



Healthcare
Engineers
Society of
Northern
Illinois



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First Quarter 2013

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ASHE'S CHAD BEEBE EXPLAINS ADVOCACY INITIATIVES; URGES HESNI MEMBERS TO BECOME INVOLVED



(Left) Dave Dierking, HESNI President; with Chad Beebe, ASHE Director of Codes & Standards; and York Chan, HESN Treasurer



The Olson Center at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital was the site for the 1st Quarterly Meeting lunch and educational program.

More than 140 members and guests were on hand for our February 21 Quarterly Meeting to meet and hear **Chad E. Beebe**, ASHE's Director of Codes and Standards, talk about the society's recent advocacy initiatives. He also explained how codes are created and revised. The meeting took place 12:00 – 3:00 PM at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Chad covered various codes affecting healthcare facilities including those currently under review. They involved such areas as HVAC & humidity, required sprinkler systems, corridor width, and alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR). He also discussed how code organizations work together, and offered suggestions on how the process can be more inclusive and efficient.

“There needs to be a consensus process and we all need to be a part of it,” he said. He called on everyone to get involved in the whole process and add their voice to issues that will impact their healthcare organization. “Things in health care change way too much to sit around,” he warned. He described opportunities for individuals to voice their opinions online, for example, through websites of organizations like the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and others.

Chad Beebe, who resides in the Seattle, WA, area, is a registered architect, a Certified Fire Protection Specialist, a Certified Healthcare Facility Manager, and a Certified Building Official. He serves on many national panels and committees that develop regulations for the design and construction of health care facilities. He is a member of the HGRC Steering Committee and is a principal member of the Technical Correlating Committee for NFPA 99: Health Care Facilities Code.

We are grateful for Chad's visit with HESNI and thoughtful and informative presentation on Feb. 21. Thanks also must go out to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital for hosting this event and to each HESNI member who participated. Finally, we are especially grateful to our friends and meeting sponsors, Performance Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

HESNI's next Quarterly Meeting is tentatively planned for June 20, 2013. More information will be forthcoming in email and posted online at www.hesni.org.

HESNI TO OFFER CHSP PREPARATORY WORKSHOP & EXAM, APRIL 5-6



HESNI has planned a two-day workshop to prepare facility managers to take the exam for Certified Healthcare Safety Professional (CHSP). The workshop will take place Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, at the Doubletree Suites Hotel, 2111 Butterfield Road, in Downers Grove, Illinois. **George Mills, Director, Department of Engineering, The Joint Commission, and Bob Bartels, CHFM, CHSP, Safety Management Services, Inc.,** will conduct the workshop.

Space may be limited and preference will be given to healthcare facility managers who are members of HESNI. The cost will be \$25.00 per individual and will cover the workshop, handout material and continental breakfast and refreshment breaks both days. Attendees will be on their own for lunch. Participants who take the exam, which will be held on Saturday afternoon, will have to pay an application fee and exam-processing fee separately.

Register online or call 708.636.3604. For questions or more information, contact either **Lamar Davis**, or HESNI office at 708.636.5819.



Seminar presenter Bob Bartels

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SET FOR MAY 2-3



HESNI's Annual Conference returns to the Aramark Conference Center on Thursday and Friday, May 2ND and 3RD, with almost two full days of educational presentations, dozens of exhibits displaying products and services for healthcare facility management, a social get-together and other special events. We expect to have our line up of educational program topics soon. Registration is expected to open in early to mid-March. Full details will be emailed to members and posted online at www.hesni.org.

Members who wish to enter their company as an exhibitor may get information and an application online (you may use the HESNI sponsorship form to purchase exhibit space). Companies who have already become corporate sponsors (platinum, gold or silver) do not need to apply as Conference exhibit space is already reserved for them.

Please watch for further details and plan to attend the 2013 Annual Conference on May 2-3.

