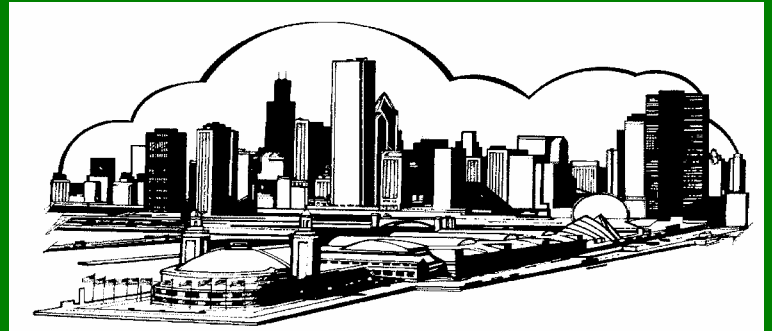




**AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
SAFETY
ENGINEERS**

**GREATER
CHICAGO
CHAPTER**



WWW.ASECHGO.ORG

March, 2004

March 9th Meeting

BIOTERRORISM

“The Dirty Dozen” and “Biological Weapons”

Speaker:

Marian F. Kelly is the Professor of Biology, Department of Natural Science at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights.



Presentation:

Marian will speak on “The Dirty Dozen” and “Biological Weapons”. “The Dirty Dozen” is a look at 12 microbes that have the potential use as agents of Bioterrorism. She will inform us on the characteristics that make these organisms so terrifying. Marian will also give us a brief history of “Biological Weapons”; the use of pathogens for hostile purposes and a review of the "Level I" microbes on today's "hot list."

Meeting Information:

Registration:	11:30am – 12:00pm
Luncheon:	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Presentation:	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Executive Committee Meeting:	2:00pm – 3:00pm

Location: Cucina Biagio's Restaurant {7500 W. Lawrence}

Directions: From downtown, take I-90 West (toward O'Hare) to the Harlem Avenue exit South. Go approximately 3 miles to Lawrence, turn West (right). Cucina Biagio's is on South (left) side of Lawrence.

Advanced Registration	\$20.00
At the Door	\$25.00
Retired Members	\$10.00

RSVP via e-vite or leave a voicemail message for Maribeth Anderson, O'Hare Airport at 773-894-7065. When leaving a voicemail message, please include a telephone number so that we have a call back number in the event we need to contact you for confirmation.

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RICIN: The Next Biological Terror Agent?

Ricin is a toxin found in the beans of the castor plant, *Ricinus communis*. Due to its worldwide availability, toxicity, and the ease of extracting the toxin, ricin is considered to be an easily accessible biological weapon. With the recent postal findings in a mailroom of a Senate office building, it appears that ricin is back in the news. The toxin has also been found recently in other mail related incidents, such as a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding changes in truckers work schedules.

Ricin is one of the residuals from the processing of castor beans to castor oil and can be found or made in several forms including a powder, pellet, mist, or dissolved in water or weak acids. Ricin is occasionally used for medicinal purposes including bone marrow transplants and to kill cancer cells. Accidental exposure to ricin is rare. Consuming, inhaling, or being directly injected with ricin, however, can poison humans. When injected, as little as 500 micrograms (0.5 milligrams) can be enough to kill an adult, however, if inhaled or swallowed, the amount required would be greater.

Our Visit From the Capitol City

The November 2003 Chapter meeting was a real treat, as our presence was graced by the Assistant Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration Office of System Safety. Mr. Christopher A. Hart presented the following topic to Chapter members: "Using Information Proactively to Improve Safety."

Mr. Hart reviewed the privately-operated Global Aviation Information Network (GAIN), which is a network of systems that collect and use aviation safety information. Additionally, Mr. Hart encouraged attendees to not only gather all available information related to potential incidents, he encouraged us to use that information (in a non-punitive way) to fix systems.

Mr. Hart's points were appreciated by all attendees. His PowerPoint presentation effectively illustrated how accidents result from a combination of events, rather than by random occurrences. He encouraged everyone to work with their organizations to proactively obtain information about each event, whether they lined up to produce an accident or not. Further, Mr. Hart provided examples in various industries (such as aviation and medical) where a system-wide view more effectively improves safety than a component-centric view.



It's not often that our Chapter is honored with a presenter who travels from another town at their own expense to make a difference in the world of safety. We appreciated his dedication and wisdom, and anyone interested in learning about GAIN can log on to the following website: www.gainweb.org.

Governmental Affairs Updates

We currently email all governmental affairs updates. Please contact Leslie Batterson at lbatterson@saralee.com if you would like to be added to our email distribution or call Leslie at (312) 558-8411 if you'd like hard copies mailed to you.

ASSE 2004 National Elections

The candidates for the 2004 ASSE National Elections were included in the February issue of Professional Safety Magazine. Ballots were mailed out on March 1st and are due back to ASSE by April 1st. Please go to the asse.org web site to read each candidate's biography and platform statement.

Rich Moscato, past president of the Greater Chicago Chapter and currently on our Executive Committee, is a candidate for Vice President - Finance. The other candidate is Dick Nugent.Please be sure to vote.

RICIN

(Continued from page 2)

When ricin enters the body, it prevents the cells from creating necessary proteins, which causes the cells to die, and may result in death.

Symptoms of poisoning usually occur within hours but vary depending upon the method and dose of exposure.

Symptoms from inhalation may include fever, cough, nausea, and respiratory distress.

