Dear Chapter members, colleagues and friends,

The column on the NSC’s salary survey got more comments than any previous column, so I take it you like numbers. Well, here are the results of our online chapter member satisfaction survey designed and analyzed by our Membership Chair Brooks Carder, a published author and expert on employee surveys. Thank you, Brooks.

Of 11 questions, six had numerical answers, and the rest asked for comments. Brooks says the response rate of 17% is very good, but best of all, we received 148 individual comments. So, what did you say?

- Over 80% of you are satisfied with the value you get from the chapter. That’s a “B.” Unfortunately, 6% were not.
- Member satisfaction with ASSP as a whole was over 78%, a C+. We do better, locally.
- 89% of you plan to renew your ASSP membership, but 6% will not renew. We need to recruit more members just to stay even.
- Over 60% of you are planning to attend the PDC, and most commenters find it to be a great value. While that is good, we have work to do to bump that percentage up. President-elect Steve Workman and the PDC committee are working hard to make that happen.
- Almost one quarter of respondents regularly attend the monthly breakfast meetings, another 20% do so often, but more than 40% of you come only occasionally.
- Most respondents like the breakfast meeting time, venue and menu. The speakers and topics seem to drive attendance. Kudos to Programs Chair, Chris Malicki.
• By far, networking is the top benefit of membership, followed by professional development. We will definitely keep the technical program part of the meetings.
• 29% of you are likely to recommend ASSP to a friend or colleague. There’s a lot of science behind this “Net Promoter” question. Brooks says our score is pretty good. To me, the score means you believe in our mission and feel that you belong in this profession. Good for you!
• Some ideas about what we can do to make the chapter better include: bringing a guest to the meeting, more community involvement activities, field trips to local companies, and attracting more young and mid-career professionals.

What I love about these ideas is that you can make them happen. Isaac, our Public Affairs Chair has plenty of opportunities to do community work, and Social Media Chair Claire Wilson is looking for a volunteer to help with our various platforms, like Twitter and LinkedIn.

Many of you said that you appreciate the work your Chapter Executive Committee is doing. We thank you for your support and for taking the time to let us know how we’re doing. As I say every month, send me an email at president@sandiego.assp.org to let me know you read this column, and also if you want to learn more about hosting a technical tour, or maybe a brewery tour to attract young professionals.

Thanks,

Enrique Medina
San Diego ASSP Chapter President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Government Affairs Committee:
by Scott Simerson

H.R. 7141: Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
November 16, 2018
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr7141/text

A BILL to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

Congress finds the following:
(1) In a 2016 report entitled, Workplace Safety and Health: Additional Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence, the Government Accountability Office reported over 730,000 cases of health care workplace assaults over the 5-year span from 2009 through 2013, based on Bureau of Justice Statistics data.
(2) The health care and social service industries experience the highest rates of injuries caused by workplace violence. Nurses and nursing, psychiatric, home health, and personal care aides all are at high risk.
(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that health care and social service workers suffered 69 percent of all workplace violence injuries caused by persons in 2016 and are nearly 5 times as likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers overall.
(4) According to a survey of 3,500 American emergency physicians conducted by the American College of Emergency Physicians, 47 percent of emergency room doctors have been physically assaulted at work, and 8 in 10 report that this violence is affecting patient care.
(5) Workplace violence in health care and social service sectors is increasing. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that private sector injury rates of workplace violence in health care and social service sectors increased by 63 percent between 2006 and 2016. Due to under-reporting, actual injury rates from workplace violence are widely recognized to be higher than reported levels.
(6) Violence against workers in health care settings is most commonly due to assaults by patients or clients, or persons accompanying patients or clients.
(7) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers, however, this guidance is not enforceable. Absent an enforceable standard, employers lack mandatory requirements to implement a violence prevention program, and workers lack sufficient protection from workplace violence.
(8) Studies have demonstrated that workplace violence prevention programs tailored to the needs of specific work areas and State-based workplace violence prevention legislation are strongly associated with reductions in workplace violence. Proper staff training, appropriate staffing levels, sufficient resources, and the use of evidence-based practices in the provision of services (such as

(See Government Affairs, page 3)
(Government Affairs, continued from Page 2)

effective communication with patients using de-escalation techniques can reduce risks to the safety of both patients and staff.

(9) Nine States have mandated that certain types of health care facilities implement workplace violence prevention programs. On April 1, 2018, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the State of California issued a comprehensive standard (Workplace Violence Prevention in Health Care) that requires health care facilities to implement a workplace violence prevention plan.