RACERS HEAT UP THE TRACK AT “HALF-FAST CUP” INDOOR RACE

Congratulations to our top three finalists in this year’s Indoor Race: **(1st Place) Kevin Heatter, (2nd Place) David Dastur, Jensen & Halstead, and (3rd Place) Mark Manalli, Belfor Property Management.** Our 5TH Annual Half-Fast Cup took place on Thursday, January 10TH, at the Chicago Indoor Racing track in Addison, Illinois. This year more than 30 competitors signed up for the race and an additional 28 registered as spectators. Everyone got through the competition without any (visible) bumps or bruises and spectators enjoyed watching the competitors enjoy themselves while speeding around the track. As usual, all three finalists received their trophies at the presentation held during the buffet after the races. Each racer also received a computer-generated report showing individual performance times in each race.

A special thanks go to **Allen Metcalfe** and **F.E. Moran Fire Protection**, which sponsored refreshments for the Indoor Race.



Vince Shanahan gives two thumbs up while speeding through lap 23.



Finalists in last race take a group photo.



Everyone enjoys social time and buffet after the race.



(Left) 1ST Place winner Kevin Heatter and 2ND Place winner David Dastur. (Missing is 3RD Place Winner Mark Manalli.)

ASHE UPDATE



Why become an ASHE member?

Sustainability Roadmap Helps Hospitals Cut through Hype

A useful website has been revamped to offer even more resources to help hospitals achieve their sustainability goals. The American Hospital Association's **Sustainability Roadmap** provides many real-world solutions for hospitals. It provides updated information, hands-on tools, and the ability for health care facilities to share their experiences of what works and what doesn't. The revamped Sustainability Roadmap was highlighted at the 2013 International Summit & Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design & Construction (PDC Summit) in San Francisco.

Life Safety Code Conflicts with ADA Standards on Wall Projections

ASHE members should be aware of a conflict between various standards regarding wall projections. NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code*® allows non-continuous projections from the walls up to 6 inches (15 cm) deep, provided that these projections are a minimum of 38 inches (96 cm) above the floor. This is a conflict with the U.S. Department of Justice's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, which only allow projections of 4 inches. ASHE is looking into this conflict and is working to determine whether it is more appropriate to seek a change in the *Life Safety Code* to go back to 4 inches, to seek a change in the ADA standards to move to 6 inches, or whether to seek an exception for hospitals. Let us know what you think about this issue and share your thoughts with ASHE members by visiting the ASHE Blog at www.ashe.org.

A Case Study for Safe Practices in Use of ABHR's in Hospitals

One Saturday morning, an 11-year-old girl in a Portland, Oregon, hospital was burned by a fire allegedly ignited by static electricity coming in contact with the girl's hands after using an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). No one witnessed the fire except the young girl. An initial investigation found no clear cause for the fire beside the hand sanitizer. The girl apparently used the sanitizer to clean her overbed table. It was reported that she had played with the bed sheets to create static electricity.

A follow-up investigation by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office later determined that an unusual combination of the ABHR, olive oil and static electricity likely caused the fire. At the time of the accident, the girl's shirt was reportedly saturated with olive oil and ABHR. Olive oil is sometimes in an EEG exam when patients are allergic to EEG gel remover.

As a result, the hospital is no longer suggesting the use of olive oil as a substitute. It is also reviewing its procedures for the placement and use of hand sanitizer to determine if any further safety precautions are needed. ASHE recommends that members review their facility's policies on the use of ABHRs to ensure that appropriate precautions (proper ventilation, locating hand rubs away from ignition sources, etc.) are being taken. Facility managers should also review patient access to ABHRs and inform staff of potential hazards associated with ABHRs. ASHE recommends that staff members should keep an eye on patients and visits to make sure ABHRs are being used only as intended.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR HEALTHCARE CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE WORKSHOPS



Registration is now open for **ASHE Healthcare Construction Certificate (HCC)** workshops being held in 2013. The workshop combines a prerequisite e-learning program and a two-day seminar focused on critical topics in health care construction. The workshops provide information on compliance issues and explain what owners, staff, and patients expect of constructors working in the health care environment. The 2013 workshops will be held in Orlando, Florida; Houston, Texas; Scottsdale, Arizona.; Williamsburg, Virginia.; Chicago, Illinois; and Boston, Massachusetts.

