



## American Society of Safety Engineers News

*Protecting people, property and the environment.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS PUSH TO INCREASE USE OF 'IN CASE OF EMERGENCY-ICE' SYSTEM FOR CELL PHONES**

**DES PLAINES, IL (October 24, 2005)** – The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is joining with rescue personnel in asking people to program on their cell phones' address book 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) contacts as a way to easily reach a family member or emergency contact should an illness or accident render one unconscious. This week ASSE will be distributing to thousands of their members ICE information including a power point presentation describing how and why this can be done.

“With over 190 million people in the U.S. with cell phones and even more worldwide, ICE can help emergency personnel in quickly identifying an injured individual and their next of kin in minutes instead of hours,” ASSE member John P. Spath, CSP, of New York, said today. “This helps emergency workers provide the best care possible.”

Making ICE a common practice for cell phone users will help make it a routine measure for police, fire and other emergency personnel to check cell phones when necessary, Spath added. ICE is free and only requires a cell phone to use it. Even when carrying personal identification (ID), such as a driver's license, it is still recommended to use ICE, because an ID does not contain the names and phone numbers of next of kin, medical history or any other information that emergency personnel may need in assisting a patient.

Individuals can program a new contact in their cell phone address book with the letter's ICE followed by the name and phone numbers of their emergency contacts. If adding more than one ICE contact, mark the primary contact as ICE1, such as ICE1-John Doe, ICE2-Jane Doe, and so on. These individuals should agree to be the ICE contact and they should be supplied with the individual's family contacts, primary physician, work contact and also medical history, which should list allergies, current medication and previous medical procedures. Individuals under the age of 18 should list their guardian, mother or father as their ICE contact.

ASSE members will have available information on ICE, including a power point presentation on how to use the 'In Case of Emergency' cell phone system, available for downloading for free from [www.asse.org/newsroom](http://www.asse.org/newsroom).

Founded in 1911, the Des Plaines, IL-based ASSE is the oldest and largest professional safety organization and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Its 30,000 members manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor and education. For more information check ASSE's website at [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org).

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