

May 2010

# Southern Oregon

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS Chapter

## Safety is Good <sup>for</sup> Business

By Travis Christian

At Adroit Construction, safety is not just a word or an idea. In fact, I would argue it is even more than our “culture.” Safety is a sum of all our parts. Safety has become part of our makeup, our company DNA. Do we win every battle?...No! But you can certainly count on us in the fight! In fact our goal is ZERO injuries, plain and simple.

Please don't ever think of Adroit Construction as anything other than a schedule driven, production oriented, win at all costs company, because that is truly who we are. That being said, you can see the challenge that confronts us on an everyday basis. You might think at the forefront of every battle you will find Jeff Smith, Safety Director at Adroit; however at the true heart of every battle you will find every single Adroit employee. To reference an old cliché, “we are only as strong as our weakest link!”

Many companies rely on the standard lagging indicators to measure the success of their safety program, i.e. recordable injuries, time loss days, and restricted/light duty days. Although I certainly pay attention to the above mentioned indicators, in my opinion there are only two ways to truly measure the success of our safety program.

The first measure I rely on is owner buy in. Both Bob Mayers and Steve Lawrence (owners of Adroit) have an unwavering commitment to the safety of their employees. Not only are they committed with their pocket books they are committed with their time, energy, and values. It is not just about them posting rules. It is their attitude towards the rules. Bob and Steve founded our programs based on a simple principle. Safety rules are never going to be good enough unless we approach them with the attitude that they are important - not because they are rules, but because they are right.



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For more ASSE information, visit our web site at:  
<http://www.asse-southernoregon.org>

# Southern Oregon Chapter Meeting

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**Date/Time: Tuesday, May 4th, 2010 (No-host lunch)**

*Executive Committee 10:30 am; Regular Meeting 11:30 –1:00 pm*

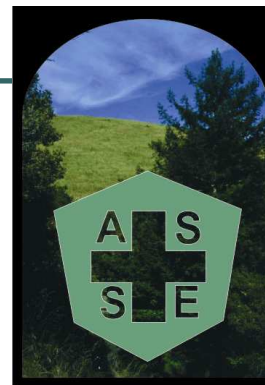
**\*\*Chapter Elections to be held at May 4th Meeting\*\***

**Location:** Black Bear Diner

1150 E. Barnett Road- just east of the South I-5 exit (Exit 27)- Medford

*Membership is not required to attend the meetings. First time attendees receive a free lunch.*

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## May Hot Topic: Appreciating the Safety Professional

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Our May 4th meeting will be a panel discussion titled "Appreciating the Safety Professional." Our panelists will each talk about the difference that the safety professional(s) in their business make in the everyday lives of the workforce, and in the bottom line for the company. The main idea is to take questions from the audience, and learn the differences and similarities among the industries represented. Our panel will include:

**Mr. Travis Christian, Business Manager, Adroit Construction Co., Inc.**

*Travis Christian is the Business Manager for Adroit Construction. He is a 1998 graduate of Lewis and Clark College (Portland, Oregon) with degrees in Business and Communications. He is currently on the executive boards of Ashland Rotary, Ashland Community Support Foundation, and the Rogue Community College OBC (Oregon Building Congress).*



**Ms. Carrie Holmes-Stanton, Vice President of Quality Control, Pacific Crest Transformer**

**Mr. Chris Lawrence, Southern Oregon Regional Safety Manager, Knife River Materials**

*Chris manages a staff of safety professionals who have made a solid impact in developing a strong safety culture in their area of operations. Knife River Materials, a company committed to safety, places a great deal of confidence in its safety personnel to facilitate a safety mindset in all of its workforce. Chris has over 15 years of safety experience and managing safety personnel for more than half that time, he has come to understand the value of safety champions in organizations and knows their presence makes a difference.*

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## Safety is Good for Business– continued from Page 1

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The second indicator I rely on is the trust of our employees and their families. A great deal can be learned from peace of mind. At Adroit our employees' well being is our duty. We don't want our employees or their families to think that accidents just happen to other people. We must realize that we are "the other guy!" Accidents happen to people who do things in an unsafe manner, or those who use unsafe equipment, or those who are around someone else who thinks that safety is not important. We want to form the habit of thinking that we must do the right thing in order to protect ourselves and those around us. This thought process is the cornerstone for developing the trust of our employees.

