



The Newsletter of the Northern Delaware Section, DelMarVa Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Park Ridge, II. Vol. 5, NO. 4, July 2015

## Are You “Safety Selfish”?

BY: William A. Chomiszewski CHST, GSP

In today’s working world you constantly hear this phrase echoed throughout jobsites, manufacturing facilities, and even in your homes. It seems society is becoming lackadaisical in their everyday working and personal lives. This simple phrase also reflects an attitude which plagues companies with regard to safety and needs to end or there will be serious injuries or worse. The phrase is: **“IT’S NOT MY JOB.”**

Here is an example where I personally have heard this phrase used on the jobsite:

One day a craftsman came to me and explained how he just noticed a craftsman from a tree trimming company sleeping inside the inlet end of an industrial wood chipping machine. We both immediately went out to the jobsite of the tree trimming company and found the craftsman (out of the machine) busy trimming trees. I asked the craftsman who reported the situation, “Why didn’t you go and wake him up?” He said, “*It’s not my job to stop people from doing unsafe things, that’s Safety’s job.*” If the chipper was started not knowing the man was there, a life could have been

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## The Chairs Message:

I hope your summer season is off to a good start. Many of us historically take vacation from our jobs in the summer and many of those trips include visits to the beach. Summer brings many unique hazards such as excess sun, dehydration, and even the water itself. Sharks have been on some peoples mind lately with the onset of summer, especially at Delaware beaches. While sharks are generally mysterious and loaded with a multitude of razor sharp hazards in their mouths, there are other hazards in the water too; lately the Portuguese man of war. Similar to jelly-fish, the man of war is a more rare and dangerous creature with long tentacles – in some cases 50 ft. Exposure to its sting can be extremely painful, last days, and in rare cases cause anaphylactic reactions, the most severe of those being fatal. This first weekend in July brought some of these to Delaware beaches, specifically Delaware Seashore, Fenwick Island, and Cape Henlopen (Source: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/News/Pages/Beachgoers-cautioned-Division-of-Parks-and-Recreation-Natural-Resources-Police-on-contact-with-Portuguese-man-of-war.aspx>) .



Portuguese Man-of-War

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lost. I find it amazing how this phrase, and more importantly the attitude behind the phrase, causes so many problems and heartache for people. The truth is, *Safety is everyone's job, every day, on every jobsite.*



While the phrase “Safety is my responsibility” is true in part; it can easily lead people to focus only upon themselves. They start to think their responsibility begins and ends with their own safety and that responsibility doesn't extend to others. After all, if everyone looks out for themselves, no one will get hurt, right? Wrong! This narrow view of safety responsibility leads people to become what I call, “*Safety Selfish.*” Being *safety selfish* is focusing your safety efforts only around you. Instead, we need to constantly remind each other to look out for one another in this complex hazardous work environment we deal with every day. So the next time you tell someone that “*It is not your job*”, you may be unintentionally saying to them, you have no value for safety. You're in effect announcing you are *safety selfish*, and have no interest in protecting anyone but yourself.

If you feel you or your co-workers are placed in an unsafe situation, IT IS YOUR JOB to stop the job, contact your supervisor or safety resource, and work TOGETHER to find the proper controls necessary to complete your task without incident and injury. When a co-worker wants to take a short cut, IT IS YOUR JOB to stop that person and remind them of the potential incident or injury which may occur due to that short cut. We need to look out for each other at all levels within our companies to make sure we all understand that it is indeed our job to prevent incidents and injuries in the work place. As the saying goes “We are only as strong as our weakest link” and IT IS OUR JOB to make sure we are all trained and qualified to do our work as safely as possible and to stop a job whenever an unknown hazard becomes known or when an unsafe condition is present. It is OUR JOB to keep work areas clean, to report unsafe equipment and materials, and to assist each other in

recognizing hazards and working safely. It is OUR JOB to make sure we all go home to our loved ones without injury, so we can all enjoy the fruits of our hard work.



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## Fall Protection: The Value of a Checklist

James J. Calio CSP, FMA

It's well established that when it comes to Fall Protection, lifelines and harnesses are the norm. Even so, Fall Protection is the most cited O.S.H.A. violation and falls account for more than 36% of all construction deaths. So what's going on here? If you ask anyone who works at heights, the standard answer is something like, “I won't fall and besides I'm wearing a harness”. That's a very simple statement that reveals a complex problem. It's great that the worker recognizes that a fall is possible but do they really understand that an accidental fall can happen to anyone, even them? Isn't that why it's called an accident?