Registration is available online.

RESEARCHERS FIND LEAKAGE PROBLEMS WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE STERILIZERS

An investigation of hydrogen peroxide vapor leakage from hydrogen peroxide sterilizers was recently conducted in Japan in response to reports of eye and throat irritation from workers and even chemical indicator color changes before sterilization.

Four models of hydrogen peroxide (HP) gas sterilizers on the market were investigated. The existence of hydrogen peroxide in the proximity of each model was detected, although the concentration was different respectively. After exchanging the catalytic convertor to new one, the exhaust air showed a lower concentration of hydrogen peroxide less than 1ppm, but the concentration in the chamber just after opening the door at the end of sterilization process was shown to be approximately 80ppm.

The investigators measured the hydrogen peroxide concentration inside a sterilizer immediately after the end of the cycle, when people would be reaching in to remove the load, and found very high concentrations (13 ppm - 60 ppm) far above the OSHA PEL or 1 ppm (8 Hr TWA). They also found that the sterilizers sometimes emit high concentrations of hydrogen peroxide when they exhaust, even though it passes through a catalytic converter.

They also found that sterilized products continued to off-gas hydrogen peroxide after they had been removed from the sterilizer. Off gassing of sterilant gas is well known for ethylene oxide, but this study concluded that the same issue occurs with hydrogen peroxide as well. The investigation found that some plastic devices continued to emit hydrogen peroxide vapor for many days after sterilization and the amount and duration of emission varied with the plastic used.

These researchers think these results help explain the eye and throat irritation that led to this investigation. The study titled, “Problems on Hydrogen Peroxide Sterilisation – New Proposal for Safety and Effective Use,” was presented at the 2012 13th World Sterilization Congress held by the organization, World Forum for Hospital Sterile Supply (WFHSS) and Japanese Society of Medical Instrumentation (JSMI), in November in Japan.



BECOME A HESNI CORPORATE SPONSOR IN 2013

We thank the following companies who have either become new corporate sponsors or renewed their sponsorship for 2013. There are many benefits to becoming either a Platinum, Gold or Silver sponsor including automatic registration to the 2013 Annual Conference, Golf Outing, promotional presence at these events, and Affiliate Member dues renewal. For more information about sponsorship opportunities in HESNI and an application form, please visit the [HESNI website](#) or contact [Vince Shanahan](#).

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Kirsten Uzzardo
Bee Line

MEMBERS

Joseph Parrilli
Delnor Community Hospital

Alejandro Pina
Rush University Medical Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5-6, 2013
CHSP Preparatory Workshop
& Exam

Doubletree Suites Hotel
Downers Grove, Illinois

May 2-3, 2013
2013 Annual Conference
Aramark Conference Center
Downers Grove, Illinois

June 2, 2013
Annual Golf Outing
Ivanhoe Golf Club
Mundelein, Illinois

June 20, 2013
Second Quarterly Meeting
Location to be Determined

July 21-24, 2013
**ASHE Annual Conference
& Technical Exhibition**
Atlanta, Georgia



NEW, MORE HANDS-ON WEBSITE IN WORKS



The HESNI website will soon have a whole new look and functionality. More than its appearance will change, as members will be able to register for quarterly meetings and pay online for paid events while registering. They will also be able to purchase individual or package sponsorships, order exhibit conference space and access, renew and update their membership information. HESNI is working with StarChapter, an online management software company, to develop the new website. It will be tailored specifically to display and manage HESNI's meeting registrations, payments, membership records, public and private communications, reporting, and more with user-friendly administrative and reporting tools. The new site should be online and ready for use sometime in March. The web address should remain unchanged: www.hesni.org.