Finally, I need to recognize Jeff Smith, Safety Director here at Adroit Construction. In my professional career I have garnered many lessons and been touched by many people. However it is important to note that none have reached me like Jeff Smith. Jeff brings dignity, professionalism, honesty, and more importantly integrity to the position of Safety Director. His passion and determination are unmatched in our Valley and perhaps even our State. Jeff was groomed on the production side of construction; thus bringing a unique knowledge to any jobsite. On a personal note, unfortunately for me I lost my father at a young age, and although I miss him dearly, I miss his guidance far more. In Jeff Smith I not only have a co-worker and friend, but I sincerely have a mentor. I speak for every employee at Adroit when I say thank you Jeff.

*Travis Christian is the Business Manager for Adroit Construction. Please see bio above.*



## Chapter News

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### Vote for Board Positions at May 4th Meeting

Here is the slate of candidates for the ASSE Board elections in May. New officers will start their terms on July 1, 2010. Members will vote at our May 4 meeting.

*Officer's Name:* President- Chris Lawrence  
*Officer's Name:* Vice President- Jim McNeil  
*Officer's Name:* Past President- Bob Calkins  
*Officer's Name:* Treasurer- Curt Charley  
*Officer's Name:* Secretary- Mike Hill  
*Officer's Name:* Membership Chair- Julie Wheeler  
*Officer's Name:* Conference Chair- Connie Gibbs  
*Officer's Name:* Scholarship Chair - Jared Hill  
*Officer's Name:* Program Chair- Heather Grogan  
*Officer's Name:* Government Affairs- Chair Tom Bieber  
*Officer's Name:* Communications- Chair Mary Hoskins  
*Officer's Name:* Stars Chair- Susan Riehlman  
*Officer's Name:* CoPs Coordinator- Debbie Dill

"If you have questions, feel free to contact President Bob Calkins or Past-President Jeff Smith. (See page 11 of this newsletter for contact information.)"

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## Scholarship Opportunities

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The Executive Team of ASSE Southern Oregon Chapter would like to introduce the application form for scholarship opportunities for Southern Oregon Chapter Members, available on our website at

<http://www.asse-southernoregon.org>

Please take time to review the application. It can be filled out on line and submitted via the internet to [jhill@asante.org](mailto:jhill@asante.org) or it can be printed out and submitted at an ASSE meeting or through the mail. Those wishing to mail in the application can send it to Asante Work Health, attn: Jared Hill, 781 Black Oak Drive, Suite 102, Medford Oregon, 97524. All scholarship applications must be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be considered and announced at the July ASSE monthly meeting.



If you have any questions or need clarification on the requirements for submission, please contact Jared Hill by email at [jhill@asante.org](mailto:jhill@asante.org) or by phone. at 541-789-5815. Also, if you are aware of anyone that would benefit from the opportunity for an ASSE scholarship, please let a member of the ASSE Executive team know.



## Employers to Celebrate Safety Break for Oregon May 12

*Employee involvement key to workplace safety*

Employers across Oregon are encouraged to celebrate workplace safety and health with award programs, trainings and other special events during the eighth-annual Safety Break for Oregon on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Oregon OSHA coordinates the one-day event, designed to raise awareness and promote the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. The voluntary event, which occurs on the second Wednesday in May, is designed to be flexible to meet an employer's safety and health program needs.

The theme for this year's event "Shine a Light on Safety," encourages employees and management to work together on safety and health concerns. The result of this cooperation can lead to fewer injuries and reduced workers' compensation costs for employers.

Companies planning to participate are encouraged to sign up online. For ideas on hosting an event, to download graphics, or for more information, go the Safety Break for Oregon Web site at [www.orosha.org/subjects/safetybreak.html](http://www.orosha.org/subjects/safetybreak.html).

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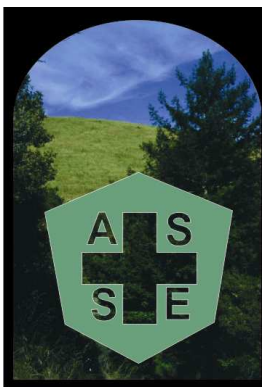
## CHILDREN'S POSTER CONTEST – Safety Break for Oregon

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To promote safety awareness and support OSHA's annual "Safety Break for Oregon" on May 12, 2010, our chapter is again sponsoring a poster contest for children, ages 5 – 12.

