Some Good News for Federal Funding of Occupational Health and Safety in FY 2014

OS&H education, training, and research scored a victory this month, based on the allocations in the congressional Omnibus Appropriations bill unveiled on January 13th, 2014. That bill, which provides funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014, included a Labor HHS bill! On January 17th, the House and Senate passed the omnibus, and it was signed by the President. The omnibus means good things for those of us involved in training, education and research, at least for the moment.

NIOSH:
- Total NIOSH funding $292.3 million, similar to FY 2012 funding restoring the sequestration cuts.
- The Education and Research Center (ERCs), (our MAP ERC is one of 18) will receive $27 million. This is a $4M increase. It will now represent approximately 35% of all NIOSH extramural funding.
- The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program under National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) will receive $24M, which is also an increase.

For our other colleagues in OS&H, the appropriations bill is more of a mixed bag:

OSHA:
- Total funding $552.2 million. (This is down from $564.8 million in FY 2012, but is an increase over the sequestration budget in FY 2013).
- Susan Harwood grants level funded at $10.7 million.
- A $1.1 million increase in funding for the OSHA Whistleblower Protection program.
- Cuts in OSHA’s budget were in state plan enforcement (a cut of $4.1 million over FY 2012) and in Federal Compliance Assistance (a cut of $7 million over FY 2012).
- The rider prohibiting the promulgation of the Musculoskeletal Disorders injury reporting rule was eliminated, which is a good thing.

MSHA:
- Total funding $375.9 million, similar to FY 2012 funding, restoring the sequestration cuts.

I want to thank you all again for the show of support, including the many emails, calls, and visits with your representatives in Congress reminding them of the importance of protecting and promoting the health of American workers.

We are now watching for the President’s proposed FY2015 budget, which has yet to be released. We do not yet know if, once again, President Obama’s budget will propose zeroing out the ERCs and Ag Centers, as in the past. Stay tuned and prepared to educate your elected representatives on the importance of worker health and safety.

Lee Newman, MD, MA, FACOEM, FCCP
Director, Center for Worker Health and Environment
Director, NIOSH Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center
Professor
Colorado School of Public Health

Happy New Year and I hope that 2014 will find all of you healthy and successful.

Now that I am a pro at this, I thought I would talk about how important I believe being a part of a vibrant, resilient team is in making one healthy and successful.

Many sources indicate that the most healthy and successful people are part of a strong community. Support from your colleagues and others can provide you with needed support in both thriving and challenging times. Establishing important networks through volunteering and getting involved in your professional organizations, therefore in my opinion, will make you healthier and more successful.

Jeffrey Citrone, Editor
The Golden Hotel, overlooking Clear Creek in the heart of historic downtown Golden, will be the host to this event. The hotel is just 12 miles from Downtown Denver and 45 miles from DIA. The hotel’s warm and inviting ambience, outstanding facilities and staff’s personalized service are guaranteed to make this event a success! Room discounts are available directly from the hotel at $161.00, and must be reserved 3-weeks in advance.

In addition, the Southern Colorado, Rocky Mountain and Colorado Chapters will be hosting a joint 1.5 hour Professional Development Course on May 1 and 2, 2014 at the Golden Hotel. Please plan on attending.

Please direct questions to Jeffrey Citrone at 720.384.6040 or by email at jcitrone@ltenv.com.
Greetings Region II and ROC!

Happy New Year! With great honor comes great responsibility; I am blessed to continue to serve the Society and Region II with professionals like you. I look forward to our continued service to our great Society. What we do is noble. With great humility and your help, I will continue to lead Region II. Let us continue our support and work together serving the Society and our volunteer member/leaders that hold the current posts of leadership!

2014 ASSE Agenda-- Society’s governance structure

As stated by our Society President, Kathy Seabrook in Professional Safety December 2013, “…Let’s face it, change can be hard in any organization…So why change…let’s connect the dots. A governance model that is relevant and reflective of ASSE’s current and future needs will enable the Society to be strong, viable and sustainable.”