(10) Employer organizations have challenged the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s authority to utilize the General Duty Clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to enforce against workplace violence hazards, arguing that Congress did not intend to cover workplace violence under such clause when the Act was enacted in 1970.

(11) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) received two petitions for rulemaking in July of 2016, calling on OSHA to promulgate a violence prevention standard for health care and social service sectors. On December 6, 2016, OSHA issued a Request for Information (RFI) soliciting information on this issue. On January 10, 2017, OSHA conducted a public meeting to receive stakeholder input and to supplement the online comments submitted in response to the RFI. At that meeting, OSHA announced it accepted the petitions and would develop a Federal standard to prevent workplace violence in health care and social service settings. In the spring of 2017, the workplace violence prevention standard was removed from active consideration and placed on the Department of Labor’s long-term agenda. Subsequently, it was placed back on the regulatory agenda. OSHA’s efforts to move forward with rulemaking have been halting and inconsistent. Therefore, legislation is necessary to ensure the timely development of a standard to protect workers in health care and social service settings.

Newsletter Committee:
by Lee Donahue

You may have noticed this newsletter isn’t as comprehensive as usual. Unfortunately, due to recent events in the federal government, many agencies have temporarily paused operations or are only performing essential functions. What does this have to do with us? Well, much of our information comes from the efforts of these agencies to consolidate and coordinate reporting and provide a centralized source of content. Departments such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and many others which typically contribute to this and other publications have been affected. During the shutdown in January of 2018, even OSHA was operating with a skeleton crew—although I’ve seen no news regarding OSHA’s status during the current shutdown. While essential services within these organizations typically remain running, other functions such as inspections, research, and reporting lapse. If this alarms you, no matter your political standings, I encourage you to get involved with your government and express your views.

You Drive Safety...
...What Drives You?

A brief look at the motivation behind safety professionals

Mike Berkley, ASP, STS-C

I echo some of my colleagues. I love my job, and say so to anybody who will listen. I have no trouble getting out of bed in the morning. I understand my value may not conspicuously manifest itself every day in a dramatic way, but I like to think I do make a difference and therein make a contribution. I get satisfaction on the job site and being a team mate to the group. I cherish the comradery.

Are there difficult days? Yes. Are there frustrations? Absolutely. Do I experience some “groundhog days?” For sure, but I soldier on. Maybe this will help.

A father and son are walking on the beach. The beach is littered with thousands of starfish that have inexplicably been washed up. The son is picking up starfish and throwing them back into the ocean.

Dad: Why are you doing that? It won’t make any difference.

Son: It made a difference for that one, and that one, and that one...

Mike Berkley is a Regional Safety Manager for the Morrow-Meadows Corporation and a member of the ASSP Chapter of Orange County.
Study Group

Thinking about working on your ASP/CSP? If so, that’s outstanding and we are pulling for you! If you’d like to receive personal coaching for your ASP/CSP preparation, contact our Chapter President Enrique Medina, CIH, CSP to start the ball rolling.

By becoming part of our ASP/CSP Study Group Community you will get support, advice, tips, prep course reviews, and post-test debriefing from your peers to assist you in studying for the ASP/CSP professional certification exams. This free service is open to all Chapter members, and members of allied organizations, and you can join at any time. Contact Enrique at (619) 297-1469 or President@sandiego.assp.org

CONGRATULATIONS to General Atomic’s Anita Green, ASP for passing the ASP exam. Anita credits flash cards from fellow study group member Dusty Walton-Bowen, CSP, CHST for helping her get ready. Extra points for recycling!

Job Line

by David Ferguson, CSP

Looking for a new job? Employers are looking for you! Visit our job-line at https://sandiego.assp.org/current-openings/ to see current opportunities such as: Northrop Grumman Fire Protection Engineer, Environmental Engineer, or Manager of Occupational Health and Safety | Chief Safety Officer (San Diego) | Liberty Mutual Risk Control Consultant (Orange, Los Angeles), Risk Control Development Program, or Risk Control Internship | CAL/OSHA Associate Safety Engineer | Biomerieux Compliance and Environmental Health and Safety Manager | EH and S Site Manager (Northern California) | 3M Advanced EHS Engineer (Corona) | and Cal/OSHA Safety and Health Inspectors. Check out these and other great jobs today!