This year's Safety Break theme is "Shine a Light on Safety." Children are encouraged to be creative and interpret the theme for themselves – for ideas, they may want to look at NAOSH poster contest winners at [www.asse.org/naosh09](http://www.asse.org/naosh09)

We will have entry forms at the April 6 ASSE meeting. You may also contact Mary Hoskins at SAIF (541-857-4227) for entry forms. Posters will be accepted at SAIF, 990 North Phoenix Road, #101, Medford, until 5 PM, April 30, 2010. Prize winners will be announced on May 4, and their posters will be used in our region to publicize Safety Break and educate people about occupational safety. Prizes will include quality art supplies and special gifts from local employers.



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## More Chapter News

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### **REGIONAL OPERATING COUNCIL (ROC) COMING TO SOUTHERN OREGON IN AUGUST 2010**

ASSE's Region #1 encompasses Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, and Washington. August 30 and 31, 2010, the Southern Oregon Chapter will be hosting leaders from the entire region for the fall ROC meeting. A committee, chaired by Past-President Connie Gibbs, is helping plan the multiple-day event, which will include meals and regional activities in addition to business meetings. Our chapter hopes to host at least one meal or event to which all members will be invited – it will be a rare opportunity to meet safety, health and environmental professionals from diverse backgrounds and a large geographical area. If you have ideas about venues or activities that will showcase southern Oregon, feel free to contact any Board member.



# NAOSH 2010

MISSION NAOSH 2010: SAFE WORKPLACES



NAOSH Week is May 2-8, 2010

## WHAT IS NAOSH WEEK?

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, or NAOSH Week, occurs every year during the first full week of May. NAOSH Week is intended to raise awareness about occupational safety, health and the environment. The [American Society of Safety Engineers \(ASSE\)](#) joined with the [Canadian Society of Safety Engineering \(CSSE\)](#) in 2002 to raise the public's awareness of occupational safety, health and the environment in North America during NAOSH Week. This is just one tool the almost 100-year-old ASSE and its 32,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members use throughout the year to promote occupational safety aimed at preventing injuries and illnesses. Several organizations representing thousands of businesses have partnered with ASSE and CSSE to support NAOSH Week, including U.S. federal agencies such as the Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) to reach millions of people around the globe on the importance of being safe at work.

Each year ASSE urges everyone to get involved in NAOSH Week in an effort to better educate the public about the positive benefits a safe workplace provides not only for workers, but for their families, friends, businesses, their local community and the global community. In 2008 close to 6,000 people lost their lives from on-the-job injuries and never made it home. We'd like to move that number to 0.

**HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO & we urge you to review the list of 2009 activities and events for additional ideas:**

- Sponsor a poster contest for your employees' children and create a Safety Calendar for your staff and clients
- Host a Family Safety Fair or picnic for your company and their families;
- Launch a recognition program for safety suggestions that are put into use or enhance ongoing health and safety practices.
- Conduct an Open House that focuses on health and safety. Involve suppliers. Invite local dignitaries, clients and colleagues.
- Conduct training sessions for employees
- Do local news releases on being safe at work tips for your local media (info. can be found on [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org))
- Set up specific safety demonstrations, focused on safe work habits
- Launch a "New Worker" Orientation Manual
- Promote NAOSH Week through articles in your company newsletter
- Insert NAOSH Week messages in correspondence, memorandums, e-mail messages to staff
- Display the free NAOSH Week poster in offices, on bulletin boards, at work stations
- Use NAOSH Week pens, safety whistles, etc as awards for safety achievements!

For more ideas go to: [www.asse.org/naosh10](http://www.asse.org/naosh10)

# ASK AN EXPERT

Your safety-related questions answered by subject matter experts

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**Q:** Material handling equipment for construction, and forklifts in general industry have OSHA rules that require seat belts to be installed in the equipment, but I can't find where it requires the belts to be worn by the operator.

