



Hawkeye Chapter News

Sept - Oct edition

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Hawkeye Chapter's website has been updated! Check it out here:

hawkeye.asse.org

Register for upcoming meetings, access newsletters, and more!

Chapter Opportunities:

- Chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award nominations are now OPEN!
- We have openings for the nominating committee (*their job is to set up the ballot for next year's Chapter officers*)
- Ambassadors needed to represent our chapter at safety conferences in Iowa (*IISC and Governor's Safety Conference*)
- Refer a member – help our Chapter GROW and get rewards from ASSE!

Contact Us

secretary@hawkeye.asse.org

Meeting Announcement:

- Date: Monday, October 3rd
- Time: 11:30 am – Lunch
12:00 pm – Technical Meeting
- Location: Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU)
1735 NE 70th Ave
Ankeny, IA 50021
- Program: **Fleet safety & DOT regulations**
(*What do you NEED to know?*)
- Speaker: **Brian Hammer** (Nationwide)
Brian is also an Area Director for Region V
- Cost: \$10.00 (\$11.00 for credit card payment)
- Menu: Chicken parmesan, oven roasted red potatoes, salad, apple crisp, Beverage
- Please go to hawkeye.asse.org and register by 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 29th so we can have an accurate head count.



Golfing - and helping the next generation!



More than 40 Hawkeye Chapter members and guests joined us at the Beaver Creek Golf Course for the 20th annual Jack Beno / Bill Dickenson memorial golf outing. Despite a dire forecast for storms, everyone was able to enjoy a fabulous Friday on the fairway. We got a few refreshing showers, but nobody got their spirits dampened.

Thanks to all the golfers and the sponsors for this fun event, our chapter will be able to donate \$2000.00 to the Jack Beno and Bill Dickenson scholarship fund!

This money helps young safety professionals pay for their education at Iowa universities.



Exoskeleton suits - can they help our industry employees?



Hawkeye Chapter member, Terry Butler (Lean Steps Consulting), gave an informative presentation on exoskeleton suits during our August 29th Technical Meeting. The members and guests were able to see an exoskeleton suit that was part of a recent study conducted by Butler, in conjunction with Vermeer Manufacturing. The study included human performance studies with painting and welding tasks to determine if the use of an exoskeleton suit would improve work quality while reducing worker fatigue. He provided a sneak-peak on the study's findings during the Technical Meeting. Butler's study is featured on the cover of the September "Professional Safety" magazine, published by ASSE.

What is "Silica" - and why should you care?



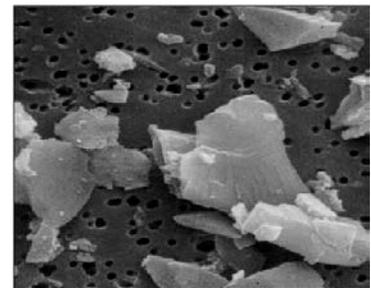
Credit: <http://ketchenland.com>

Silica, commonly referred to as 'quartz', is a material found in both construction and manufacturing. Silica can be found in block, brick, tile, sand, concrete and even drywall. The dust created by grinding, crushing, drilling or cutting these materials contain particles of silica, some so small that they can only be seen under a microscope. When we inhale these tiny particles, they bypass the cilia, tiny hair-like projections in the mucous membranes designed to capture and expel particulates. Silica particles, when viewed under a microscope, can have sharp sides like a razor blade (see the magnified image below).

Silicosis, and lung cancer related to silica exposure, have resulted in approximately 74 million known deaths in the United States between 1968 and 2002. Silicosis has likely caused many more deaths that went undiagnosed. Silica was finally classified as a human carcinogen in 1997. Despite these facts, OSHA estimates 2.3 million workers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica today in occupations such as manufacturing, mining, construction, and agriculture. In response to additional hazards created by new industries, such as hydraulic fracking and granite countertops, OSHA began the rulemaking process in September of 2013 and finalized its rule on respirable crystalline silica in March 2016, with phase-in compliance dates beginning in 2017.

The new standard applies to both General Industry (1910.1053) and Construction (1926.1153). It reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift. The Action Level, or the provisions of the standard also require employers to use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure to the PEL (at a minimum). If engineering controls aren't adequate to limit employee exposure, employers must provide respirators, limit worker access to high exposure areas, develop a written exposure control plan, offer medical exams to highly exposed workers, and train workers on silica risks and how to limit their personal exposure.

It is very important to protect employees now because, even after exposure has ceased, the disease continues to progress. To date, there is no cure for disease caused by silica exposure.



Crystalline Silica - magnified on a filter
Credit: <http://elcosh.org>