



SAFETY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER

Of the

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

HISTORY

Membership:

The Snake River Chapter (SRC) of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is composed of safety and health practitioners from private industry and government whose purpose is to promote and facilitate development of the safety profession within Southern Idaho, Eastern Oregon and ASSE's Region II, later in Region I, then Region XIII (*Chartered July 1982*), then again as part of Region II following the 1995-1998 era restructuring of the Society. (*See Region Changes on page 2*) Although a small Chapter, the SRC Chapter has produced a Society President, an ASSE Fellow, Regional Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) and serving Regional Officers. Members have served on Society Boards and Committees, have served on National Standards-setting Committees such as ANSI/ASSE and have been part of the Society Foundation leadership. In 1986, a Chapter Blue Ribbon Committee completed a widely acknowledged and comprehensive Safety Audit of the Municipality of Boise covering all City departments. That report was submitted to Mayor Dirk Kempthorne (*Later Governor of Idaho, then Secretary of the Interior*) on July 8th, 1986). A chapter member served on the Society's 1992 Task Force and played a key role during the rewriting of the Brochure "Scope and Function of the Professional Safety Position."

SRC members work or have worked for large (fortune 500) and small corporations; insurance companies; hospitals; local, State and Federal Governments; universities; and as private consultants. From the beginning, membership in the Snake River Chapter was and is open to all individuals who meet the membership standards specified in the Society By-Laws and who live within the geographical area of the Chapter.

History:

The Snake River Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers began in November 1976, when a group of 10 safety professionals in the Boise area started holding monthly meetings. At that time ASSE members in southern Idaho were assigned to the Utah Chapter. The Idaho members submitted a petition to form the Idaho Section of the Utah Chapter and this was approved on February 10th, 1977.

By July 29th, 1977 section membership had grown to 64 members, well above the 40 minimum (*the minimum member count for Chapter status was ≥ 25 until 1970*) required for Chapter status and Section Leadership submitted their petition on November 14th, 1977. Between November 1977 and January 5th, 1978 boundary issues between the Inland Empire Chapter (*then Region 1*) to the North and the Utah Chapter (*then Region II*) to the south were resolved between the two Region RVP's,

the two Chapter Presidents and the Idaho Section Chairman. This involved settling on the Salmon River boundary to the north and shifting two Idaho Counties (*Franklin and Elmore*) from the Utah Chapter on the south to Idaho. Idaho's Washington and Valley Counties were not part of any Chapter and were consequently added to the Snake River Chapter's geographical boundary. Correspondence from 1977 identified the individuals as: R.K. Tuttle (RVP-RI); S.W. Rowland (RVP- RII); Richard L. Daley (Section Chairman); and LeGrand O. Jones (Utah chapter President).

The Snake River Chapter Charter was granted with an effective date of February 2nd, 1978. The Charter Certificate was signed by the 1977-1978 Society President William E. Tarrants. The back of the original Charter was signed by 28 ASSE members as follows:

Richard L. Daley	Herman Teich	Robert W. Cooper	Fred R. Uranga
Clayton C. Carter	Glen Bean	J. Ron Bingham	Bobbie R. Parrish
John H. Werner	Joseph Bradley	Leland Van Slyke	A. G. Blair
Richard C. Jackson	Chuck Miller	Adrian Fannin	Stephen B. Logan
Allen J. Counter	Everett. W. Newhall	Frank Florence	John M. Beeghley
S. Sanford	Nelson D. Brand	*R. Benjamin Rietze	Jim Nordin
William Sarranta	Tom Pinder	LeGrand O. Jones	L. Lowell H. Townley

The first Chapter Officers (1977 – 1978) were: R. L. Daley, (President); Herman Teich, (President-Elect); *R. Ben Rietze, (Secretary); Jim Nordin, (Treasurer); Ron Bingham, (Delegate)

*Note: *R. Benjamin Rietze was later elected to National Office with ASSE and became our 1990 - 1991 Society President.*

The Chapter membership grew from 64 members to the current membership where it has remained around 100 on average over the last few years through 2009.

