



Welding, Manganese Exposure and Parkinson's: The Next Asbestos?

Reprinted courtesy of State Compensation Insurance Fund

In late 2003, a jury awarded \$1 million to an Illinois man who said he developed Parkinson's disease from years of breathing fumes from welding rods. Parkinson's Disease is caused by the progressive destruction of nerve cells that control muscle movement. It was the first time a plaintiff prevailed in such a case. Since this award, numerous similar suits are being filed. This could result in increased insurance costs for welders.

Manganese is a highly reactive gray-white metal resembling iron, and adding manganese to steel increases its hardness, stiffness and strength. Manganese is a major component of welding fumes, particularly those from mild steel welds using shielded metal arc welding (SMAW). Mild steel is the most common steel used in industry, and SMAW is the most common type of commercial welding, but manganese exposures can result from other types of welding.

In shielded metal arc welding, a metallic electrode is connected to an electric current and the workpiece, forming an electric arc with intense heat that melts both the electrode, which acts as filler, and the workpiece. The electrode is coated with a flux that vaporizes, providing arc shielding and removing the oxide film or tarnish from the base metal. The electrode is sometimes referred to as the "stick," so SMAW is also commonly referred to as stick or electrode welding. Manganese is a common component of the stick and flux.

The Cal/OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit for manganese is 0.2 mg/m³, the same as the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value. Recent studies have measured welders' exposures to manganese that exceed these limits.

Chronic overexposure to manganese can lead to a disease known as manganism with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease. At lower exposures, the most commonly observed symptoms involve injury to the central nervous system, such as longer reaction times, decreased short-term memory, and impaired hand-eye coordination. Other reported symptoms include respiratory difficulties and increased

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WANTED

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS & PHOTOS

CSA is looking to secure copies of historical photos and stories associated with CESA-member companies and individuals.

First person narratives, articles and the like will all be welcome. All items that are submitted for consideration will be properly tracked, credited and returned.

For more information, please contact Skip Moore, Chairman of the CSA 50th Anniversary Committee, at skip@billmoore.com or (510) 526-0296.

Did You Know?

Can my supplier or vendor unilaterally change the terms of a contract?

Generally no, but strange as it seems this does happen. In particular with terms of payment (30/60 day net, etc.). The key to solving this problem is to make sure the terms and conditions are not buried in fine print on the back of a fax or among other paperwork. Also, a recent court case has held that terms and/or amended terms posted on a company's Web site are not binding unless the contracting party has actual notice and affirmatively agrees to the changes.

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■ SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

Does your company have good news to share? Are you on a CSA committee and want to get the word out on your upcoming event? Do you just like to write and you want an audience? Well, then submit your articles, press releases, and photos to the CSA office for consideration in *Powerline*!

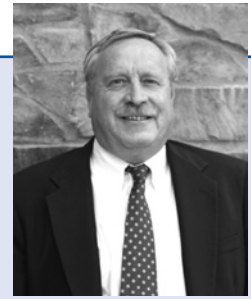


The Communications Committee and CSA Staff welcome submissions from our members for any issue. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content. Content for *Powerline* is due on the first of the month prior to the issue it will run.

Please submit any item for publication consideration to stephanie@calsign.org. For information, please call the CSA office at (916) 932-0021.

Perspectives

By Brad Walker, CSA Executive Director



As I write this, my first column for *Powerline*, I am closing out my first month as the CSA Executive Director. Talk about taking a drink from a fire hydrant! And then there is the dilemma of what to write about since there is so much fun and exciting stuff going on at CSA! I've decided I won't write anything about membership and member benefits in this column—but watch for lots of space being dedicated to those two topics in my future columns. Let's make this a "thank you" article...

Let me begin by thanking the Selection Committee comprised of Skip Moore, Steve Jones and Deborah Cook for providing me this phenomenal opportunity. After I left the interview, I felt like the four of us really clicked and apparently they felt the same. I am really looking forward to working more closely with Skip and Steve the next couple of years as they ascend to the CSA presidency and I know I'll be in close contact with Deborah since she co-chairs the all important Communications Committee with Bob Shimmin.

I have also had the opportunity to meet the rest of the Executive Committee in person. What a great group! I'm finding myself working very closely with President Ray Smith as we put the 2008 convention program to bed and he closes out his term as your leader. I am enjoying working with Treasurer Rocky Gruner on the CSA finances. By the way, your association is in great financial shape! I have also had the opportunity to meet via phone and in person, CSA's human dynamo, Immediate Past President Roy Flahive. I hope I can keep up with him!

I have met many other Board members via the phone and by the time this article is printed, I hope I can say I have talked to all of them at least once either in person or on the phone. I am amazed at how dedicated and involved your association leaders are in your association.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Connie Seitz who left CSA to return to school. Not only did she leave the association in great shape, she left me with a phenomenal staff with whom I get to work every day. Stephanie, Lynn and Kathi are some of the brightest, most talented and fun individuals with whom I have ever had the opportunity to work. The Board has made it very clear they want me out in the field talking to existing members and recruiting new members. It is comforting to know that I will be able to do exactly that and the home front will be left in very capable hands.

