Alberta Mechanical Officials Society

Spring 2003

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the Alberta Mechanical Officials Society membership and those unsung heroes that support them, wives, companions, family, and friends. Individuals make up AMOS, and through their efforts, AMOS strives to make Alberta a safer and better place for all. AMOS has always been poised to accept new challenges and deliver creative, practical solid solutions. AMOS affords its members, and others, an abundance of experience and know-how.

The previous executive committee; past President - Richard Burk, past 1st Vice President Perry Wager, past 2nd Vice President - Reg Adair, past Secretary - Rhonda Mulrooney, past Treasurer - Wayne Ducharme, past Director 1 - Steve Rohling, past Director 2 - Rob Baumbach, and past Director 3 - Gerald Bolze did a fantastic job, and pass on the torch blazing as bright as ever.

Other committee members that AMOS relies on to ensure we remain at the top of our game are; Communication and public awareness- Dave Hughes, Development of info bank- Jim Danielson, Liaison with higher levels of government- John Semeniuk, History- Carey Larose, Education- Glenn Costello, Technical committee: Gas Technical Council - Doug Snider, Gerald Kitchen, Plumbing Technical Council - Rick Gillen.

Once again Carey LaRose has agreed to go the extra mile and provide us with the latest scoop on things that are near and dear to our hearts at our Spring Conference in Red Deer. Carey's presentations always contain invaluable information, interpretation, and guidance regarding industry safety, standards and uniformity. Thank you Carey.

I would also like to thank the AMOS membership for their hard work, and for electing such a dedicated, resourceful and overall great group of people to serve as the executive committee and allowing me the privilege to serve as President.

The latest executive committee is as follows; President - Perry Wager, 1st Vice President - Reg Adair, 2nd Vice President - Rhonda Mulrooney, Secretary - Mike Turek, Treasurer - Wayne Ducharme, Director 1 - Dean Taylor, Director 2 - Wade Irwin, Director 3 - Gerald Bolze, and past President - Richard Burk.

I look forward to being involved with everyone during this term, and encourage you to continue your active participation in making AMOS the dynamic success it is.

I wrote the Safety Codes Council regarding the vote taken at our Fall conference and explained that although the entire AMOS membership would be unable to attend the proposed joint SCC AGM, we at AMOS are committed to supporting our safety system. I explained that our membership felt AMOS would be adequately represented if individuals that are members of both ABOA, and AMOS, as well as members of our Executive Directors attended SCC AGM. I haven't heard back from SCC, but the latest "Partners" newsletter promised registration information will be posted at the SCC web site by the end of February 2003. The AMOS executive committee is planning to register and we encourage anyone else interested to keep checking the SCC web site and register as soon as possible. The SCC web site is at: www.safetycodes.ab.ca

In the February SCC "Partners" newsletter you will find a number of interesting articles including a section titled "Gas and Plumbing News". The "Partners" newsletter provides information related to what is happening in all disciplines and the SCC. If you are not receiving your copy contact the SCC toll free 1-888-413-0099. The "Partners" newsletter is also posted at the SCC web site.

These are exciting busy times we are living in, I look forward to being involved with AMOS in the ongoing pursuit of improving Alberta through safety, knowledge, and uniformity. I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Conference.

Re Appointment:

The Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs,**Guy Boutilier**, has issued a Ministerial Order re-appointing the following people to the Safety Codes Council for a term expiring January 31,2006. They are:
Herman Bruin, Manual Dabrowski, Zed Freudenreich, Michael Gardener, Rick Gillen, Jack McDonald, Richard Meunier, John Ogilvy, Dan Shannon, Jim Sutherland, and Dick Walters.

Amos Congratulates these fine gentleman on there appointment.

"Futures...the Next Level in Safety
Presented by the Safety Codes Council and the Alberta Building Officials Association
May 21 - 23, 2003 Red Deer, Alberta Capri Center"
The SCC AGM agenda and registration information can be viewed at:
www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Conference/registration.html

Alberta Onsite Wastewater Contractors' Association

Richard Burk

The AOWCA held their annual meeting and convention in Red Deer on January 24 and 25. A number of suppliers showed their products in a Trade Show format. Beaver Plastics introduced styrene insulation materials for below grade hydronics and frost box configurations for various shallow piping installations. Western Pump has a new line of pumps including a cutter pump that will grind up everything from tin cans to panty hose to blue jeans to nylon rope. Great for that lift station that receives a variety of solids or for cleaning up after a stag party.