Peer to Peer (P2P) Resource Directory

Do you need help with a safety issue or question? The P2P Resource Directory can help you. SD ASSP Chapter members can now download the P2P directory matrix from the chapter website’s News tab at https://sandiego.assp.org/news/. You will be directed to the password protected ASSP member login to download the current list.

The P2P directory lists San Diego chapter members who are willing to provide other members no fee advice on areas of their expertise as a professional courtesy. There are over 45 safety specialty categories listed. If you would like to be listed, just download the P2P registration form from the same website, complete it, and send it to chapter secretary Fernand Kuhr at Secretary@sandiego.assp.org. All members are welcome to sign up for the P2P.

Editor’s Note: Do you have an item of interest, safety-related event, sister-organization meeting, special accomplishment or other newsworthy article that you would like to share with your fellow San Diego ASSP members? Send it to me via e-mail no later than the 15th of the month and I will do my best to get it published. Here are some conditions: news articles, reports and other text-based submissions should be limited to a maximum of two pages, 10—12 point font. Artwork or graphics (flyers or posters) should be single-page, preferably in MS Word or MS Publisher format. If you are “borrowing” a news item previously published somewhere else (i.e., not your own original work), please provide the source and whether or not you have permission to reprint it. All submissions should be e-mailed to Newsletter@sandiego.assp.org. Please also provide your contact information, including name, e-mail address and phone number.
EHS Educational Options in San Diego
Panel Discussion

At this meeting: This panel discussion of educators from UCSD OSHA Training Institute, Cuyamaca College, and Southwestern College, will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the EHS programs at these three organizations and will include discussion items such as:

- Overall description of the certificate or degree program offered by each institution
- The professional development benefits as an EHS Professional
- The prerequisites of the program
- Time frame to completion
- Schedule scenarios: days, evenings, weekends
- Estimated costs and tuition assistance
- Internships
- Employment and placement assistance

Our Panel Members:

UCSD OSHA Training Institute
Stephanie Spann
Associate Director

Cuyamaca College
Julie Godfrey Horn
Program Chair

Southwestern College
Marie Vicario-Fisher
Chair, Applied Technology Department

Admiral Baker Clubhouse
3604 Admiral Baker Road
San Diego, CA 92120

Registration and Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m.
Welcome and Speaker begins at 7:30 a.m.

$18 Members* with RSVP by 1/4/2019 by 5:00 P.M.
$23 No RSVP by 1/4/2019 and for Non-Members/Guests

*Members include: ASSP, ACWJPIA, AHMP, AIHA, IHPM, RNCN, RIMS, PARMA, CPCU, PWI, WUSMA

RSVP/Registration: Please RSVP OR register with payment by credit card on the San Diego ASSP Chapter website events page using the BLUE BUTTON link.

Please note: RSVPs and pre-registrations are very helpful in determining the head-count for the luncheon catering. Those who RSVP may still pay by check, credit card or cash at the door if preferred.

Directions: Interstate 15 to Friars Road East; left onto Santo Road (traffic light); immediate right on Admiral Baker Road; go STRAIGHT at STOP sign; pass the recreation area and part of the golf course; road curves to right at the driving range; keep going all the way to the club-house parking lot—a total of 0.9 miles from Santo Road.

Next month: Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, February 12th
SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Committee met in-person on Tuesday, December 4. Brooks Carder, Cait Casey, Gary Couture, Lee Donahue, David Ferguson, Fernand Kuhr, Allison Long, Chris Malicki, Enrique Medina, Scott Simerson, Isaac Szmulowicz, Claire Wilson (call-in), and Steve Workman attended.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Review Minutes from September, 2018:**
   The Executive Committee accepted the November 6, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes by vote. David Ferguson motioned to accept the minutes. Cait Casey seconded it. All the attendees approved the motion.