Always remember, this is YOUR association. If you think YOUR association should be doing something else or something more for you, let us know. Let's see if we can (in my best Larry the Cable Guy voice) git 'er done!

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■ GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

by Jeff Aran, CSA Government Affairs Director



NEWS ROUND-UP

Permit Streamline Bill Signed

Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 2335 (Nakanishi; R-Lodi), which combines three separate statutory provisions concerning forms, declarations, and notice to property owners relating to the issuance of building permits, into a single provision that combines and modifies existing forms, declarations, and notices. The purpose of the law is to streamline a process that is unnecessarily duplicative and confusing to the property owner, and issuing jurisdiction alike. For a copy of the new law, visit http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_2301-2350/ab_2335_bill_20080703_chaptered.html.

Nation's First Statewide "Green" Building Code Passes

In case you missed it...in July California adopted the first set of statewide "green" building codes in the nation when they were approved by the Building Standards Commission (BSC). As reported in the LA Times, California issued new building standards, which state officials said would push developers to reduce the energy use of buildings by 15% and target a 50% reduction in water for landscaping. San Francisco and Los Angeles have enacted strict green building ordinances, based on the benchmark of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), which is also used by the state for public construction, reports the LA Times, "but a large swath of the construction industry considers LEED standards too strict, and managed to head off efforts to incorporate them into the statewide code."

The new language also allows localities to adopt tougher standards. The codes are voluntary until 2010 when they become mandatory (and certainly will be amended by then). For the complete 60-page text: http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/prpsd_stds/combined_green_et_7_08.pdf.

"Wardrobe Malfunction" Redux—First Amendment and "Fleeting" Indecency

Remember the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show featuring Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake which culminated in an ever-so-brief sneak peek at Jackson's breast? (Does anyone even remember who was playing?) After the purportedly "unscripted" incident, which lasted all of 9/16ths of second, the FCC sought indecency penalties against CBS in the amount of \$550,000.

This past July, the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit unanimously rejected the \$550,000 penalty and finding of indecency violation on grounds that the FCC arbitrarily and capriciously departed from its prior policy of excepting "fleeting" broadcast material from the scope of actionable indecency (meaning indecency violating the law). The court also determined the FCC could not impose liability on CBS or hold it liable for the conduct of Jackson and Timberlake because they were independent contractors and not CBS employees, i.e., not acting within the course and scope of employment.

The court found that at the time of the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show, the FCC's policy was to exempt fleeting or isolated material—both images and words—from the scope of actionable indecency. "During a span of three decades," the court observed, "the Commission frequently declined to find broadcast programming indecent, its restraint punctuated by only a few occasions where programming contained indecent material so pervasive as to amount to 'shock treatment' for the audience." While the FCC's argued that it always treated fleeting images differently from fleeting expletives, the 3rd Circuit found that the agency's indecency enforcement history proved otherwise.

Moreover, the court held that the FCC's current policy of including fleeting images within the scope of actionable indecency is a departure from prior policy, for which the FCC failed to provide a rational explanation, and which it unfairly applied to CBS retroactively. Therefore, the fine against CBS was arbitrary and capricious and invalid as to CBS.

The 3rd Circuit also explained that because the First Amendment precludes punishing a speaker for the content of expression absent a showing of "scierter" (i.e., a knowing or reckless violation of indecency law), "when a broadcaster endeavors to exercise proper control, but ultimately fails, to prevent unscripted indecency, it will not have acted with scierter if its actions were negligent rather than reckless," such that "when unscripted indecent material occurs during a live or spontaneous broadcast, as it did here, the FCC should show that the broadcaster was, at minimum, reckless in causing the indecent material to be transmitted."

Quote of the Month

"George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles."

~Author Unknown



Wear your ear plugs!

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cough, colds and pneumonia, mood swings, abnormal facial expressions, tremors and a spastic gait with a tendency to fall. Decreased fertility in males has also been reported. Once someone suffers from neurological symptoms, those symptoms tend to continue and worsen, even after exposure to manganese ends.

Welders can protect themselves from manganese and other welding fume and gas exposures with good local or general ventilation. The most effective control is local exhaust ventilation in which an exhaust hood is placed near the welding arc or flame, and the contaminants are drawn away from the welder's breathing zone. Exhausted air should be discharged to the outdoors, if possible. If these controls are not feasible or do not adequately reduce exposures, proper respiratory protection should be used.

Welding in confined spaces such as tanks and pipelines is especially hazardous and requires additional ventilation or the use of an air-supplied respirator.

More information

The California Office of Health Hazard Assessment has a fact sheet on manganese exposure at www.oehha.ca.gov/air/chronic_rels/pdf/mangnREL.pdf.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a fact sheet on manganese at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts151.html.

"Information or recommendations contained in these articles were obtained from sources believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is only advisory and does not presume to be exhaustive or inclusive of all workplace hazards or situations."

The above evaluations and/or recommendations are for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes. They are based solely on the information provided to us and relate only to those conditions specifically discussed. We do not make any warranty, expressed or implied, that your workplace is safe or healthful or that it complies with all laws, regulations or standards.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Join us in our congratulations of our Member Companies below on their 5th year as CSA Members!

