



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

Pg.1 Big Data and Employee Safety

Pg.2 Could LEDs Help Fight the Zika Virus?

Pg. 3 Dollar General Ignores OSHA Safety Inspectors

Pg. 4 OSHA says protocol violated at Riverside site where worker was shocked

Pg. 5 Job Market Links

Pg. 5 ASSE Chapter Links

Pg. 5 Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

Pg. 5 Local Chapter Meeting Schedule

Pg. 5 Miscellaneous Items of Interest

Big Data and Employee Safety

There have been numerous articles written and many research projects conducted on the topic of predicting worker safety performance. Some individuals believe that it is indeed possible to predict how any given employee will conduct his or herself with regard to safety; conversely,

some individuals believe that it is not possible to do so.

Whichever side of the fence you may fall, an interesting *Time* magazine article may be worth a read. In the June 22, 2015 issue, Eliza Gray submits to us a new way to predict employee behavior and success. She does not speak in terms of safety performance, but rather in terms of who would be a desirable, as well as who would be an undesirable, candidate for hire. Gathering this critical knowledge would be accomplished through the use of what Ms. Gray calls the X quotient (XQ) test. This is not to be confused with the IQ, or even the EQ (emotional intelligence quotient) test; apparently both of these have fallen out of favor and are considered old school. The XQ test is said to be state of the art and reportedly is being utilized by many Fortune 500 companies in their quest to hire the best and brightest.

So, you may ask, what is it? Well, it apparently is a bit tricky to define. Suffice it to say that

the current *big data* trend has brought about an algorithm that shed light on a correlation between a job candidate's responses to pre-hire test questions and responses given by some of the company's most successful current employees. In over-simplistic terms, the logic is that if the young man or lady who was an intern just one year ago and is now a vice president and likes reading books instead of playing video games, a candidate who also likes reading and shuns the Xbox should be a great employee as well. And perhaps in some cases that correlation would hold true. But in the real world where there is an infinite number of variables that are associated with just being a human, perhaps not. I personally believe that most people want to do the right thing with regard to safety. After all, who wants to lose an eye or lose the use of a hand for the rest of their life? And possibly there is an algorithm that would predict what a given individual would do in a



particular situation some percent of the time. But in that one-off instance where the production line is down, the pressure is on to make good numbers for the month, and the employee has to get to the T ball field in 25 minutes, will the high correlation factor hold true or will performance expectations and human nature take over? I've seen it go both ways.

So as far as I am concerned, I am happy to ride the *big data* train for a few miles and utilize this new predictor, should it someday be geared towards safety performance. But I'll also stick with tried and true methodologies such as effective training and education, standard setting, observation, assessment, investigation, reporting, involvement, fostering a good safety culture, relationship building, and good old-fashion communication.

Bob Dooley

Could LEDs Help Fight the Zika Virus?

Like many other people, I read *Fortune* magazine from time to time. And it's not so much because I want to, not that it isn't an excellent

magazine. I read it because it comes to my house for free as a part of some frequent flier program gone awry. So, I feel bad when I waste the chance to gain the knowledge within this fine periodical and end up tossing it in the recycle bin.

In the June 2016 edition, there is an excellent article on controlling flying pests, namely, mosquitoes. The article's author, Corrine Lozzio, delves into the area of finding new and innovative ways to prevent the spread of the Zika virus and dengue fever. She points out that, according to the World Health Organization, approximately 4 billion people are currently at risk of mosquito-borne infectious disease. More hospitable conditions for the insects, such as continued warming trends, could push that figure to as high as 9 billion by the end of the century.

Since blanketing the globe with toxic bug sprays and pesticides isn't a comforting solution, some clever and motivated individuals have been working towards other solutions. Lighting Science Group (LSG), a Florida company that specializes in the application of light-emitting diode (LED) technology, thinks

that it has a better way. This company is part of a growing field of research that seeks to control pests using light.

LEDs have matured significantly from the cold, blue diodes back in the 1980s. Travis Longcore, an assistant professor at the University of Southern California who studies the effect of light on insects, commented that LEDs have great promise in creating a better sense of control. Comparatively, spraying chemicals offers little control of where the chemicals go or don't go. Physical barriers, the wind and other things make chemical applications challenging. On top of that, not many people desire to risk their health by being fogged with chemicals.

So presently at Lighting Science Group, the approach to foster more control over how human health is preserved and improved has led to highly tuned LEDs that disinfect water, keep astronauts on alert, and steer infant sea turtles away from highways. The effort is all about finding the perfect light to attract—and distract—insects.

Working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's entomology lab in Gainesville,



FL, LSG began testing its light-based bug traps this spring.

“There is room for improvement in existing trapping technology,” says USDA research entomologist Daniel Kline. He’s keenly interested in the idea of targeting insects associated with diseases like Zika and malaria.

To that end, the traps follow a simple principle: Different bugs—even different mosquito species—are attracted to different light wavelengths. “There is no one size fits all,” says Fred Maxik, LSG’s chief technology officer. With the traps placed in the USDA’s controlled mosquito habitats, he’ll be able to pinpoint the light that will draw in specific insects.

Traps with LEDs tuned for certain species, Zika for instance is linked to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, will soon be field-tested with a consumer version to follow within a year. Mr. Maxik hopes ultimately to create a smart trap that can sense which bugs are nearby. The technology involved would be a low-resolution camera that can identify insects using criteria such as body size and wing-flapping speed. The

device could also tally what it traps.