2. **Quick Updates:**
   - “Everyone has a Story.” Cait Casey has asked the EC for names of members for interviews. The write ups will be about 500 words. Propose that photographs of the interviewed members are displayed at the SD ASSP Professional Development Conference (PDC) 2019.
   - PDC update: Steve Workman updated the EC. Some vendors/exhibitors have already registered for the event. Information about sponsorship opportunities will be resent to allow early registrants to consider greater exposure at the PDC. EC discussed additional high level sponsorship at the “Keynote Speaker” level.
   - All subcommittee chairs should be prepared to make brief announcements at the luncheon to develop interest in member participation.
   - Chapter Newsletter update. Lee Donahue talked about his efforts to print and distribute copies of the newsletter with other professionals at Morrow-Meadows. EC agreed that is a good idea. Lee is working on creating the newsletter as a PDF file and setting up a “page turner” feature online. Enrique asked if the ASSP website is a good vehicle to highlight time sensitive articles. Allison Long stated ASSP social media sites are best to get information out immediately. Claire Wilson said she can post quick updates to social media if the information is sent to her.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Brooks Carder talked about the Member Survey he has created. It is necessarily brief but has some important benchmarking questions to assess member satisfaction with the Chapter’s programs. One such question is “would you recommend the SD ASSP to a friend.” Enrique asked the EC if the survey should be sent out to members this month. The majority said yes. Allison said the survey can be posted to Facebook.

2. December Holiday Luncheon: Final Arrangements: Enrique said everything is in place. Donations to the San Diego Youth Services should be gift cards. The invite will state members’ guests are welcome to come.

3. Chapter By Law changes. Enrique proposed a final change in the By Laws in No. 4 to allow e-voting. 

*(See Executive Committee on next page)*
(Executive Committee, continued from page 6)

change was approved by a motion by Gary Couture and a second from Scott Simerson. All the members were in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2. Delegate — Nothing to report.
4. Membership — Brooks Carder reports two new regular members and four free memberships were given to graduating students. E-mails to each one inviting them to the December luncheon. Four failures to renew. Brooks e-mailed each of them with a suggestion that they reconsider. Our current membership is at 389.
5. Newsletter — Committee of the month.
6. North County Section — Nothing to report.
7. Programs — Chris Malicki reported he is working with January speakers to wrap up the format of the presentation.
8. Public Affairs — Isaac Szmuilowicz reported another successful Red Cross Sound the Alarm event in Ramona on November 3rd. About 85 people installed 272 alarms, making 100 homes safer for 220 Ramona residents. We have an event on Tuesday, December 4th in Santee, a tentative event in Escondido at the end of January, and the National Sound the Alarm event on May 4th in Chula Vista. We can always use more volunteers.
9. Social Media — Holiday Luncheon announcement is out.
10. Succession Planning — Cait Casey reported completed Chris and Teresa safety stories, more in the works and several mid-career contacts recommended for follow-up. Open to ideas on sharing the stories in social media formats, and perhaps to support PDC outreach day of outreach.

Next EC Meeting: January 2, 2019 — Call-in meeting
Next Event: January 8, 2019, SD ASSP Breakfast Meeting

Chapter SPY Award — Teresa Bonilla

Congratulations to Teresa Bonilla, this year’s recipient of the Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award! The Chapter SPY award is an honor acknowledging the dedication and outstanding contributions of a member to our Chapter. Each year one member is identified through membership nominations, and then nominated to represent the San Diego Chapter as the Region I Safety Professional of the Year. You can read more of Teresa’s story in the December issue of the Safety Net!

Calendar of Special Events:

January 2019

| Date | Event                                      
|------|--------------------------------------------
| 1    | New Year’s Day                             
| 1-31 | National Bath Safety Month                 
| 1-31 | National Blood Donor Month                 
| 1-31 | National Radon Action Month                
| 7-13 | Home Office Safety and Security Week       
| 9    | Law Enforcement Appreciation Day          
| 11   | Human Trafficking Awareness               
| 21   | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day               
| 27   |                                           

Always find the latest San Diego ASSP events at https://sandiego.assp.org/event/!
# ASSP San Diego Chapter 2019 Professional Development Conference

The 2019 Professional Development Conference (PDC) sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of ASSP is scheduled for March 12, 2019 at The Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Street in San Diego. Catering will be by Kitchens for Good.

## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>A Track</th>
<th>B Track</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:45 AM</td>
<td>Registration, networking, vendor time (45 min)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:40 AM</td>
<td>ASSP Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vendor Self Introductions</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:20 AM</td>
<td><strong>Captain Lee Boone</strong>, USCG—“The El Faro sinking, an excellent safety case study of one of our worst disasters at sea from the USCG’s lead investigator”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:20 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Break and Vendor Time (20 min)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40 AM</td>
<td><strong>DOSH (CalOSHA)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Brandon Hart</strong>, Communications and Strategic Planning Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 AM</td>
<td><strong>Dr. Beatrice A. Golomb</strong>, MD, PhD, Prof. of Medicine, UCSD School of Medicine—“The link between US diplomat’s mystery illnesses in Cuba and China and pulsed RF/MW radiation”</td>
<td><strong>Nina Townsend</strong>, MPH, CSP, CIH Chief, Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program California Dept. of Public Health “Workplace lead poisoning trends and standards”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11:40 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch break, networking, and vendor time (45 min)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:25 PM</td>
<td>Lunch and keynote speaker</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Dr. John Howard</strong>, MD, MPH, JD, LLM, MBA Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) “Perspectives on the Opioid Crisis”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2:25 PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Break and Vendor Time (20 min)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Charlie Morecraft</strong> An ordinary guy with an extraordinary story! You may think you know him. His on-the-job decisions continue to affect his life in new ways every day.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Raffle, takeaways, and wrap up</td>
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Providing Leadership & Direction to the Safety Professional since 1911