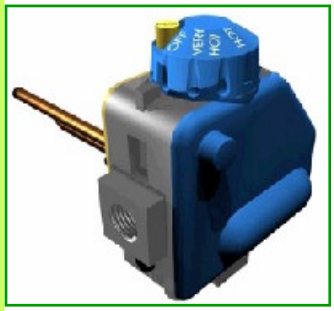
At grade wastewater systems were promoted as an opportunity to provide water to vegetation and trees without using well or surface water that is becoming a premium. An Ultra Violet system is available to kill any bacteria or virus that may still be present in the effluent, no tanning allowed under this light.

There is a computer program available through the association that can be used to size most systems. This could be a convenient tool for the SCO to quickly check contractors' data and verify system size requirements.

The AOWCA with cooperation of Municipal Affairs is going to provide a training program for all installers. Eventually the installers must produce a completion of training certificate to obtain permits for Private Sewage Disposal systems. The Phase One Module Grouping will be for basic systems and consist of 32.5 hours of classroom participation. The first two days of instruction will be available in March and will be offered throughout the province in various locations. A schedule will be available on the AOWCA website. This training program may be incorporated into the Plumbing Level II SCO course in the future.

The By-Laws of the Association will now include educators and regulators as active members with voting rights and availability to hold any office. This is an opportunity for members of AMOS to become involved and add their knowledge and skills to a rapidly progressing industry.

All points Bulletin:



Product Alert Regarding GSW Water Heaters Using SIT Model 650 AC4 Gas Control
Product Alert issued by GSW concerning certain of their Natural Gas and Propane Gas water heaters using an SIT Model 650 AC4 gas control. In some circumstances, during an initial start-up, main burner gas may flow while the control knob is in the pilot position. The problem is most prevalent if the unit has been stored or is being installed in a cold environment.

The alert provides additional instructions for the initial start-up of the heaters and information for determining the need for replacement. If you have any questions please contact GSW Water Heating at 1-800-447-6575 Ext. 2, or on line go to the Alberta government web site: http://www3.gov.ab.ca/ma/ss/pdf/Gas/gswapb1.pdf

GSW and SIT have worked to contain the problem encountered with the control and water heaters. Serial numbers beyond 0301263882 are not affected.

Standata: P/G-03-01-PLBG/GAS

Effective March 1, 2003. Safety Services and the Plumbing and Gas Technical Council, in order to inform the plumbing and gas industry of the requirements associated with the sale and installation of Dual Purpose *Water Heaters*, have jointly developed this bulletin.
The CSA gas *water heater* standards indicate that *water heaters certified* for use with combination *potable* water/space heating applications are restricted to either *potable* water only or *potable* water and space heating. They cannot be used for space heating alone. Therefore, Suppliers and Installers are reminded that combination *Water Heaters* shall be *certified* and marked "Suitable for Water (*Potable*) Heating and Space Heating" and can be utilized for either:
A: conventional water (*potable*) heating only; or
B: a combination water (*potable*) heating and space heating application.
For further details go to: http://www3.gov.ab.ca/ma/ss/pdf/Gas/PG0301.pdf

Alberta Construction Safety Association Presents: Fire Safety On New Construction Sites (8019)

April 2, 2003 Greenwood Inn – Calgary, Alberta *(3515 – 26 StreetNE)*
April 3, 2003 Fantasyland Hotel – Edmonton, Alberta *(West Edmonton Mall, 17700 – 87 Avenue)*

The potential for fire tops the list of hazards on a construction site. What are the causes associated with fire losses, where are the problem areas, and how can they be prevented or eliminated? Constant effort and diligence must be made to prevent these costly and dangerous incidents.
This full day workshop by fire etc. Emergency Training Center will examine the causes of construction site fires, and strategies to reduce the risk. Topics will include:

- Fire Behavior
- Fire Causes
- Building Construction Methods & Materials (Flammable & Combustible Materials)
- Management Support
- Training of Workers
- Filling Your Toolbox with Fire Prevention
- Consequences of Construction Site Fires

fire etc. presenters: Les Brinkworth, Vice-President of Business Development; Judy Harvie, Business Development Coordinator.

