

ASCE SAFETY COMMITTEE

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MEETING – 10/03/01

(Supplemented by Houston Minutes of 10/13/01)

PARTICIPANTS

Ted Ardery, Matt Burkhart, Jack Chiaverini, Harlan Fair, Jimmie Hinze, Rick Lawhun, Harold McKittrick, Frank Muller, Bill Nash, Mike Toole

Houston Participants - Jimmie Hinze, John Gambatese, Mumtaz Usmen, Mike Toole

1. Members and all present were introduced at the convening of the meeting at 11:00 AM.
2. **A 350 –**

The committee is satisfied in general with the Policy Board's general acceptance and modification of A-350 sent to the Board of Directors. In its future activities, the Safety Committee will consider additional changes to be included for the next version to be published three years hence.

Frank Muller learned on Oct. 22nd that the Board approved the policy statement.

A side issue is that Amer. Soc. of Safety Eng. text on "Introduction to Fall Protection" incorrectly attributes ASCE A 350 policy as requiring that the Engineer of Record must address construction site safety. Frank Muller has written a letter to the author asking for a correction to be issued; and the committee agreed it wanted a corrected version of the document published. Rick Lawhun will run this by ASCE Legal to see if additional action should be taken, particularly by Legal.

3. Practice Periodical

Editors of the Practice Periodical on Structural Design and Construction have accepted 5 papers so far for the Feb. 2002 Issue on construction safety. These papers are by Toole, Gambatese, Hinze, Burkhart, Usmen and Mohan. ASCE has told Bill Nash it may be necessary to delay publication until May, 2002. If so, it may be possible to add up to 3 or 4 more articles.

3. ANSI Membership

Matt Burkhart indicated the committee's July membership application letter had been received by ANSI. There is a limit on membership except for certain groups and Matt thought ASCE should be one of those groups. He is one of a nine member committee that votes on the application.

Matt suggested the committee contact the National Safety Council (NSC) and their construction division for continuing interaction. A possible joint meeting could be held at the NSC's annual meeting in Orlando Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2002. Matt will contact NSC for interest in an initial introductory meeting. Rick Lawhun will furnish information on the Safety Committee and roster information for Hal McKittrick to assemble for Matt's use in approaching NSC (and for distribution to all committee members). Matt also will check on possible contacts with American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

With respect to the safety committee roster on the web site, two names (Gambatese and Toole) are missing and Hinze's name is misspelled.

4. Construction Institute

Rick Lawhun summarized the Construction Institute (CI) status. The newsletter is out and the web site is up. Directors will start sitting in on committee meetings whose minutes can be posted on the web site. After the Safety Committee reviews and OKs Hal McKittrick's draft of meeting minutes, Hal will email to Rick for posting on the web site.

5. Safety Presentation

Matt has prepared a Power Point presentation of the A424 Crane Committee policy. CI will send it to the education committee to determine what educational use can be made of it. Matt has also prepared a CD of the A350 policy statement without editorial comment. Copies of each will be distributed to the Safety Committee and Crane Committee for comments that must be submitted to Matt by Nov. 5th.

6. OSHA

Matt indicated OSHA has published a new regulation (subpart r) on steel erection. It is scheduled to go into effect in Jan. 2002. Matt has collected a number of articles on the regulations and what they mean to engineers and contractors. He will send a concise summary of their implications to CI for publication in the CI newsletter, and to our committee.

Hal McKittrick raised the point whether our committee should not be proactive with respect to OSHA and its regulations. Should we interject ourselves into the process of reviewing and commenting on proposed regulations? Jack Chiaverini asked Rick Lawhun to check that no other group in ASCE is now doing this before we go forward. We know that ASCE's Washington office sets forth ASCE's positions before Congress and could be the vehicle for setting forth the committee's positions. The conclusion was that our committee wants to play a role as a resource if ASCE wants other parts of ASCE to interface with OSHA.

7. Small Firms

The issue is: Can our committee play a role in education to local jurisdictions, contractors and engineers? Many deaths and injuries in construction occur on small jobs with small contractors and little or no oversight. The conclusion was that we could play an educational role through our web page. However, the subject will remain open for future discussion.

8. Engineer Liability

Do we issue a paper on engineer liability with respect to safety? Other groups are doing this. The consensus was that our A350 policy sets forth our position. We will continue to monitor the situation, particularly with respect to design-build contracts. The Houston meeting had some sentiment for someone to write a paper that addresses recent issues on engineer's liability for site safety.

9. Safety Research Developments

Jimmie Hinze is developing a research paper on best practices resulting in low incidence rates (average 2). CII will publish the results. He also notes companies are tabulating near misses. He also mentioned his research on fall protection, involving analysis of OSHA data. Mumtaz Usmen reported he is continuing his work on the safety management of public organizations that typically employ engineers. Mike Toole currently is gathering data from subcontractors to investigate how subcontractor safety attitudes and safety programs influence their safety performance. John Gambatese is working with Univ. of Oregon on a field investigation of safety management of a new chip plant.

10. Future Meetings

Jimmie Hinze will convene a meeting of Safety Committee attendees at the Houston convention and continue discussion of the topics discussed in our telephone conference meeting. Notes if any will be distributed to all members by Jimmie.

It was decided to have more frequent telephonic meetings of the Safety Committee. The next telephonic conference is to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 20th at 11:00 AM EST.