Symptoms of ingestion may include severe bloody diarrhea, vomiting, severe dehydration, low blood pressure, seizures, hallucinations, blood in urine, and organ failure. Ricin poisoning cannot be transmitted from person to person, in other words, it is not contagious through normal human contact.

Currently, no antidote is available for ricin poisoning.

BTOX Analytical, a division of Aerotech Laboratories, Inc. can accept environmental samples for Ricin.

For more information, please contact BTOX at 800.651.4802, ext. 1023 or email sales@btoxlabs.com.

Generational Synergy at the Grassroots Level

We were pleased to have Carla Rea, Manager of Chapter Services for the American Society of Safety Engineers, present to the group in January on Generational Synergy. For those who missed the meeting, it was fabulous.

Carla began by reviewing why we look at Generations, only to discover, that with the aging workforce and changing dynamics of the workplace we will have five generations in the workplace in the next couple of years. This creates a diversity challenge for all generations. Two interesting statistics were: 1) By 2008, the U.S. economy will have 161 million jobs for 155 million workers and 2) The supply of skilled labor in the U.S. will not catch up to the demand until 2050. In the safety field, this is a startling phenomenon. It creates two new extremes into your already complicated training and motivating strategy by increased difficulty getting the younger generation into the “traditional” workplace and getting the older workforce to learn anything new.

The presentation relayed four overall views in comparing the five generations of lifestyles, social values, motivations and volunteerism. The Generations identified; Preboomer, Boomer, Cusper, Buster and Nester have been studied and reviewed. A review of each generation was given at the presentation.

Winner of the 2003 “Safety-on-the-Job Kids” Poster Contest was Jerome Rhodes-Son of Linda Rhodes-Greater Chicago ASSE Delegate



Welcome New Local Chapter Member

The ASSE Greater Chicago Chapter would like to welcome our recent new members:

- Mary E. Abbatacola
- Andy Trader

As a new member, we would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming meetings.

As we continue to bring new and interesting topics to our membership, your input is valued.

If your schedule prohibits you from attending meetings, please contact a board member and let us know your ideas.

ASSE Website Reminder

Remember that the Greater Chicago Chapter of ASSE's website is:
www.assechgo.com.

If you have not visited our website recently, now is the time.

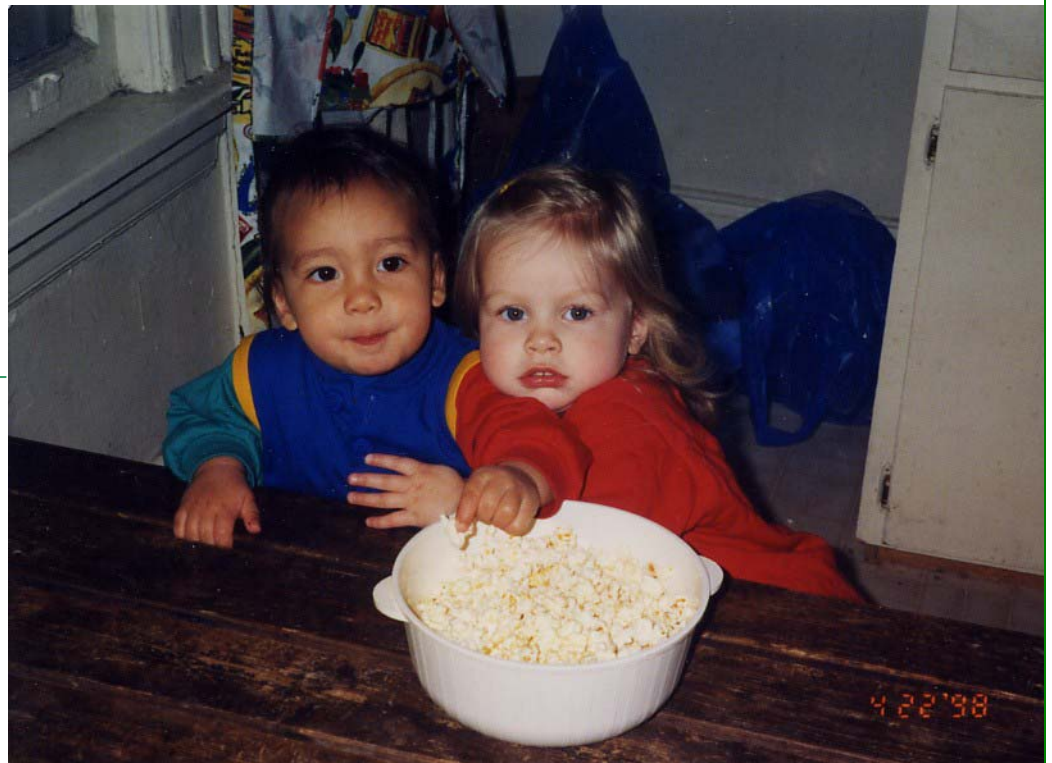
Local Member In The News

Leslie Batterson named to Kids in Danger Board of Directors

Leslie Batterson, past president of the ASSE Greater Chicago Chapter is currently both a delegate and the Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Kids in Danger.

Kids in Danger (KID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. University of Chicago professors Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar founded KID in 1998 following the death of their 16-month old son, Danny Keysar, in a recalled portable crib in a Chicago Home Daycare. KID's mission is to promote the development of safer children's products, advocate for children, and educate the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products.

Leslie's young daughter, McKenna, was also at the same daycare back in 1998 and had slept in the same crib just a few months earlier. This organization is a fabulous way to integrate Leslie's safety knowledge with a mission that is close to her heart.



April 22, 1998, photo of Danny and McKenna taken just a few weeks before his death.