Prepayment for this course is required. Contact ACSA for registration as follows:

For Calgary Registration
Forward completed registration form to:
Alberta Construction Safety Association
#201, 2725 – 12 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7J2
Phone: (403) 291-3710 Toll Free 1-800-661-6090
Fax: (403) 250-2852 Toll Free 1-877-258-5881
Contact: DARLENE
dwiltse@acsa-safety.org

For Edmonton Registration
Forward completed registration form to:
Alberta Construction Safety Association
#101, 13025 St. Albert Trail, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 5G2
Phone: (780) 453-3311 Toll Free 1-800-661-2272
Fax: (780) 455-1120 Toll Free 1-877-441-0440
Contact: JESSICA
jhnatiuk@acsa-safety.org

The following are excerpts from recent international loss incident reports and news bulletins. Can you imagine what might have caused these incidents and how they might have been prevented? How many of these have a direct application to our business?
Materials forwarded by: Reg Adair, Syncrude

October 9, 2001 - Rocky Mountain House, Canada
Petro-Canada workers were evacuated after a central Alberta sweet gas production plant burst into flames. There were no injuries among workers and there was no danger of explosion. The fire was put out in just over an hour with the help of Rocky Mountain House fire crews. Fire Chief Archie Richardson said there was no need to evacuate people from any communities. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Nov. 2, 1999, Yellowknife, NWT
A northern airline has been fined for failing to safely handle dangerous goods after a sharp-eyed passenger saw cargo crews load propane onto an aircraft. What where they thinking?

January 7, 2001 – Truth Or Consequences, NM
17 people were injured and buildings covering three city blocks were destroyed when an unoccupied pickup truck crashed through a chain-link fence and into an 18,000 gallon propane tank. The truck had been parked at a convenience store when it rolled downhill out of the parking lot and across the street. The explosions sent fireballs a hundred feet into the sky and buildings shook miles away. How far done the line should a Safety Codes Officer be concerned about a potential hazard? Barriers and bollards

Aug. 9, 1999, Calgary, AB
An explosion and fire destroyed an oil recycling plant killing 2 workers and injuring 5 others. The fire forced the evacuation of 2000 local residents. The plant had existed for 30 years in an isolated area of the city but a residential community had grown up around the plant in recent years.

Sept. 23, 1999, Mars
The $125M Mars Climate Orbiter crashed into Mars' surface. The navigation error resulted from a mistake between imperial and metric units. Be careful when converting. Try work with the system you are given.

February 6, 2001 – Jupiter, FL
A worker suffered a concussion when a 50-pound propane tank exploded at an engine plant. He was struck by debris from the blast and hurled against a wall. Location, location, location.

February 2, 2001 – Burns Harbor, IN
At least 2 people were killed and others injured in the rolling mill at a steel plant. A fire broke out during a maintenance procedure while a furnace was being dismantled and an explosion occurred. Was that valve on or off? Hum!

Upcoming event and courses:

Gas technical seminar: 2 Days, April 23 & 24, 2003 Room A11
Red Deer Lake College 8:00AM to 5:00PM
Instructed by: **Darryl Reinhart**

IAS Venting: 1 Day, April 25, 2003 Room A11
Red Deer Lake College 8:00AM to 5:00PM
Instructed by: **Joe Van Weenen**

Please contact Mr. Glenn Costello for registration Information:

AMOS SPRING CONFERENCE:
APRIL 25 & 26, 2003
The Holiday Inn
Red Deer, Alberta

Glenn Costello
glenn.costello@gov.calgary.ab.ca
Ph. 403 268 2716 Fax: 403 268 2464

Your Call: What is wrong with this picture? What would be your response after encountering this situation. Please E-mail your comments to: wayne.ducharme@gov.calgary.ab.ca