

**AIHA/ Deep South Section Meeting Minutes**  
**March 15, 2007**  
**Gonzales, LA**

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Keith opened the meeting and addressed the following:

- Discussed the first meeting with ASSE. He gave AIHA/DSS member attendance numbers.
- Introduced and welcomed Alan as the President- Elect for this year.
- Mentioned an Asbestos Ban (get info from Keith)
- Stated that the CDC is seeking funding for research on nano- particles.

**Barium Exposures in Sandblasting**

Eric Botnick began his discussion about occupational exposures when working with lead based paint and crystalline silica. He stated that when conducting air sampling during abrasive blasting of lead-containing paints, some lead will be found in the results. Bulk sample analyses of the paint before blasting will not indicate what concentration of lead will be suspended in the air during blasting.

He presented NIOSH study data from 2000 & 2001 and other real world data. There is an increased occurrence of Arsenic and Beryllium concentrations found in sampling results from blasting. The group discussed the various sampling issues associated with media alternatives to using sand for blasting. Other blasting media—such as Coal & Nickel Slag and Staurolit were discussed.

- Eric stated that Beryllium is hard to measure against the standard, due to the standard concentration and lab analysis techniques.
- Ralph asked about how to approach liability issues associated with possibly finding downwind crystal silica measurements. There were many suggestions given by various members present.
- Silton asked if sampling had been conducted inside or outside of the hood. Eric stated that the hood is considered PPE, and that sampling was done on the outside.
- Yaisa asked which medium was “safe” to use. After having a good laugh—the group agreed that there was no “safe” media and that there are real hazards associated with all media.

The discussion turned to determining which media is appropriate for certain applications and how far downwind to monitor for contaminants.

- Eric stated that he has found Steel Shot/ Grit and East Creek Garnet to be more appropriate for blasting at his facility.

- Joe stated that engineers sometimes give limitations on which product to use. Some blasting media is harder and therefore causes more damage to metals than others.
- Larry stated that when selecting media, it is important to determine the final use of the material being blasted.