What do members want? As stated by our Society President, Kathy Seabrook in Professional Safety December 2013, “…Will member needs be met? Some members believe the proposed model leaves them with no voice on the board…all councils can raise strategic issues through the senior vice president who is their voice on the BOD.”

As stated by our past Society President, Rick Pollock, “ASSE is in the midst of change. Our predecessors had vision and built a strong foundation. But, the winds are shifting. Like many other professional organizations led by volunteers and with limited resources, ASSE is facing significant challenges.” The Board of Directors recognized this and made a bold move. Instead of simply celebrating our heritage of growth and success, the Board set out to create a new vision and strategic direction for the Society. With members’ best interests as our guiding principle, we discussed and debated our future. The result was strong guiding values and new inspirational goals that were approved last year. Each council has worked diligently to establish new strategies to move ASSE toward these goals.”

I feel our vision is not clear, however our work is important. Our future is bright. YOU as members must stay engaged. So, I invite you to stay engaged and remain involved. Help me continue with the legacy left before for us to make Region II and the Society stronger by the member voice. Let us grow our chapters, continue to develop our volunteer leaders, and make positive change for the betterment of the profession and the Society. The proposed new restructure has its limitations. You all have my confidence and commitment. I remain inspired to go forward with doing the work of Region II and the Society. Be active in your leadership role for you have my full support.

Best Regards,

Michael F. Lorenzo
Vice President, Region II ASSE

Have you tried our Region II Website Yet?
http://region2.asse.org
Questions or requests for Region II's Web Site contact our liaison,
Holli Merchant
hmerchant@ehsdocuments.com

Key Chapter Dates
Upcoming:

February 1 – Review Chapter By-laws – president
March 1 – Chapter dues report to Society – treasurer
March 1 – 31 – Society Election Voting Period
March 31 – End of fiscal year
May 31 – Financial Report to RVP and ASSE HQ – treasurer/president
May 31 – Officer and Delegate Report to RVP and ASSE HQ - president

This isn't unsafe; I'm just assessing risk.
Photo by Ashok Garlapati, Kuwait Chapter
OSHA—"QUICK TAKES," a twice monthly publication is available via email and often provides a useful means to track issues of interest to the safety professional. You can check this out by going to: http://www.osha.gov/pls/quicktakes/e_subscribe.subscribe

OSHA hosts informal public meeting, extends comment period on proposed rule to improve tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses

On Jan. 9-10, 2014, OSHA hosted an informal public meeting in Washington, D.C., attended by 26 stakeholders representing labor unions, industry, professional associations and others who provided the agency with information and testimony regarding the proposal to amend current recordkeeping regulations to add requirements for the electronic submission of injury and illness information employers are already required to keep under existing standards, Part 1904. The proposal does not add any new requirement to keep records; it only modifies an employer’s obligation to transmit these records to OSHA. To further encourage public participation on the proposed rule, OSHA has extended the comment period 30 days.

"This is a proposal, not a final rule," stated Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "We strongly encourage the public to assist us in the process of developing a final rule by submitting written comments and/or participating in this public meeting. We are eager to hear from the public."

Comments may be submitted electronically at www.regulations.gov, the Federal eRulemaking Portal or by mail or facsimile. See the Federal Register notice for more details.

Stakeholders join OSHA for silica rulemaking Web chat

Jan. 14, OSHA hosted a live Web chat to discuss the agency’s proposed rule on occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. During the Web chat, participants were able to ask questions, get clarification from OSHA on the proposed silica rule and learn how to participate in the regulatory process.