Registration Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Single Attendee</th>
<th>Group of 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before Jan 15, 2019 (Early Bird)</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Jan 15, 2019</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Attendance is expected to exceed all previous years!

Register at sandiego.assp.org/events/assp-professional-development-conference/

Exhibitors

Your organization can participate as an EXPO vendor for $400. As a vendor, your organization will have the opportunity to display your company's products or services and also interact and network with all of the event attendees. A number of planned breaks and “vendor” time will be provided during the event.

Included as a vendor participant you will receive:

- One 3’ x 6’ table and two chairs in the vendor area.
- Breakfast and lunch for two people.
- A reserved vendor table in the ballroom that will allow you to attend the presentations.
- 30-60 seconds of stage time to introduce yourself and your organization to the group.
- Your company logo as a vendor participant displayed on the San Diego ASSP website for a period of one year.

Sponsorships

Keel Level

Your organization can participate as a valued sponsor at this event by sponsoring the beverage station, breakfast, or lunch. Cost is $200. Includes:

- Verbal recognition at the event.
- Your company logo or sign located at the sponsored item.
- Your logo as an event sponsor displayed on the San Diego ASSP website for a period of one year.

Flagship Level

Cost is $1000. Includes:

- Everything listed in Keel level
- Logo recognition on select event literature including photo booth photos
- 2 event tickets – includes lunch
- Double booth size

Keynote Sponsor

Cost is $1500. Includes:

- Logo/name recognition on select event literature
- Verbal recognition at all sessions
- 4 complimentary event tickets – includes lunch
- Marketing/advertising material in program materials
- 1 trade show table with choice of available position
- Logo displayed in lunch room and breakout sessions
- Sponsor Recognition at lunch
- Reserved Table at Lunch.

Special accommodations will also be considered based on need. Please contact Chris Malicki at cmalicki@cavignac.com for more information concerning Sponsors and Vendors.

Event exhibitors and sponsors can register at sandiego.assp.org/events/assp-professional-development-conference/

The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

404 Euclid Avenue

San Diego, CA  92114

http://www.jacobscenter.org/

Kitchens for Good

All of their catering proceeds help individuals in need get jobs in the culinary industry and provide nutritious meals to hungry San Diegans.

https://kitchensforgood.org/
Become a judge now and have a positive impact in the life of a future engineer!

For the last three months, kids all around the world have been hard at work designing cities of the future. Don’t miss seeing the innovators of tomorrow in action!

Register today to become a Future City judge at your nearest competition. There are opportunities to participate remotely (judging from a home or work computer), and/or in-person on the day of the competition. Either way, your involvement has a great impact on the lives of middle schoolers.

“... We were treated with respect by adults in the engineering industry. They took our ideas seriously and it felt like they were looking at us as peers, which is so rare when you are a kid. It really helped to build our confidence.”

– Adam Patinkin, Alumnus, on his Future City experience.

Contact Lee Donahue for questions about the Future City competition or what judging entails at (858) 692-6273 or newsletter@sandiegoassp.org.
Help us Sound the Alarm about home fire safety.

The American Red Cross is teaming up with fire departments, volunteers, and partners to Sound the Alarm with home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events. Help us install FREE smoke alarms and make our communities safer. We need your help!

Every day 7 people die in home fires. You can help change that.

Join us at an installation event:

Chula Vista – Saturday, May 4th, 2019
More information here

Watch for more dates coming soon!

Could you or someone you know use a free installation? Click here!

For more information visit www.SoundTheAlarm.org/SanDiego or email Melissa.Altman@RedCross.org
U.S. DOL Proposes to Revise Beryllium Standard for General Industry
December 10, 2018

Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today issued a proposed rule to revise the beryllium standard for general industry. The proposed changes are designed to clarify the standard and, to simplify or improve compliance with the standard.