**A:** According to several sources contacted at Oregon OSHA, that may look to be an oversight at first. The rules regarding seat belt use are generally in the operator's manual furnished by the manufacturer of the equipment. The training for forklifts and many other types of equipment, require that the operator be taught "...other instructions, warnings, or precautions listed in the operators manual..." Operators not using the seat belt demonstrate that they have not read or understood the operator's manual.

A second rule that applies is 1926.95 in Construction and 1910.132 in General Industry which says Personal Protective Equipment "...shall be provided, used, and maintained..." Most of us would readily agree that a seat belt is a form of PPE.

**Q:** My optometrist told me that my prescription glasses have safety lenses, will they work as safety glasses on the job?

**A:** Maybe! Recently an optometrist told me that most glass lenses in prescription glasses are a safety lens that merely keeps large shards of glass from splintering out of the lenses and getting in the eye if they are hit and fractured while being worn. However, for the job, prescription glasses with safety lenses may not meet the standards where safety glasses are required. True safety glasses for the workplace will most likely need to meet the Z87.1-2003 consensus standard. Prescription safe glasses that meet the Z87 specifications should have a way to identify them as true safety glasses that are acceptable in the workplace where a Z87 safety glass is required. In most cases with prescription safety glasses, the way to identify Z87 compliant glasses is by a manufacturer symbol on the lens. As an example, one manufacturer, AOSafety, will engrave their AO symbol into the lens. Provided the frames are correct and side shields are used, these glasses then are considered true safety glasses that meet the Z87 standards. So, when we are told that a worker is wearing prescription safety glasses, there must be a manufacturer symbol on the lens. Note, some makers even place the Z87 indicator on the frame as well.



Send your "Ask An Expert" questions to Mary Hoskins at: [marhos@saif.com](mailto:marhos@saif.com)

This month's expert answers provided by Jeff Smith and Chris Lawrence.

## Words of Wisdom:

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on. —Robert Frost

# Resources and Dates to Remember

## Fallen Oregon Workers to be Remembered April 28 Workers Memorial Day to be Observed

(Salem) – Honor and remember those lost to workplace accidents on the annual Workers Memorial Day. Oregon’s Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA), a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, invites all Oregonians to attend a noon ceremony on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The event will take place at the Fallen Workers Memorial outside the Labor and Industries Building on the Capitol Mall in Salem.



The annual Workers Memorial Day on April 28 serves as a nationwide day of remembrance. It recognizes the thousands of U.S. workers who die each year on the job, and the more than 1 million people in the United States who are injured each year while at work. The observance is held on April 28 because on that date in 1970, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

"There are still too many risks in the workplace, and many of the most dangerous are problems that we know how to fix," said Michael Wood, Oregon OSHA administrator. "Workers Memorial Day is a reminder that a death in the workplace is a story that is cut short, and each loss represents the loss of dreams for the future."



## **May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in Oregon**

*Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider. Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed May “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” in Oregon.*

Oregon is joining with other federal, state and local highway safety and law enforcement organizations in a nationwide campaign designed to raise awareness about sharing the road with motorcyclists. “With warmer weather coming, more motorcycles will be on the roads. Drivers of passenger vehicles need to be extra alert,” said Michele O’Leary, motorcycle safety program manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation. “Motorcycles are the smallest motor vehicles on the road so folks in other vehicles need to really look out for them—and to take extra care to safely ‘Share the Road’.” Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle drivers in the event of a crash.

In fact, per vehicle mile traveled in 2005, motorcyclists were 37 times more likely to die in a traffic crash than occupants in passenger vehicles according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. Oregon is a national leader in motorcycle safety education, program administration and licensing practices.

- Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane.
- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Remember that road conditions, which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles, pose major hazards to motorcyclists.
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Don’t tailgate.
- Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too, including following the rules of the roadway, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing protective gear.