Over the two and half hour Web chat, OSHA staff answered over 80 questions on the proposed standards for general industry and maritime and for construction, reviewing OSHA’s underlying analysis of health risks, potential costs and benefits, and economic impacts and explaining how to submit comments to the rulemaking record. OSHA strongly encourages interested parties to submit their written comments and testimony at www.regulations.gov before the Monday, Jan. 27 deadline. Additional information on the proposed rule and how to participate in the rulemaking can be found at www.osha.gov/silica.

Listening sessions seek public input on chemical safety

As part of executive order 13650, Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, the Department of Labor is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security, Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies to host a series of public listening sessions and webinars to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders to reduce safety and security risks in the production and storage of potentially harmful chemicals. More than seven hundred individuals have attended the sessions, which have been held in Texas City, Texas, Washington, D.C., Springfield, Ill., Orlando, Fla., and Sacramento and Los Angeles, Calif. On Jan. 14, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels chaired a listening session in Washington, D.C.

"These listening sessions are an important step in an ongoing dialogue between agencies, communities and stakeholders about how we can help make chemical facilities and our hometowns safer places," Michaels said at the listening session. "One of our main goals in engaging stakeholders is to identify, develop, and put in place best practices. We strongly encourage you to provide us with comments on the options at this meeting and subsequent stakeholder meetings, and as written comments that can be submitted to the docket on the webpage."

OSHA put out a request for information seeking public comment on potential revisions to its Process Safety Management standard and related standards, as well as other policy options to prevent major chemical incidents. The public will have until March 10, 2014 to submit written comments. For more information, visit the Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security Web page.

The next listening session is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 24, 2014, at the Harris County Department of Education’s Training and Conference Center, Room 502, 6300 Irvington Blvd., in Houston, Texas. To attend the public listening session or to make a comment or presentation, participants must register at www.govevents.com. For more information, see the Federal Register notice.
The New OSHA/ANSI Sign Explained

The new OSHA/ANSI sign and tag formats use nationally and internationally standardized elements to better convey safety messages in today’s workplace.

The New Components:

Safety Alert Symbol - Indicates a potential personal injury hazard exists. It is only used on DANGER, WARNING and CAUTION signs, labels and tags.

Signal Words for Hazard Alerting Safety Messages

DANGER indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in serious injury or death. Its use should be limited to the most extreme situations.

WARNING indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in serious injury or death.

CAUTION indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.

Signal Words for Non-Hazard Alerting Safety Messages

NOTICE indicates information considered important but not directly hazard-related (e.g. security, hygiene, equipment or property damage).

Signal Words for Instructional Safety Messages

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS is the signal word used to provide explanatory information like procedures and instructions. More definitive words can be used in this signal word panel.

Symbols

Graphical symbols are used to bridge language barriers and draw attention to the safety message. Specific shape, color and design principles are used to meet global compliance objectives.

Text Messages

Carefully crafted text is used to convey the safety message to the intended audience in a clear, concise manner.

Entries for ASSE’s NAOSH Week’s 2014 Student Safety Awareness Art Contest and Student Safety Awareness Video Contest are due Jan. 31, 2014.

These contests are available to students ages 5 to 12 and 13 to 17, respectively, as part of NAOSH Week’s mission to increase awareness of the importance of occupational safety and health. Applications for both contests are divided into groups according to age, and first-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded to contestants in each group based on how well the artist expresses workplace safety in his or her creation. Winners will be announced before March 31, 2014, and prizes will be awarded at Kennedy Space Center during a private awards luncheon on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

Visit the NAOSH Week website (http://www.asse.org/newsroom/naosh/index.php) for more information and for contest rules.

DID YOU KNOW

REGIONAL SPY AWARDS
On November 14, 2013, the Craters of the Moon Chapter partnered with the AIHA Idaho Teton Section for our Semi-annual Professional Development Conference in Idaho Falls, Idaho. We had a total of 53 Safety & Industrial Hygiene professionals from all over Eastern Idaho gathered together for a great one day conference.

