



Acting OSHA Administrator Outlines Workplace Safety Activities, Enforcement at American Society of Safety Engineers Annual Conf.

6/14/2005 7:33:00 PM

To: National and Assignment desks

Contact: Diane Hurns of ASSE, 504-670-7813 (Morial Con. Ctr.) or 847-768-3413, dhurns@asse.org

NEW ORLEANS, June 14 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Acting Occupational Safety, Health and Environmental Administration (OSHA) Administrator Jonathan Snare applauded the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) members for their contribution to the ongoing reduction in occupational fatalities at ASSE's annual Safety 2005 Conference here stating, "As we continue our Alliance with ASSE we look forward to expanding the scope and continuing to partner for prevention."

Enforcement is one of three areas OSHA is focusing on in their efforts to encourage continual improvement in workplace safety and health. OSHA, Snare said, is projecting 37,700 inspections for 2005 and that 2004 they exceeded their target of completing 39,167 inspections. As for workplace violations, Snare said OSHA had identified 83,539 violations in 2003, 86,708 in 2004 and 45,545 so far in 2005.

The top violations for general industry were for hazard communication, respirators, lockout/tagout, machine guarding/general requirements and powered industrial trucks.

Scaffolding, fall protection, electrical/equipment, excavations/requirements for protective systems and general safety provisions were the most frequent violations for the construction industry.

Snare noted another program OSHA uses to increase workplace safety, the 'Enhanced Enforcement Program' "that zeroes in on employers with the gravest violations who have failed to take their safety and health responsibilities seriously." Of the 313 cases last year, 55 percent involved construction where fatalities with high gravity violations occurred, Snare said. Of the rest, about half were in manufacturing and the rest were in other industries.

Snare also noted that recordable injury and illness rates have declined 7.1 percent from 2002 to 2003 and lost workday rates have declined 7.7 percent from 2002 to 2003; both of these rates are at the lowest level since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began reporting workplace fatality statistics in the 1970s. Snare noted that total fatalities have declined six percent from 2001 to 2003.

To continue this trend OSHA will be taking a special focus on seven industries - landscaping, oil and gas field services, fruit and vegetable processing, concrete and concrete products, steel works, ship building and repair and warehousing.

"I intend to manage all of OSHA's resources to meet the challenges of the future and to lead OSHA in its mission by encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health," Snare said. "We will do this through outreach, education and compliance assistance, cooperative and voluntary programs, and, strong, fair and effective enforcement.

"One of our most significant successes under our Alliance with ASSE was in promoting the May North American Occupational Safety and Health Week with ASSE in Washington, D.C. and across the country," Snare said. "We look forward to doing the same in 2006."

More than 3400 ASSE members from the U.S. and 26 other countries are attending the ASSE Safety 2005 Conference in New Orleans from June 12-15. Founded in 1911, the non-profit Des Plaines, IL -based ASSE has more than 30,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members located globally who manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor and education. ASSE is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. For more information check ASSE's web site at <http://www.asse.org>.


<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

-0-

/© 2005 U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/

[Printer Friendly Format](#)

© 2005 U.S. Newswire

A Division of  Medialink