In December 1981, the Snake River Chapter saw the creation of its first and only Section named "Craters of the Moon." The Section would draw its members primarily from the southeastern part of Idaho. On October 7th, 1993 the section was approved for Chapter Status.

The first Chapter By-Laws were adopted October 24th, 1977 and approved by the Regional Operating Committee January 23rd, 1978.

Region Changes: A petition was submitted June 1979 to change from Region II to Region I. This was accepted (*unknown date*). On or about June 1982, Region XIII was Chartered and Snake River Chapter was included. Later, with the restructuring of ASSE the thirteen (13) Regions were reduced to eight (8), the Snake River Chapter once again became part of the "new" Region II. The initial 1995 restructuring effort originally placed 13 States into Region II including: *Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.* This was later (*unknown date*) reduced to: *Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.*

Meetings:

In the beginning, the Snake River Chapter met monthly on the third Wednesday but only from September through June, taking summers off (July- August). Chapter meetings were dinner-only in the early years starting at 6:00 PM and were held at a variety of locations. Every meeting except December was followed by a technical program on a variety of issues. The December meeting was reserved for members and family invitees (spouse), often entertained by Holiday singers from a school, college or a Player's Guild. As the 1980's progressed the Chapter met for a number of years at the Statehouse Inn, 981 Grove in Boise. Dinner meetings continued but eventually moved to alternating with lunch to accommodate more member needs. Eventually, a majority of members, encouraged by quality presentations and net working, voted to hold meetings year-

around, but wanted to move the Chapter meetings between breakfast, lunch and dinner. This did occur with varying degrees of success. Meeting attendance ranged between 20 to 27% of the membership totals and was considered above average for Chapters around 1986 – 1992 when SRC dropped the now inconsistent tracking efforts. In recent years (*Start date uncertain – 2009*) breakfast and lunch meetings have been held at the Boise Washington Group International Facility (*formally Morrison Knudsen Corporation until acquired by WGI in 1966*) while dinner meetings were and still are held in various locations.

The Chapter Board of Directors, consisting of elected and former officers and Past Presidents and Committee Chairs often held their meetings prior to the 6:00 PM Chapter meetings but in time found it more effective to separate the dates that the Board and Chapter meetings met. This avoided time conflicts for the most part and provided more room for official business, planning, agenda changes and more time to lock in technical presentations. (*Note: The name, “Board of Directors,” was changed permanently to the “Executive Committee” with the 2009 – 2010 adoption of the Incorporation-driven and standardized By-Law format for Chapters.*)

Chapter meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month and the Executive Committee meets earlier in the month, usually week one.

Dues: ASSE Member Dues in 1978 were \$45 with \$10 added for the Chapter. A new member would have a one-time application fee of \$25 for a total of \$80. Dues gradually increased and by 1993, ASSE dues had increased to \$85 with \$15 to the Chapter and a one-time application fee of \$25 for a total of \$125. By 2009, dues were \$120 and the Chapter was set at \$20. The application fee for new members was unchanged at \$25. In 2010 Dues will increase to \$130, in 2011 to \$140, then \$150 by 2012. The Chapter allocation is \$20 in 2010 with \$2 going to help fund the Region ROC.

Communications: The first issue of ASSE’s PROFESSIONAL SAFETY JOURNAL was issued Feb. 1956. There was no table of contents for the issue outside of what is on the cover, and the first Presidents message was written by Edward B. Landry who interestingly enough was the Director of Safety and Health for the U. S. Postal Department. So of course, Snake River Chapter members all received the Professional Safety Journal each month from the Chapter beginning in 1977-1978. In addition, the Chapter published a monthly newsletter originally called “Snake River Safety” but later was simply, “Snake River Chapter – Monthly Newsletter.” Meeting notices were routinely mailed out monthly via the postal service unless incorporated into the newsletter. Later, as members acquired the new technology (*email**), notices began to be sent electronically. The newsletter covered meeting dates, training, seminars, Chapter Activities, meeting minutes, special announcements, job vacancies and pertinent safety and health news.