The conference started out with Dr. Larry Shaw, JD, MS – Professor, Occupational, Environmental, Health & Safety – who recounted his experiences in assisting a community in Uruguay in health, hygiene, and safety. He reviewed how his US team helped several businesses improve the health and safety of their employees through simple means and changing some of their practices.

Mic McManamon – Safety/IH engineer at Idaho National Laboratory – gave a very interesting and enjoyable presentation on gloves. He had a vast variety of different types of gloves available for all to try. He explained what each type was best used for and why.

Officer Christopher Weadick – Idaho Highway Patrol – gave an excellent thought provoking presentation on distracted driving. The accident statistics do not lie – a distracted driver is a very dangerous driver. He did not focus only on cell phones, but on all aspects of distracted driving.

We then had two presentation / reports from our recent attendees to the ASSE Leadership Training: Byron Gilbert – Hazardous Materials Specialist at BYU-Idaho – attended the Leadership Conference in preparation for being the next Chapter President. He was very impressed with what they taught him and said that it was the Best leadership training he had ever attended. He learned a lot and feels better about his new role in the chapter.

Jeshua Sargentis – Occ. Safety Student at BYU-Idaho – attended the Student Future Leadership conference and came back fired up. His 10 minute summary expanded into 25 minutes. He had a lot to say about what he learned.

Following lunch, Dr. Donald Bloswick, Ph.D, PE, CPE – Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Utah - gave an excellent presentation on Kinesiology, with an emphasis on how the whole body works. Very fascinating and extremely educational.
CONGRATULATIONS

On Friday, November 15, 2013, during a reception in his Sierra Vista home, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) recognized David MacCollum by naming a $2,000 scholarship in his honor. MacCollum, known for visionary achievements as a safety engineer, is being recognized for a lifetime of contributions in the safety profession. MacCollum’s presentation was made before members of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), of which he is a member. Additionally, the Southern Arizona ASSE Chapter named its visionary scholarship after him. He’s quite a guy! also.

Greetings Mr. MacCollum!

You make the Southern Arizona Chapter, Area A, Region II and the Society proud!

We salute you as a WWII veteran and all who have served to defend our liberty and know the price of freedom. Thank you for your sacrifice and thank you for making our country stronger. We shall never forget!

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – Recall with Health Canada

Recall Date: December 19, 2013

Red Wing Shoes Recalls Steel Toe Work Boots Due to Impact Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Consumers should stop using this product unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Recall Summary

Name of Product: Steel toe work boots
Hazard: The steel toe cap in the boots could fail to protect the wearer’s feet in an impact.
Remedy: Replace
Consumer Contact: Red Wing Shoes at (800) 733-9464 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. CT Saturday, by email at voluntary.recall@redwingshoes.com or online at www.redwingshoes.com and click on Safety Notice for more information.

Recall Details

Units: About 105,000 pairs in the United States and 9,000 in Canada
Description: This recall involves 45 styles of Red Wing men’s steel toe work boots in sizes 11 to 18 and widths ranging from B to H depending on the size and style. The boots have 6, 8, 10 or 11 inch ankle height and were sold in brown, black and maroon-colored leather. The following style numbers are included in the recall: 2206, 2211, 2223, 2226, 2230, 2238, 2249, 2254, 2270, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2408, 2412, 2414, 2426, 2491, 3505, 3507, 3508, 3526, 3528, 3568, 4208, 4210, 4273, 4406, 4414, 4425, 4433, 4435, 4436, 4437, 4438, 4445, 4481, 4483, 4484, 4494, 22406, 22408, 52406, 52408, 82406 and 82408. Date codes between 12/12 and 11/13 are included in the recall. The style number, date code and Red Wing Shoes are printed on a label inside the boot’s tongue. For the complete list, see the firm’s website.
Incidents/Injuries: None reported
Remedy: Consumers should stop wearing the recalled boots immediately and return them to a Red Wing store/dealer or contact Red Wing Shoes for a free replacement pair of boots.
OSHA Injury and Illness Recordkeeping
Ten Most Common Mistakes

It is nearing February 1st again, so every safety professional is reviewing their company’s injury and illness recordkeeping forms. Last year’s OSHA Form 300A must be filled out and posted for the employees to review and a new set must be started for 2014.

