



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

January 2018

Volume 2, Number 8

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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. Go look things up.*

<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. Try it, you'll like it!*

<https://www.cdc.gov/>  
*Link to the Center for Disease Control. Great current information on health items to help protect us all through illness controlling and prevention. Lots of FLU items!*

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

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## New Year Best Wishes From Your Chapter Board.

Can you believe that it is 2018 already?! Where does the time go? I would like to take this moment to express the wishes of the entire Chapter Board that each and every one of you and your families experience nothing but the best of health, joy, happiness and most of all a safe new year.

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## 2018 Brings Adjusted OSHA Penalty Amounts.

Effective January 2, 2018, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (OSHA), increased its civil penalty amounts for violations of workplace safety and health standards by two percent over last year's amounts. This was in accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvement Act of 2015, under which the Department of Labor is required to adjust penalties for inflation each year. The new penalties for willful and repeat violations are \$129,336.00 per violation; serious, other-than-serious, and posting requirements are \$12,934.00 per violation; and failure to correct violations is now also \$12,934.00 for each day the condition continues. Can you really argue that you cannot afford a few hundred dollars or less to correct a violation? Really? Use the following link to review the new penalties chart, and all the supporting references of the Inflation Adjustment Act of 2015. <https://www.osha.gov/penalties/>

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## Changes in the Chapter Board Structure.

Our January 11, 2018 meeting was both a Technical Meeting and a Board meeting to discuss some necessary changes to the chapter's Executive Board. With a quorum of the Board Members present at this meeting, the following changes were proposed and accepted by the Board Members present. Those changes are as follows:  
Curt Jones was installed in the position of Chapter Delegate;  
David Montalvo was installed in the position of Member-At-Large;  
Thomas McCarthy was installed as the President-Elect;  
Charles Von Dietsch and Matthew McDonald will share the Secretary position on a temporary basis as Joseph Maselli has voluntarily withdrawn as Chapter Secretary for personal reasons. Joe will be missed.

## January Is Radon Action Month.

January is Radon Action Month. What does that mean to you? According to the estimates of the American Lung Association, more than 4,000 homes tested in the Hudson Valley of New York had radon levels found in levels above the EPA recommended level of 4.0 pico-curies per liter, (pci/l).

The data has shown the following levels by county who participated in this study. Nearly half of the home basements in Dutchess County tested had results above the Federal EPA guideline; Orange, Putnam, and Ulster Counties had results of about one in every three homes. Rockland and Westchester Counties had results of 15 – 17 percent of home basements tested. These tests were conducted using the short term closed house conditions.

“Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell, or taste. It can build up in your home, get into the air you breathe and can cause lung cancer in you or your loved ones,” according to Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert.

Radon usually comes from the surrounding rocks and soil under your home’s foundation and can enter through cracks and openings on the lowest level of your home. It is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high. It is estimated that 21,000 people die each year from lung cancer due to exposure to radon in homes and other buildings. Radon can enter into any type of building, including homes, offices, and schools. You and your family are likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time. The good news is that radon can be reduced by easy, low-cost home testing and repair.

New York State residents can get radon test kits from the New York State Department of Health, for a fee of \$11.00. To learn more about radon and radon testing, fixing your radon problem radon resistant new construction, and for a list of approved radon testing labs and certified radon mitigation professionals, call the New York State Department of Health at (8888800) 458 – 1158 or e-mail at [radon@health.state.ny.us](mailto:radon@health.state.ny.us), or you can use the New York State Department of Health website on the following direct radon link; <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/testkit.htm>.

New York State specific radon information is available from the NYS Health department on this comprehensive website for Radon including a state wide map and county levels on;

<https://www.wadsworth.org/programs/ehs/nuclear-chem/radon>.

More information about Radon is available from the U.S. EPA website. Use the following direct link; <https://www.epa.gov/radon>.

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## Chapter Email Distribution List Update Project Underway.

