha.gov/walking-working-surfaces/>

Joint Meeting Hudson Valley Federal Safety and Health Council and Hudson River Valley Chapter, American Society of Safety Engineers.

On May 12, 2017 our chapter teamed up with the Hudson Valley Federal Safety and Health Council for a Joint Meeting at the Orange and Rockland training facility in Spring valley, NY. Organized by Council Chair **La Wanda Mobley** and **Linda DiGasper** we were hosted by **Tom O'Connell**, Safety Section Manager, Orange and Rockland. ASSE member Tom McCarthy, a Compliance Assistance Specialist from the OSHA Tarrytown Area Office presented to a large crowd recent information on OSHA initiatives, specifically on the upcoming 'Hear and Now' focus on noise and protection of our hearing. TJ Lyons also from our Chapter spoke on the philosophy of using "design intervention" in building construction to limit or eliminate hazards to workers and later the occupants. Photo of the presentation is below.



Hudson River Valley Chapter Sharing Knowledge and Expertise.

Our ASSE Regional Coordinator Shaundree Davis invited our Chapter President TJ Lyons to be a guest speaker at their annual joint (Philadelphia/Penn-Jersey ASSE) Technical Meeting on May 16, 2017. TJ presented on “Moving from Risk Management to Risk Elimination”. Two attendees later asked if the presentation could be repeated at their firms. Great job Mr. President! The Hudson River Valley Chapter has made it a focus on working outside of our region to bring attention to our team and the great work we do.

ASSE - Hudson River Valley Chapter PDC Photos from April 13, 2017.

On April 13, 2017, The Hudson River Valley Chapter of ASSE held its annual PDC. The Conference was held at the IBEW training facility in Harriman, NY. Vendors representing many companies were on-hand to provide information and demonstrations of their products and equipment. Food for breakfast and lunch was present at the conference for all attendees to enjoy. Photos of some of the events are included here. Notice the photo of our Chapter President-Elect, Ms. Crystal Turner-Moffett, trying a vacuum fitted hammer drill that protects the user and others in the work area from dust and silica particulates created by hammer drilling in masonry products.

