Legality and Valley Fever Cases

October Meeting

Valley Fever is an illness that usually affects the lungs. It is caused by the fungus Coccidioides immitis that lives in soil in many parts of California. When soil containing the fungus is disturbed by digging, vehicles, or by the wind, the fungal spores get into the air. When people breathe the spores into their lungs, they may contract Valley Fever. There have been several cases recently where employees have filed claims for Valley Fever that they believe were exposed to the fungus while working for the Employer.

About our speakers:

Pilar Mitchell, Associate Attorney—Michael Sullivan & Associates LLP
Ms. Mitchell, Supervising Attorney in the Fresno office, manages the staff and cultivates client relations while overseeing all aspects of the firm’s workers’ compensation defense cases for the Central Valley WCAB. Ms. Mitchell received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas, School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu and speaks fluent Spanish!

Michael J. Gaston, Managing Partner of the Orange and Fresno offices, represents insurance carriers, self-insured employers and public entities in all aspects of workers’ compensation defense. Previously, as an Associate Attorney for the firm, he led and coordinated the closure of 40% of the workers’ comp cases for K-Mart/Sears that had been unresolved for as long as 15 years.

He began his legal career as a Paralegal in the Los Angeles office, responsible for conducting research and witness investigations, reviewing medical records, preparing petitions and facilitating the completion of discovery.

Before joining Michael Sullivan & Associates, Mr. Gaston was a Middle School Instructor, teaching algebra, history, language arts, religious studies and physical education for the Diocese of Orange. As a Nuclear Machinist’s Mate for the U.S. Navy, he was responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of steam plants on nuclear-powered submarines, served as an instructor for officers and enlisted men and supervised 25 sailors.

Mr. Gaston received his Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles in the two-year accelerated SCALE program. He received his undergraduate degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held from 7:00—8:45 AM on the first Wednesday of every month at Hodel’s Country Dining located at 5917 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield CA 93308. Breakfast is served for $12 per person (cash/check/credit/debit cards are accepted). The cost is only $5 for Student Members and Emeritus Members of ASSE.

Your RSVP is appreciated! Contact Fred Hrenchir at (661) 617-5286 to RSVP for the upcoming meeting.
You do not need to be a member of ASSE to attend these study groups and there is no fee or cost for this service. What a deal!

Professional Development Study Group

A group of safety professionals seeking certifications from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) meet at 5:30pm the second and fourth Mondays of each month to study. They meet at the California Safety Training Corporation (CSTC) Office [2130 Brundage Lane, Bakersfield].

Anyone can join the group at any time; this is a “go at your own pace” study group. The only purchases required are study materials and a calculator. Most participants are using TI-30XIIS.

We study from materials offered by SPAN International Training.

You can purchase the work books from: www.spansafetyworkshops.com

Call Mark Ruder or direct emails to rudermj@gmail.com if you have questions on which set of books you need to purchase.

BCSP TEST TIP: For those of you who are otherwise eligible to take the ASP exam but are waiting the required time, be aware that if you complete another BCSP certification, such as STS, OHST or CHST, the waiting period for the ASP is decreased.

Exam Fee Reimbursement

ASSE Bakersfield Chapter
Members are eligible for a Reimbursement Award equal to the Testing Fees for Professional Certifications. Applicants for this benefit must show proof of successful examination. Applicable certifications are generally limited to those promulgated by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. Some exceptions may apply.

The current BCSP exam fees are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Exam Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASP</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP via GSP</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHST</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHST</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STS and STSC</td>
<td>$185</td>
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<tr>
<td>CET</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the BCSP, visit: www.bcsp.org

Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board

The Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board (OSHSB) meeting is where California stakeholders can attend and be heard on issues relating to the current and future enforceable standards that exist to ensure the health and safety of California workers. For more information on the OSHSB, visit: www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb

Upcoming OSHSB meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notice &amp; Proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 02, 2015 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Harris State Building DOSH Training Room 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612</td>
<td>Definition of Repeat Violation Title 8, CCR Section 334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 09, 2015 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Harris State Building DOSH Training Room 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612</td>
<td>Abatement of Hazards Title 8, CCR Section 333 and 336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15, 2015 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>State Resources Building Auditorium 1416 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
<td>Confined Spaces in Construction Title 8, CCR New Sections 1950 through 1962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can view the agendas for past and future meetings here.

You can join the OSHSB mailing list by filling out this form and submitting by email at OSHSB@dir.ca.gov, by fax at (916)274-5743, or by mail to the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board at 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350, Sacramento, CA 95833.
Get involved with Bakersfield ChapterWISE!