Accidents are unplanned events that sometimes lead to tragedy. Having the mindset that “it won't happen to me” prevents the worker from objectively analyzing what steps are necessary to not only prevent a fall but also to how to control the fall. By denying that a fall could happen, and then placing total confidence in a harness, a potential tragedy is compounded. After all, if you don't believe that you will fall, how much effort would you put into inspecting a fall prevention device? Have you ever passed a worker who is wearing fall protection only to see the lanyard dragging on the ground, cauliflowered or bleached white from time and weather? What would happen if that fall protection was ever needed? Does that worker know what to inspect, where to attach or how to get down from a fall? If a worker should fall, do they understand that time is critical to get them down? Is there a better way to review fall protection? On page 4 is an example of a Fall Protection Checklist. Please see page 4 for an example of a fall protection Checklist.

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## Calendar of Events for 2015

### INTRODUCING ERIN PATTERSON, THE NEW OSHA AREA DIRECTOR FOR DELAWARE,

Date: September 15, 2015

Time: 5:30 Networking and business, 6:00 PM Speaker

Location: TekSolv  
130 Executive Drive Suite 5  
Newark, DE 19702

Contact: Marcus Suhr at  
302-824-1695 (c)

Please send us your suggestion for topics you would like Ms. Patterson to address. Contact Marie Wright [mwright@worthandcompany.com](mailto:mwright@worthandcompany.com)

### ASSE/AIHA 4 HOUR JOINT SEMINAR

Date: October /November

Time: To be Determined

Location: To Be Determined

Topics and Speakers: To Be Determined

More to come on this event.

#### Call for speakers:

We are looking for speakers for our fall seminar jointly being planned with AIHA Delaware. We are particularly interested in global views of safety and health practitioners who are willing and prepared to present to a joint group of Safety, Health and Industrial hygiene professionals on topics of interest and importance.. Contact Marie Wright at [mwright@worthandcompany.com](mailto:mwright@worthandcompany.com).

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### It Rained on our Ball Game

Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> was the night of our joint social with the AIHA held at Frawley Stadium with the Blue Rocks playing the Potomac Nationals. A good time was being had by all than the skies opened up and everyone headed for cover. The game was called in the top of the third inning and was resumed on Friday night June 26<sup>th</sup> where the Blue Rocks won 6-4.

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## Pearson Honored as ASSE Fellow



**ASSE Honors Four Members as Fellows** - Four members—Richard King, a professional member of the Colorado Chapter; George Pearson, an emeritus professional member of the Delmarva Chapter; Bill Propes, a professional member of the Southwest Chapter; and R. Ronald Sokol, a professional members of the Gulf Coast Chapter—were honored as ASSE Fellow during Safety 2015 in Dallas, TX. ASSE Fellow is the Society’s highest distinction that recognizes a lifetime of commitment to worker safety and leadership in the OSH field.

George Pearson, CSP, ARM, now employed as a safety and occupational health consultant for Chemours Company is currently the Secretary for the Northern Delaware ASSE Section, DelMarVa Chapter, has operated his own consulting business, has applied his safety and health management expertise across a diverse set of industry sectors including integrated consumer products, chemical manufacturing, retail and telecommunications. “All the leaders with whom I interacted had a passion and a commitment to role modeling, mentorship, teaching and safety,” Pearson said. “They made it easy for me to incorporate those values into my professional DNA.”

Source: Society Update, ASSE 2015

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**The following is an example of a Fall Protection Checklist.**

- A. Have you been trained to understand Fall Prevention including the use and limitations of Fall Prevention Equipment? Y N
- B. Are all (lines, lanyard, harness and hardware) of this equipment in a regular maintenance and inspection program? Y N

**Anchorage Points**

- 1. Do you know the appropriate anchorage points for each task that requires a fall-arrest or restraint system? Y N
- 2. Are anchorage points independent of the working surface? Y N
- 3. Are the anchorages designed and approved for fall protection? Y N
- 4. If possible, can the anchorage point be located between the shoulder blades and slightly above the head? Y N
- 5. If continuous fall protection is required, please sketch out the tie-off locations on the back of this page. Y N
- 6. Will the first worker up and the last worker down be protected from a fall? Y N

