



# Bronze Level Chapter



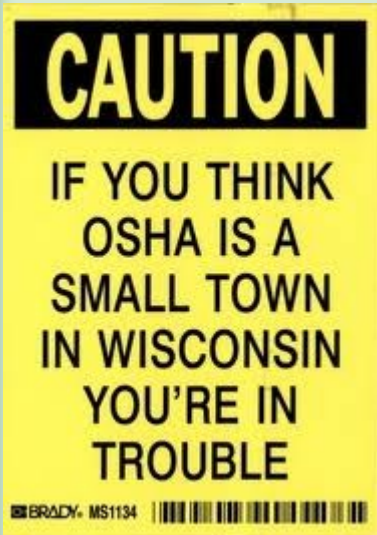
ASSE Chapter Recognition  
2012-2013

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# THINK SAFETY FIRST



## The Presidents Corner ...

By: John A. Monson



Welcome Back!

I hope you are enjoying the summer. September is only a few weeks away and that means our chapter September kick off meeting is just around the corner. In keeping with tradition, our September meeting topic will be an "OSHA Update" covering what is new locally and nationally with OSHA. Mike Scime, the new OSHA Buffalo Area Director and the OSHA Buffalo Area Compliance Assistance Specialist, Gordon Deleys, will be our presenters for the meeting. We look forward to what Mike and Gordon have to say.

The late spring and early summer were a busy time for our chapter board. Over the past few months the board members have completed and submitted our required national society required reports, financials, and planning documents. Our chapter delegate, Roni Brown, attended the June delegates meeting in Orlando. At the meeting she cast the chapters vote on the society governance change and presented our chapter's donation to the ASSE Foundation. The board also met and planned out the 2014-2015 meeting and event calendar.

The board and I are looking forward to another great year of ASSE. Our main chapter and construction section fall schedule is complete but we are always looking for member feedback and ideas. If you have a meeting topic idea for the spring calendar, please drop me an e-mail.

We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting. Watch our website for meeting details and times.

Regards,

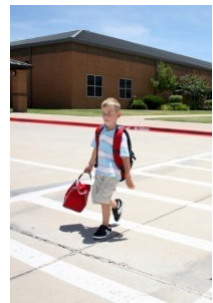
John  
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## School's Open – Drive Carefully

Every fall, over 55 million children across the United States head back to school. With 13 percent of those children typically walking or biking to their classes, AAA warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians before and after school hours. The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous – over the last decade, nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Launched in 1946, AAA's School's Open – Drive Carefully awareness campaign was created as a way to help reduce child pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Here are several recommendations from AAA regarding ways drivers can help to keep kids safe:

**Slow down.** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.



- **Come to a complete stop.** Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- **Eliminate distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. And children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.
- **Reverse responsibly.** Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.

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**School's Open – Drive Carefully**

(Continued from page 1)

**Watch for bicycles.** Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride. Find videos, expert advice and safety tips at [ShareTheRoad.AAA.com](http://ShareTheRoad.AAA.com).

**Talk to your teen.** Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and nearly one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at [TeenDriving.AAA.com](http://TeenDriving.AAA.com)



**Things that make you go  
HMMMMM!**

**We want to hear from you!**

If you have an interesting article or any safety info,  
Please feel free to send it to me at  
[newsletter@nfasse.com](mailto:newsletter@nfasse.com),  
and I will see that it is published in the next  
NFCASSE news letter.

Thanks,  
Chris



## A Different Type of Hot Pocket®

Karen Peissinger-Venhaus, R.P.I.H.  
 Sr. Industrial Hygienist / EHS Coordinator  
 Watts Architecture & Engineering

### **Blogger Profile – Karen Peissinger-Venhaus, Senior Industrial Hygienist**



Recently, a Watts staffer received an email from an acquaintance on a hot topic. The email’s author had experienced something rather disconcerting—his pants pocket was so hot he thought it might catch on fire! He reached in and pulled out a 9-volt battery and a very hot coin.

This story sounds like a hoax email discussed on [Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com). But, it turns out this is something that is well-known among those in the electronics and electrical fields. As a matter of fact, Duracell batteries have a warning in very small print that cautions against carrying batteries in a pocket due to potential for burns.

The problem with 9-volt batteries is that the positive and negative terminals are close together on the same side of 9-volt batteries. Because of this, there is an increased chance for metal objects to contact both terminals. This causes a short circuit of the battery, which can generate significant heat. For consumers, this may come as a surprise, just like it did for Mr. Hot Pocket!

When storing or disposing old 9-volt batteries for recycling, there is a simple precaution to take. Place a piece of electrical tape firmly over the terminals to prevent shorting of the battery. This way the bare metal of the terminal will not be exposed and shorting should not occur.