The Bakersfield ChapterWISE group meets twice a month for Business & Event Planning (1st Wed. immediately after Chapter meeting) and Professional Development & Networking (2nd Tuesday @ 6pm). Everyone is welcome; women, men, ASSE members, WISE members and guests!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Business & Event Planning

8:45 – 9:45 AM @ Hodel’s Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93308

- October 7th
- November 4th
- December 2nd

Professional Development & Networking

6:00 –8:00 PM @ Worklogic HR, 4029 Coffee Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93308

- October 13th Topic: Upcoming charitable events in November and December
- November 10th Topic: Workplace First Aid Kits
- December 8th Topic: Christmas Party and 2016 Planning

For more information, please email your Bakersfield ChapterWISE representative:

Lisa Marriott-Smith lmarriottsmith@aerosenvi.com or join us on Facebook
Welcome New Members!

Although guests are always welcome, ASSE loves it when new members join. Here are a few recent members. If you see them at an ASSE meeting, please give them a friendly welcome.

Kenny Kenison—Taft College/The Cravins Corp
Joel Mena—Columbia Southern University
Josh Powell—Ensign Energy
Larry Kennedy—USA TRADOOC (Edwards)
Nicholas Kovacevich—CA Risk Mgmt. Authority
Gretchen Torrence—Tiger Cased Hole Services
Peter Van Der Zanden—Safety Mgmt. Systems
DeLynne Ano—RL Environmental, Inc.

A thank you to Steve Henslee and Kent McBride for sponsoring some of our new members!

CSUB Student Section

Now that the school year has begun, the CSUB Student Section would like to kick off the quarter by inviting everyone to their first meeting!

When: October 8th, 6:30 PM
Where: CSUB Campus
       Walter Stiern Library, Lower Level
       Studio A

During this meeting, the section will provide new members, and old members, a general overview of the club and their plans for the year. They will also have guest speakers from Aera Energy and Chevron speak about their internship experiences this past summer. Don’t miss this awesome chance to meet new members and network with your future employer! Dinner will be provided.

Please contact Carlie Fowler if you have questions or want to RSVP!

CSUB Student Section

Carlie Fowler and Kevin Carnahan at the CSUB Fall Quarter Club Fair Day, September 16, 2015.
A Look Into the Future: November Meeting

November 4th

Topic: Stop Meth Now
Speaker: Kern County Mental Health and the Kern Stop Meth Now Coalition

This presentation will encompass three primary themes: (1) the impact of methamphetamine on Kern County children, families, businesses, and services; (2) the efforts of Kern Stop Meth Now to reduce the impact of methamphetamine and other drugs on the community; and (3) the role of the County’s GATE team in providing assessment and treatment referrals to employees who are terminated due to their substance abuse problems.

“The OSHA Top 10 most frequently cited standards have hardly changed over the last two years.”

OHSA Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards of 2014

1. Fall Protection in construction
   o Not just roofing and framings contractors, but any leading edge work, ladders, scaffolds, unglazed windows

2. Hazard Communication
   o No written plan or not following plan

3. Scaffolding in construction
   o Levels miss-matched, planking not complete, guard rails missing or damaged, no inspections

4. Respiratory Protection
   o Failure to provide appropriate respirator for the activity

5. Powered Industrial Trucks
   (forklift, man basket, aerial lift, scissor lift)
   o Lack of operator training, failure to document training

6. Lock Out /Tag Out
   o Lack of hazardous energy control program, not following program, miss-applied control devices

7. Ladders in construction
   o Ladders not extended past landing 36”, stepladders used in ‘lean-to’ position, poor condition

8. Electrical wiring methods
   o Flexible cords used as permanent wiring, poor condition, exposed conductor

9. Machine Guarding
   o Guards removed or disabled, point of operation exposures, anchoring

10. Electrical general requirements
    o Open J-boxes, equipment panels removed / unguarded,

This list for 2014 varies only slightly from last year. Last year, the line-up was:

1. Fall Protection in construction
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding in construction
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Electrical wiring methods
6. Powered Industrial Trucks
7. Ladders in construction
8. Lock Out /Tag Out
9. Electrical general requirements
10. Machine Guarding

Mike “The Race Doctor” Moshier: Bakersfield Speedway

Longtime announcer Mike Moshier, known by all as “The Race Doctor” recently lost his battle with cancer. Mike was a huge part of the Bakersfield Speedway family and his presence will be greatly missed. Mike was a member of the Bakersfield Chapter of ASSE from 2004-2007.

See the Bakersfield Speedway report here.
**Taft College Student Section**

The Taft College Student Section successfully held their first student section meeting for the 2015-2016 school in September and their next meeting is scheduled for October:

**When:** October 21st at 6:00pm  
**Where:** Taft College  
**Who:** Speakers Chris Vochoska and Abigail Ryan.  
**Topic:** GHS

Contact Angelica Roquemore, Taft College Student Section President for more information.

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**Our student sections are in need of speakers for future meetings. If you are interested in speaking at a future student section meeting, please contact the appropriate student section president! See topics of interest and contact information on page 7.**

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**ASSE Professional Safety Journal**

Have you looked at ASSE’s Professional Safety journal lately? Have you looked at it online?