While these forms seem simple, many people make pretty common mistakes on them. Below are a compilation of common mistakes that are made on these forms.

1. Checking off more than one type of classification. The regulation requires that the most serious result of the injury or illness be indicated on the form.

2. Incorrectly adding up the page totals under the classification. The totals for columns G through J should equal entered in column A.

3. The number of scheduled work-days missed or with transfer/restricted duty are entered instead of the number of Calendar days. You still have to count the Saturdays ans Sundays in these categories.

4. Incidents that should be being recorded as illness are being recorded as injuries. Incidents that are cumulative in nature, such as, flash-burns, sunburn and cumulative trauma disorders should be recorded as illnesses.

5. Total hours worked are often underreported. Often the hours worked by ALL employees at a facility are often missed, especially the hours for support functions, supervisors and management. This will lead to a higher incident rate.

6. The signature certifying the accuracy of data on the form is not that of a “Company Executive”. The site safety manager, HR manager or office manager most likely does not meet the definition of a “Company Executive”. OSHA defines a “Company Executive” as the company owner, corporate officer, or the highest ranking company official working at that particular site.

7. Failing to fill in the correct year on the form. How many of us copy information from a previous year’s form, but do not check the upper corner?

On November 7, 2013 OSHA issued a proposed rule to improve workplace safety and health through improved tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses. This proposed rule does not, according to OSHA, add any new requirements to keep records; it only modifies an employer's obligation to transmit these records to OSHA.

Based on the actions that seem to be inevitable, we should all try and minimize the mistakes that occur on these forms.
Risk Assessment Survey: Due 1/29

The ASSE Risk Assessment Institute is seeking information to better understand ASSE members' involvement in the risk assessment process and how well it is understood and valued by the business community. With the management of risk becoming an ever more important business responsibility, the Institute is interested in understanding how occupational safety and health professionals are actively and collectively improving their risk assessment skills. Your feedback is important, and will help direct the path forward for institute offerings.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Please complete the survey below by January 29th.

CONGRATULATIONS

In 2013, these Region II members reached significant years of ASSE membership and service. We thank them for their continued support of the Society and the SH&E profession.

- 40 Years -
Len E. Bower, Arizona
Roland E. De Rose, New Mexico
Garry E. Mosier, Arizona
Larry D. Taylor, Arizona
Stanley A. Thielke, Colorado

- 25 Years -
David L. Bellmont, Arizona
Edwin C. Brodka, New Mexico
James A. Cagle, Craters of the Moon
Gary D. Campbell, Arizona
Debra L. Crooks, Southern Arizona
Jeanne E. Fallon-Carine, Sierra Nevada
Paul W. Fickenscher, Colorado
Kent Harvey, Rocky Mountain
Mary Ann Heaney, Rocky Mountain
Timothy E. Jones, Southern Nevada
David G. Klemm, Utah
John J. Klobchar, Southern Nevada
Charles S. Knowles, Arizona
John R. Peleaux, Southern Colorado
Clifford P. Shields, Arizona
Larry D. Tinker, Arizona
Steven J. Tusa, Arizona
Steven A. Van Dusen, Utah
Roger A. Voge, Southern Nevada

On Jan. 7, the OSHA Phoenix Area Office and local stakeholders unveiled two billboards highlighting OSHA’s Campaign to Prevent Fatal Falls in Construction just in time for the Phoenix construction building season. The unveiling was attended by Phoenix Vice Mayor Bill Gates, ACCOSH representative Jeremy Bethancourt, Area Director for the Phoenix OSHA office Zachary Barnett and representatives from the Arizona Chapter