# BE WELL-INFORMED, BE WELL

Helping you stay healthy, on and off the job

Provided by Pam Ahr



## April 16-23 is National Work Zone Awareness Week

This is a great time to sharpen your awareness of work zone safety. The following statistics indicate just how dangerous work zones in Oregon really are:

- In Oregon during the last 10 years, there's been an average of 466 work zone related crashes each year; an average of 18 work zone related serious injury crashes each year; and an average of 7 work zone fatal crashes each year.
- For 2009, preliminary estimates confirm eighteen work zone fatalities in Oregon. In 2008, the number of fatalities was five, while in 2007, there were ten.
- Nationally, in 2008 there were 720 fatalities in work zones. In 2007, there were 835 fatalities in work zones and, in 2006, there were 1,010 work zone fatalities.
- Nationally, on average, three work zone fatalities occur every day or about one every eight hours. In addition, an average of 160 work zone injuries occur every day - one every nine minutes.
- The situation is serious for both drivers and workers, but there are actually *far more drivers and their passengers killed and injured in roadway work zones in comparison to workers.*
- Highway construction is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States: *the risk of death is seven times higher for highway workers than for an average worker.*
- Work zone crashes tend to be more severe than other types of crashes.

## Government Affairs

### OSHA UPDATE: 1025 a - Radon Mitigation Standards

Requires Building Codes Structures Board and Residential and Manufactured Structures Board to adopt radon mitigation standards for certain new residential buildings and new public buildings; requires Real Estate Agency to develop information concerning radon in one and two family dwellings and to make information available to potential buyers of one and two family dwellings by specific date; declares emergency, effective on passage. *Enacted 03/24/2010 Chaptered. Chapter No. 83*



# Training Opportunities

## *Blue Mountain conference aims to improve workplace safety culture*

The conference, themed "What do you see in your safety mirror," will feature topics on auditing your safety program and safety leadership. New this year is a special track on agriculture safety. Improving the success of your organization's safety culture is the focus of the fourth annual Blue Mountain Occupational Safety and Health Conference. Scheduled for **June 9, 2010**, at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande. The conference is a joint effort of the Oregon SHARP Alliance (Safety and Health Recognition Program), Oregon OSHA, and a coalition of employers and employees from northeast Oregon. Register online at [www.regonline.com/blue\\_mountain10](http://www.regonline.com/blue_mountain10)



## **ASSE National Conference 2010-Safety 2010 – June 13-15, 2010**

Baltimore, Maryland [www.asse.org/education/expo10](http://www.asse.org/education/expo10)

# Employment Opportunities

A leading industrial coatings applicator is looking to fill the position of **Corporate Safety & Health Manager located in Medford, OR**. The primary responsibility of this position will be to ensure the safety of employees through the responsible management of the F.D. Thomas, Inc. Safety & Health Program.

**Salary/Benefits Information:** Competitive salary commensurate to experience. Excellent benefit package includes family health care insurance and a 401k plan.

**To Apply:** submit a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to Terra Wells via email at [terraw@fdthomas.com](mailto:terraw@fdthomas.com)

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010**

**President:** Bob Calkins, *City of Medford*– [Robert.Calkins@ci.medford.or.us](mailto:Robert.Calkins@ci.medford.or.us)

**Vice President:** Chris Lawrence, *LTM, Knife River*– [chris.lawrence@kniferiver.com](mailto:chris.lawrence@kniferiver.com)

**Past President:** Jeff Smith, *Adroit Construction*– [jeffs@adroitbuilt.com](mailto:jeffs@adroitbuilt.com)

**Secretary:** Michelle Robison, *Providence*, [michelle.robison@providence.org](mailto:michelle.robison@providence.org)

**Treasurer:** Jim McNeil, [jim\\_saramcneil@msn.com](mailto:jim_saramcneil@msn.com)

**Program Chair:** Heather Grogan, *Workers' Comp. Division*–  
[heather.f.grogan@state.or.us](mailto:heather.f.grogan@state.or.us)

**Conference Chair:** Debra Curran, *Providence Center for Occupational Health*–  
[Debra.Curran@providence.org](mailto:Debra.Curran@providence.org)

**Membership Chair:** Debbie Dill, *SAIF Corporation*–[debdil@saif.com](mailto:debdil@saif.com)

**Communications Chair:** Mary Hoskins, *SAIF Corporation*–[marhos@saif.com](mailto:marhos@saif.com)

**Scholarship Chair:** Jared Hill, *Asante*–[jhill@asante.org](mailto:jhill@asante.org)

**Government Affairs:** Tom Bieber, *Pacific Crest Transformers*,  
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