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In Memorium

William (Bill) Richter Barlow, Sr.,
Young Electric Sign Company, Reno Division Manager

William (Bill) Richter Barlow Sr., "Papa", passed away on August 9, 2008 in Coronado, CA, after a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born February 18, 1952, in Salt Lake City, UT, and on June 13, 1974 he married his sweetheart, Merlene Jensen, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

Exceptionally devoted to his faith, Bill served a mission in Venezuela from 1971-1973. As he pursued his professional career, Bill focused on building relationships that transcended the business world. It was the basis of many long and lasting relationships over the years. An entrepreneur by heart, he started several small businesses and was always looking for new ideas to explore. He was never afraid to try something new, whether it was an exotic food, a new idea, a new place to explore or live. During his life he lived in Utah, California, Arkansas and most recently Nevada.

Bill enjoyed listening to music which included some of his favorites, The Beatles, Kenny G, and Enya. He had a love for jazz music and was an accomplished saxophone player.

But above all, his greatest joy and love was his family. Bill is survived by his loving wife, Merlene and devoted children Bill (Staci) Barlow Jr., Brian (Jenny) Barlow, Tiffany (Brad) Pierro, Melisa (Mark) Manwaring, and Benjamin Barlow; 8 grandchildren with 1 on the way; parents William and Lou Jean Barlow; siblings Jeannie (Paul) Nelson, Susan (David) Beesley, Janet (Matt) Asmus, Calvin (Teresa) Barlow, Robert (Lori) Barlow, Brent (Audrey) Barlow.

The family extends deep appreciation to the doctors and nurses at the Huntsman Cancer Institute for their compassion and efforts in his behalf. Many relatives and friends also shared their faith, prayers and love during this time for which he was very grateful.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the LDS church missionary fund or to the Huntsman Cancer Institute.



In Memorium

Cynthia Lavender

Our condolences to Herb Lavender and the LECIP family as they mourn the sudden loss of Herb's wife. Cynthia Lavender passed away Friday, July 18, from a heart attack. Services were held in her honor on July 22 in McKinney, TX.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Heart Association.



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imagination at work

Consider this...

Missing something...A IOU

In 1816, Frenchman J.R. Ronden tried to stage a play that did not contain the letter "a." The Paris audience was offended, rioted and did not allow the play to finish.

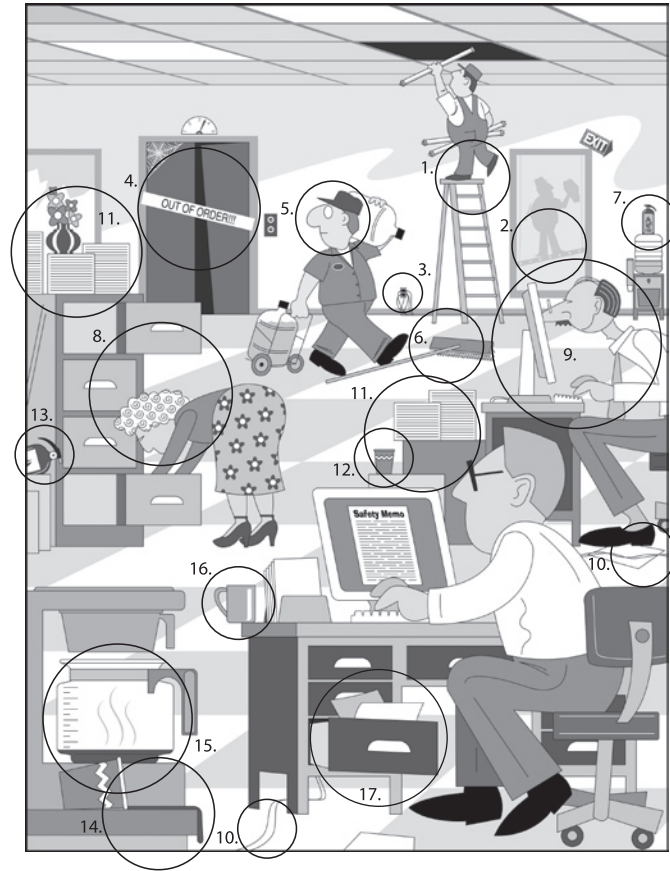
Alternatively, Ernest Vincent Wright's 1939 novel *Gadsby* has 50,110 words, none of which contains the letter "e." Don't believe that a novel could be without any e's? Here's an excerpt from page one of Wright's *Gadsby*:

"If youth, throughout all history, had a champion to stand up for it; to show a doubting world that a child can think; and, possibly, do it practically; you wouldn't constantly run across folks today who claim that "a child don't know anything." A child's brain starts functioning at birth; and has, amongst its many infant convolutions, thousands of dormant atoms, into which God has put a mystic possibility for noticing an adults act, and figuring out its purport."

Source: <http://www.didyounow.cd/fastfacts/art.htm>

Safety Search Answers

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Powerline is a monthly newsletter with a circulation of 2000 published by:

California Sign Association

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