**Lifelines**

- 7. Is the lifeline protected from chemicals, abrasive/sharp edges and temperature extremes? Y N
- 8. Has the fall protection system been reviewed and approved by a qualified person? Y N
- 9. Is the rope or cable free from signs of wear or abrasion? Y N

**Fall Arresters**

- 10. Is the fall arrester operational and compatible with the lifeline? Y N
- 11. Is the fall arrester equipped with a locking mechanism that prevents unintentional opening? Y N
- 12. Is the fall arrester's "up" position clearly marked for proper attachment? Y N

**Lanyards**

- 13. Is the lanyard length as short as possible? Y N
- 14. Are double locking snap hooks being used? Y N
- 15. Is the snap hook attached to the D-ring approved by the manufacturer? Y N
- 16. Are snap hooks arranged so that they are never attached to each other? Y N

**Other considerations**

- 17. Has free fall distance been considered including falling to a lower surface or object before arrest? Y N
- 18. Have pendulum swing hazards been considered / eliminated? Y N
- 19. Is all of the fall arrest equipment free of potential damage from welding, chemicals or abrasives? Y N
- 20. Are all components of the system compatible according to the manufacturer's instructions? Y N
- 21. Are all regular inspections performed by trained inspectors? Y N

**Fall Arrest System Rescue Plan**

- 22. Have you considered the fall distance traveled before the fall arrest system stops the fall? Y N
- 23. Is the selected lanyard the correct type (retractable preferred) for this fall arrest? Y N
- 24. If a retractable is not used, are Suspension Safety Straps attached to the harness? Y N
- 25. If a fall occurs, is the path clear of all obstructions? Y N
- 26. Can self-rescue be performed? Y N
- 27. If self-rescue cannot be performed, how will assistance be contacted? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who will make the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who will make the contact? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Can the rescue be performed quickly (15 minutes or less)? Y N
  - Can co-workers provide a ladder or similar devise for rescue? Y N

Note: All answers should be Yes. If any answer is No, consult Line Management and Safety before continuing.

User: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Portuguese Mann-of-War

They haven't been seen here in years so people may not be familiar with them. They travel in groups and are generally at the mercy of wind and currents. Some have reported they look like trash bags in the water, so be on the lookout and stay away. Even when dead their sting can still affect you. For those interested in sharks there is a shark tracker site here (<http://www.ocearch.org>). We still have to watch out for those at the beach too! Knowledge is power and safety knowledge is the power to avoid harm.

Marcus Suhr, MS, CSP, CHMM

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### New video highlights heat illness prevention



As temperatures rise across the country this summer, outdoor workers may find themselves at risk of serious heat illness. But workers can stay safe and healthy if employers remember three simple words: Water, Rest, and Shade. These are the pillars of OSHA's Campaign to Prevent Heat Illness in Outdoor Workers, now in its fourth year.

## OSHA issues temporary enforcement policy for confined spaces in construction



OSHA is instituting a 60-day temporary enforcement policy of its Confined Spaces in Construction standard. Full enforcement of the new standard, which goes into effect Aug. 3, is being postponed to Oct. 2 in response to requests for additional time to train and acquire the equipment necessary to comply with the new standard.

During this 60-day temporary enforcement period, OSHA will not issue citations to employers who make good faith efforts to comply with the new standard. Employers must be in compliance with either the training requirements of the new standard\* or the previous standard. Employers who fail to train their employees consistent with either of these two standards will be cited.

Factors that indicate employers are making good faith efforts to comply include: scheduling training for employees as required by the new standard; ordering the equipment necessary to comply with the new standard; and taking alternative measures to educate and protect employees from confined space hazards.

OSHA issued the Confined Spaces in Construction final rule on May 4, 2015. OSHA estimates that the rule could protect nearly 800 construction workers a year from serious injuries and reduce life-threatening hazards. For more information see [osha.gov](http://osha.gov).

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### New Video

OSHA's new video reminds employers and workers of the importance of acclimatization, recognizing on symptoms, and following best practices to prevent heat illness. The video is also available in Spanish. See [OSHA.gov](http://OSHA.gov).