#### Side Bar

*In 2012, the New Hampshire Department of Safety Division of Fire Safety issued a [press release](#) stating that 9-volt batteries caused a fire in a junk drawer of a home. Apparently the batteries were loose in the drawer, contacted some metal which became warm and ignited something flammable in the drawer.*



**CS = Construction Section Meeting**

Date	Topic	Location	Time
09/15/14	OSHA Up-Date	Crazy Jakes	Dinner
09/18/14	CS- Construction activities at Industrial / Commercial facilities - Risk Management and PSM.)- lunch	Old Country Buffet	Lunch



## The NIOSH-Approved Holiday, N95 Day!



*95 Day is a time to recognize the importance of respiratory protection in the workplace and familiarize yourself with the resources available to help you make educated decisions when selecting and wearing a respirator.*

*Information Updated 8/14/2014*

NIOSH is getting excited! September 5 is just around the bend, and that means so is one of our favorite holidays – N95 Day! Once again we will be reaching out through our social media channels to bring you the best N95 filtering facepiece respirator information. There will be several ways for you to partake in the celebration, including a NIOSH Twitter chat, webinar, new infographics, and more! We know that life is busy. Work is even busier. If N95s are part of your workplace respiratory protection program, please take some time on September 5 to focus on your safety and get to know NIOSH and the resources we provide.

## NIOSH Twitter Chat

NIOSH respiratory protection experts are practicing their words per minute typing speed! This forum is an opportunity to ask all your N95 respirator questions. **@NIOSH** and **@NPPTL** will focus on best practices when using N95 respirators. This is a non-industry specific chat, so we hope to hear from representatives across all types of N95-using workplaces.

**Join us at 2:00 p.m. EST. We will be using the hashtag: #N95Chat for this Twitter chat.** The best way to tune into this chat is by typing #N95Chat into your Twitter search box. Leading the discussion will be the Director of the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, Dr. Maryann D'Alessandro.

## Webinar

This year, the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, the [Total Worker Health](#) group, and the Health Effects Laboratory Division are teaming up to focus on an important message that every N95 user and respiratory protection program administrator should always keep in mind– **respirator preparedness is about proper practices every day**. This N95 Day webinar will focus specifically on the healthcare industry. A panel of three NIOSH experts will talk about their individual research involving N95 respirators and how that research is important to respiratory protection programs and, ultimately, the N95 users in healthcare.

For more detailed information and to **register**, go to our N95 Day 2014 Webinar page: [Respirator Preparedness in Healthcare: Where Technology Meets Good Practices](#)

As a refresher, check out the N95 Day articles on the NIOSH Blog from the last two years. These blog posts highlight the spirit of the day, encouraging users everywhere to familiarize themselves with the N95 literature and guidelines available from NIOSH:

N95 Day 2012: <http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2012/09/05/n95day/>

N95 Day 2013: <http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2013/09/05/n95-day-2013/>

We hope respirator users will look forward to the festivities as we tout our N95 resources through the channels of Facebook, Twitter, and the NIOSH blog once again. To take part in the day, mark N95 Day on your calendar for September 5th and keep an eye on your social media.

Follow us **@NPPTL** and **@NIOSH** on twitter (**#N95Day**) and as well as on the NIOSH facebook page.

# OSHA Regional News Release

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Public Affairs**

**Region 2**

Region 2 News Release: 14-1383-NEW/BOS 2014-130

July 31, 2014

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**Explosion at Tonawanda Coke Corp. results in serious safety violations and  
\$161,100 in US Department of Labor OSHA fines**  
*Permanent, temporary workers exposed to preventable fire, chemical, mechanical hazards*

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** – Tonawanda Coke Corp. and Kirchner LLC face a total of \$161,100 in fines from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration following an explosion that occurred Jan. 31, 2014, at the 3875 River Road plant in Tonawanda. The explosion collapsed brick walls, damaged electrical equipment and injured two permanent plant employees and one temporary employee.

The explosion was caused by an overpressured coke oven manifold, which released coke oven gas in an enclosed area where it ignited. The flare stack, used to burn off excess coke oven gas, failed. OSHA determined that this exposed Tonawanda Coke employees to asphyxiation from the release of gas, and explosion and fire hazards. OSHA concluded that the company failed to inspect and maintain safety systems properly to ensure their effectiveness.

"Had this company taken proper precautions and ensured that safety systems were working, this explosion would not have occurred. Equally disturbing, however, are the additional, preventable hazards the employer allowed at the plant," said Michael Scime, OSHA's area director in Buffalo. "These conditions exposed workers to potential amputations, falls, crushing injuries, injury by unexpectedly activated machinery and an inability to exit the workplace swiftly if fire, explosions or other emergencies arose."

The additional hazards included missing guardrails; obstructed [emergency exit routes](#)\* and a defective exit door; failure to [lockout](#)\* machines' power sources before performing maintenance; use of uninspected cranes, [lifting ropes](#) and unguarded saws; improperly stored oxygen cylinders; and failure to determine employees' levels of exposure to the hazardous substance hexavalent [chromium](#)\* and training them about its hazards.

These conditions resulted in the issuance of 15 serious violations with \$90,100 in fines. OSHA issues serious citations when death or serious physical harm could result from hazards about which the employer knew or should have known.

The company was issued two repeat violations, with \$70,000 in fines, for recurring hazards, failing to train employees in lockout procedures and not certifying inspections of lockout procedures. OSHA had cited Tonawanda Coke for similar hazards in October 2010. The company was fined \$1,000 for failing to provide voltage markings on electrical equipment.

The citations may be viewed [here](#)\*.

Tonawanda Coke produces foundry coke, a coal byproduct. Kirchner LLC is a company that provides temporary workers. The companies have 15 business days from receipt of their citations and proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint or report workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Buffalo Area Office at 716-551-3053.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.