Importantly, learning how to attract bugs also tells LSG how to distract them. The idea is to prevent smart traps from capturing innocuous creatures such as butterflies and honeybees. Above all, the knowledge will help the company make light fixtures that steer bugs away from offices, homes, schools, and hospitals. Says Mr. Maxik: “We’re trying to create light that’s useful for our own purposes.”

Corinne Iozzio

Fortune magazine

Volume 173, Number 7

June 1, 2016

<http://fortune.com/2016/05/18/led-lights-zika-virus/>

OSHA NEWS

Dollar General Ignores Safety Inspectors

EHS Today

Merchandise retailer Dollar General fined after investigators discover company still fails to clear blocked exits despite previously being warned.

Discount retailer Dollar General continues to ignore federal workplace safety

inspectors who previously have warned the company to correct hazards that could potentially jeopardize customer and employee safety during an emergency situation.

OSHA recently responded to a complaint and investigated the company’s Van Buren, Mo. location, once again finding blocked exits and other hazards.

A serious violation was given after inspectors found the stockroom provided little access to exit areas in the event of an emergency situation because merchandise and materials restricted exit routes. A merchandise cart was found blocking an exit from the retail area to the stockroom, which inhibited access to a side exit door. In addition, throughout the store, numerous rolltainers, push carts and customer carts full of merchandise were found in aisle ways which consequently blocked emergency egress to exit doors.

At Dollar General’s latest inspection, inspectors found one repeated, one serious and one other-than-serious safety citation for a total of \$97,988 in proposed fines.

“In an emergency, every second matters. Neither



workers nor customers should have to fight through way through piles of merchandise to exit a building safely," said Bill McDonald, OSHA's area director in St. Louis in a statement. "As an organization, Dollar General must take responsibility to review its safety and health programs and fix these hazards at all of its stores nationwide now before tragedy strikes."

Dollar General's previous citations date back to 2010. The company, which operates more than 12,000 stores in 43 states and employs 100,000 workers, has been cited more than 100 times for various safety and health issues.

View current citations [here](#).

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations to respond to the agency.

Stefanie Valentic

EHS Today

September 7, 2016

<http://ehstoday.com/safety/osha-dollar-general-ignores-safety-inspectors>

OSHA says protocol violated at Riverside site where worker shocked

WOKV News



Photo Credit: WOKV News

A man has been shocked in Riverside, and OSHA says there were clear problems with the work site.

Investigators were called to McCoy Creek Blvd. where a Washington Painting employee was painting a building using an aerial lift. Jacksonville OSHA Office Area Director Brian Sturtecky says the worker got too close to a power line, and was shocked through his head.

"He broke the 'Golden Rule'. You automatically stay ten feet away from power lines unless you contact the owner of the power lines and make other arrangements to make it safe," Mr. Sturtecky says.

He says not only is that an OSHA standard, but warnings

are printed on the side of the aerial lift itself and it's a well-known safety protocol. While

Mr. Sturtecky says their investigation is just beginning, he "100%" believes there were problems on the site.

"Any time you have a piece of equipment or an employee's body that gets within ten feet of a power line, you are in violation of OSHA standards," he says.

According to Mr. Sturtecky, there have already been 26 work site fatalities in the District this year.

"No one should have to lose their life for a job, and something like this is so preventable.

OSHA hasn't spoken with Washington Painting at this time, nor have they gotten in touch with the other three to four workers they believe were on the site. Mr. Sturtecky says they will take a total look at the company, including making sure all safety guidelines are being followed at the other company work sites.

Stephanie Brown,

WOKV News

September 15, 2016

<http://www.wokv.com/news/news/local/osha-says-protocol-violated-riverside-site-where-w/nsYqL/>



Job Market Links

[ASSE](#)

[BCSP](#)

[EHS Careers](#)

ASSE Chapter Links

Find us on the web at:

[ASSE NFL](#)

Find us on Facebook at:

[ASSE NFL](#)

Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

- Dan Hemsall – President
- Lance Simons – President Elect
- Anne Rogers – Past President
- Steve Wilson – Secretary
- Yaniv Zagagi – Treasurer
- Paul Thomas – Delegate
- Dawn Dixon – Membership Chair
- Bob Dooley – Newsletter Chair
- Jessica Bohan – SPY Chair
- Tom Drygas – Program Chair
- Vernon Adams – Social Media Chair

Local Chapter Meeting Schedule

Please RSVP to Steve Wilson for all meetings at steven_wilson1@me.com.

Cost: Members: \$15
Non-Members: \$20

September 21, 2016

Arc Flash

Presented by Cintas

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

October 19, 2016

OSHA Silica Update

Presented by Frank Rooney,

CIH Senior H & S Project

Manager with ENSAFE

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

November 14, 2016

Active Shooter and Workplace Violence

Presented by Toni Chrobot

(Formerly with the FBI) of

Confidence LLC

Location: Florida Blue
4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy
Conference Center
Jacksonville, FL 32246
11:00 Lunch & Networking
12 Noon Meeting

- **December 2016** – Winter Social
- **January 2017** - Tier II Hazmat Requirements
- **February 2017** – Grainger Facility Tour
- **March 2017** - OSHA Update
- **April 2017** - Workers Compensation 101
- **May 2017** - Worker's Memorial Day
- **June 2017** - Fall Protection (General Industry & Construction)

Miscellaneous Items of Interest

Ethics for the EHS Professional

Thursday, Oct 6 2016

1:00PM-4:00PM

\$195

Northeast Florida Safety Council, Inc.

1725 Art Museum Drive
Building B, Classroom D
Jacksonville, FL 32207

[Ethics for the EHS Professional](#)