On January 12, 2018 a project was started by the Hudson River Valley Chapter acting Secretary to update and consolidate the various lists used to send out email newsletters, meeting memos, and all the various other types of electronic communications to you the general membership. The intent of these communications is to help keep you abreast of important items and issues to the Chapter and the Society as a whole, as well as important general safety issues. Such communications would be messages about the upcoming Chapter PDC in April 2018, special Technical meetings, and any training sessions we have to offer to you as members of the Society. You may have noticed, (at least I hope you did), that my email address is now included on the first page of this newsletter. Please use it to let us know if you have an item you would like to see included in a future newsletter, or a topic for a presentation you would like to attend, please tell us. Also let us know how you think we are doing in our voluntarily serving you the membership of our Chapter. I know a lot of people are sensitive about giving out their personal information, but I would like to ask the membership if they would include their first and last names when supplying email addresses. If I have learned anything in my thirty-one years of Safety work, it is this; it is always nicer to address a person by their name, not their email address. Questionnaires will be distributed soon. Thank You in advance for your cooperation. By the way, our members are encouraged to attend the meetings. Drop in if you want to.

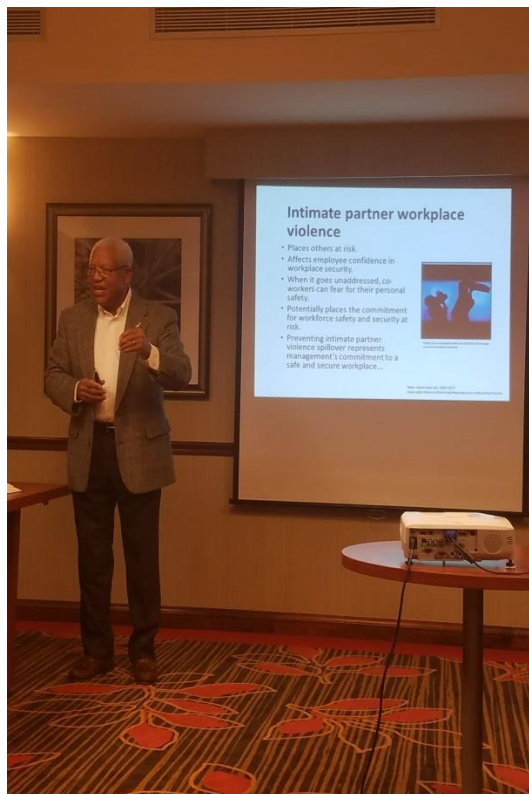
## Nater Associates Ltd., Presented the January Meeting Topic.

If you did not attend January's meeting, you missed a good topic. The title of the presentation was "Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Prevention". I know what you are thinking, but yes – this often hidden problem can and does very often impact the workplace. It is an often misunderstood and overlooked aspect of workplace violence that needs to be more open as a topic in the workplace. It must be handled with all due considerations given to personal privacy, yet with the security of all employees in mind so that an occurrence of domestic violence spilling over into workplace violence can be avoided.

It was a very good presentation given by Mr. Felix Nater, a principle of Nater Associates, Ltd., of New York and North Carolina. Mr. Nater's experience in a wide range of investigative positions and as a consultant for many businesses and government agencies across the country have made him uniquely qualified to gather and interpret data that can show the relationship of trouble at home to violence in the workplace, which could possibly harm many other workers in that workplace besides the domestic partner of the angry intruder.

Mr. Nater pointed out in this presentation that there are things that can be done to minimize, or even prevent the incident in your workplace. Things such as just paying attention to your coworkers can sometimes give you a visual clue that something is different, they are not quite the same and seem under stress during a shift. There are also some common sense security things that can be done to limit, or eliminate these intruder violence issues as well.

I am sure that we have all heard of, if not participated in, the unfortunately now common "Active Shooter" scenario training sessions and drills at most of our workplaces. The 'Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence', connection should be a follow-up to, if not a segment of, this training. It only makes sense to be prepared for, or have an idea that this may happen, which could bring an existing private issue to a very public eruption in your workplace. If you or your workplace is interested in this presentation, Nater Associates can be contacted on the web at this link; <http://www.naterassociates.com/>



Mr. Nater leading presentation discussion



Members joining discussion points with Mr. Nater

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## ASSE Hudson River Valley Chapter February Board Meeting.

The Chapter Board meeting will be held on February 8, 2018 at the Quality Environmental Solutions & Technologies, Inc. (QuES&T) offices located at 1376 Route 9, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Board members are encouraged to attend this meeting.