Note: Email caught on quickly after its 1971 invention but it was well into the 1980’s and beyond before most Snake River Chapter members had access.*

ASSE Society Fellow and member of the Snake River Chapter, Earnest F. Harper, created and published, on behalf of Region II, the first Region II Newsletter routed on a quarterly basis. The first issue was routed September 2007 and the now popular newsletter is estimated to reach over 2500 – 2600 members including the Middle East Chapter and Society Leadership and Headquarters Staff.

Professional Development Activities: from the beginning, as early as December 13th, 1976 (*Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Training*) the “Section” held excellent technical sessions and in 1977 held Ten (10) technical sessions. The two exceptions were: The Joint meeting with the Idaho Safety Council August 18-19, 1977 and the Christmas social with spouses.

Subject matter that first full year (1977) set the stage for what was to become the norm through the years. (*OSHA – Recent Developments; Accumulation Trauma; Pipeline Construction; Medical Aspects of Hearing; Designing Safety into Material Handling; The Safe World of Cryogenics; The Rules of the Road; Emergency Medical Services in Idaho; Chain Saw Safety and Unusual Claims and Remedies.*)

The budding Section also planned and conducted a CSP study group for the October 1977 CSP exam.

The Snake River Chapter, once fully chartered, continued with a full slate of high level sessions through 1978 (*and beyond*). The exception being the summer recess of July – August 1978, later (*date unknown*) changed in favor of year-round meetings.

The Chapter has planned and conducted, sponsored or co-sponsored, a number of Governors Conferences, PDC's and seminars in Idaho, Oregon and western Montana throughout the years. Members have contributed their financial support, time and expertise as Conference and Program Chairs, on committees, as monitors and as speakers from the beginning, despite being one of the smaller chapters. Several members have presented at the Society Professional Development Conferences (PDC's). One and/or two day seminars continue each year as a minimum through 2009.

The SRC, through the Region II Newsletter has provided over nine (9) short technical papers or articles for its members and the region (2007 – 2009).

The Professional Development of its members and advancing the safety profession continues to reflect the primary goal of the Chapter up to, and beyond, ASSE's 100th year anniversary (2011).

Special Society Honorees: Snake River Chapter has the rare privilege for a small chapter of having members who achieved the Society's highest elected office and the Society's highest Honor, Society Fellow. R. Benjamin (Ben) Rietze served as our Society President (90-91) and was one of our original Charter signatories. In 2001 Earnest F. Harper was selected to the high Honor of Society Fellow and was followed in 2010 by Brad Giles as a Fellow of the Society. All three have been recognized by the Chapter and Region in numerous ways and served on Society and Regional levels as Officers or on major committees.

Chapter LOGO: The unique SRC Logo prefacing this History was designed by Society Fellow, Earnest F. Harper, submitted on June 20, 2005 and subsequently approved by the Chapter Board.

This History Summary of the SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER is accurate to the best of our ability. All stated dates or time lines are backed up by documentation retained at this initial release by the originating author. Other, more general commentary on events or activities is supported by various records and un-conflicted memories of two or more members who were present.

All support documentation will be made available to Chapter Officers for retention and pass down in future years. The RVP and Area Directors of Region II will receive this initial release as an aid or potential model history format in preparing the Region for the 2011 100th Year Celebration.

Future Updates: This History summary is a living document to be added to, or modified, upon receiving appropriate updates or corrections properly supported with approval by a quorum of the serving Chapter leadership.

Retention and numbering: It is recommended that the original release issue (Revision B) be retained in perpetuity as a baseline document against which future versions approved by the Executive Committee may be compared.

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Approved by President Brent Smith and the 2010-2011 Executive Committee revision C had been released early due to the Society 100th Celebration, on February 18, 2011. This update is revision D dated May 10, 2011. This document and all to follow should be considered an ongoing work in progress. All future revisions or corrections shall carry the latest revision letter and date assigned.