Full-issue PDFs of Professional Safety (from January 2005 forward) are now available to members through ASSE’s Members Only website. Each file contains interactive links to help members navigate through the file. Society has also included links to ASSE, regulatory agencies and other sources, and the journal’s advertisers. A reader simply needs to mouse over a link to be redirected.

Digital Subscribers can access the journal [here](#).

For more information about the Professional Safety journal, visit [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org)

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**Congratulations are in order: Professional Development**

Congratulations to Joey Rico (right) with Rain For Rent who recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®).

Congratulations to Steve Wittels (left) with Rain For Rent who recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®).

Congratulations to Tharold Dill III who recently completed the requirements to become a Construction Health and Safety Technician® (CHST®).

Chuck Cartwright with Arthur J. Gallagher & Company recently earned his Certified Risk Manager (CRM) designation through The National Alliance.

Josh Rose with Braun Electric has completed the requirements for an AS degree in Occupational Safety & Health from Columbia Southern University.

Congratulations for successfully advancing your professional development! Please let us know about your professional development successes too!
Join! Become a Member!

Wondering how you can join the Bakersfield Chapter of ASSE?
You can join by:
- visiting www.asse.org,
- mailing in an application form (available at the monthly meetings),
- Or by calling (847) 699-2929.

Are your friends safety pros too?
You can refer a friend by visiting:  http://www.asse.org/membership/refer/

Apply for ASSE Foundation Scholarships & Professional Education Grants

ASSE Foundation’s 2016 Scholarship Award and Professional Education Grant programs are now available to students pursuing degrees in OSH and to ASSE members and safety professionals working to advance their professional credentials. More than $275,000 will available through the programs this year. Applications for both academic scholarships and professional grants can be submitted online and will be accepted through December 1, 2015. Award recipients will be notified and announced on the Foundation’s website in April 2016.

Learn more on the ASSE Foundation website.

Out of Luck with Your Job Hunt?

With limitless opportunities tailored to the field of safety, as well as automated notifications when jobs become available that match your interests and qualifications, EH&S Jobs is THE first step you should take on your journey to a post-college career in safety! Click here to create an account with ASSE’s EH&S Jobs. There is NO COST for searching positions and posting resumes!

Access EH&S Jobs

The Chapter website serves not only as a great tool for members, but also as a great tool for anyone currently looking for work as, or looking to hire, a Safety Professional. See current job listings in the Chapter service area.

The Career Resources Center includes a new career resources website from ASSE. It includes training modules on topics such as resumes, cover letters, job boards, and interviewing. The Networking Partners Program is designed to pair job seekers with individuals that can help them network and search for job leads. Get started today!

Career Resource Center

Don’t let your membership expire!

If you are in a job loss/job transition and your membership is up for renewal, the Society has a bridging provision available. Don’t let your membership expire. For more information, contact Chris Vochoska.
August 28th Blood Drive a Success

On August 28, The Bakersfield Chapter of ASSE teamed up with Continental Labor & Staffing Resources for its first ever Blood Drive! Burgers and hot dogs were provided.

Thank you to the 35 people that came and supported the cause. We were able to collect 28 pints of blood for our community.

Special thanks to Luis Gonzalez and Veronica Munoz with RLH and Lynn Bishop for helping out. And a big thank you to all the ASSE members that supported. We couldn’t have made it a successful drive without you.

L to R Mark Ruder, Lynn Bishop, Harold Brown, Daniel Bustos, Veronica Munoz and Luis Gonzalez.

“The purpose of the Bakersfield Chapter of ASSE is to promote the advancement of the safety profession and safety professionals in the geographical area served (all of Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties).”

About ASSE

Founded in 1911, ASSE is the oldest and largest professional safety organization. With more than 37,000 members worldwide, ASSE is a global association of occupational safety, health (OSH) and environmental professionals that advances the interests of its members and the profession.

ASSE members create safer work environments by preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. Safer organizations enjoy increased productivity, higher employee satisfaction and a better reputation, while recording less lost time, and lower workers’ compensation and healthcare costs.

ASSE members are classified in one of six member categories: professional, member, associate, international, student and emeritus. Members also can participate in practice specialties, branches, common interest groups and local chapters.

Speak at a Student Section Meeting

Our student sections are always looking for speakers to present at their meetings. Whether it be at CSUB or Taft, there are eager students who want to learn about the following topics:

- Asbestos sampling
- Agricultural production safety
- Agricultural sanitation
- Behavior based safety
- Regulatory Compliance Overview
- Confined spaces
- Conveyor belt safety
- Crane safety
- Electrical Standards/Safety
- Excavations Fall protection
- Heat illness prevention
- Industrial trucks
- Ladder safety
- Lead monitoring
- Lock out tag out (LOTO)
- Machine guarding
- Office ergonomics
- Pinch points
- Scaffolding

Contact our CSUB and Taft student section presidents to learn more!

For comments or suggestions on ways we can improve this newsletter as a service to you, our members, please contact Paige Loya via email at paige.a.loya@gmail.com.