Comments, hearing requests, and other information must be submitted electronically at http://www.regulations.gov, the Federal eRulemaking Portal, or by facsimile or mail. Read the Federal Register notice for submission details. Comments must be submitted by February 9, 2019.

The enforcement date for the provisions business as Parts Authority Georgia LLC – for exposing employees to smoke and fire hazards by allowing obstructed and unlit exit signs; struck-by hazards from damaged storage rack supports and shelves; and failing to train employees to recognize chemical hazards, and maintain safety data sheets on chemical hazards.

"The inspection found multiple safety deficiencies that put employees at risk of serious and fatal injuries," said OSHA Atlanta Area Office Director William Fulcher. "Potential workplace hazards must be assessed and eliminated to ensure effective enforcement and compliance assistance that includes educating job creators about their responsibilities under the law, and providing robust education opportunities to workers, OSHA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of the American workforce."

In addition to the decline in overall fatalities, crane-related workplace fatalities, and fatal occupational injuries in the private manufacturing industry and wholesale trade industries reached their lowest points since the CFOI started in 1992. "The scourge of opioid addiction unfortunately continues to take its toll on workers across the country, demonstrating the importance of this Administration’s efforts to tackle this crisis,”

The number of unintentional overdoses due to the nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased by 25 percent—a fifth consecutive year overdose deaths rose by at least 25 percent.

Employers who need assistance in meeting their safety obligations can take advantage of OSHA’s no-cost and confidential On-Site Consultation Program. OSHA Training Institute Education Centers (OTIs) also provide training to workers, employers, and other safety professionals across the nation.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.
Injured Massachusetts Teen Workers Lacked Health and Safety Training: Report

Boston – Nearly half of the teen workers in Massachusetts who were injured on the job between 2011 and 2015 said they did not receive health and safety training from their employers, according to a Massachusetts Department of Public Health annual report on teen worker safety.

Using data from the Young Workers: Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project, researchers examined 156 interviews with teens who were injured at work during the five-year period. Among them, 49 percent said they did not receive work-related health and safety training, and half believe their injury was preventable.

Four industries – accommodation and food service (37 percent), retail trade (19), health care and social assistance (11), and construction (4) – accounted for more than 70 percent of all work-related injuries involving teens in the state.

The nonfatal injury rate for teens is nearly double that of workers who are at least 25 years old, the report states, citing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report also states that 44 percent of the 81 workers’ compensation claims involving traumatic brain injuries among teens between 1993 and 2015 were recorded in the last five years. This increase in claims may be the result of greater public awareness of concussion symptoms, according to the report.

Restaurants (22 percent) were the most common workplace where teens experienced concussions, followed by grocery stores (17 percent). Twenty-two percent of workers said their injuries happened when they hit their head on an object while standing up or walking. Another 17 percent reported their concussions occurred as a result of a slip or fall.

“This continued efforts are needed to ensure jobs in which teens are employed are safe,” the report states. “And as we engage teens in the workplace — whether as employers, schools, jobs programs or parents with family businesses — we need to provide them with basic health and safety skills that will help protect them now and in the future.”

This article originally appeared in Safety+Health on December 28, 2018.

CDC Report on Worker Suicide Suggests Need for Enhanced Prevention Strategies

Atlanta — Suicide prevention strategies for workers are needed to help mitigate rising workplace suicide rates, a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests.

Researchers examined 22,053 suicides in 17 states that were recorded in the National Violent Death Reporting System between 2012 and 2015. They found that men in construction and extraction had the highest suicide rate, which stood at 53.2 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2015, up from 43.6 in 2012. The highest rate for women was seen among those working in arts, design, entertainment, sports and media — 15.6 in 2015, an increase from 11.7 in 2012.

The largest suicide rate increase seen during the four-year period was in the arts, design, entertainment, sports and media group for men (to 39.7 deaths per 100,000 workers from 26.9); for females, the largest suicide rate increase was seen among those in the food preparation and serving related field (to 9.4 from 6.1).

According to previous research conducted by CDC, the workplace suicide rate among workers 16 to 64 years old climbed to 17.3 in 2016 from 12.9 in 2000, a 34 percent increase.

“Increasing suicide rates in the United States are a concerning trend that represent a tragedy for families and communities and impact the American workforce,” Deb Houry, director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, said in a Nov. 15 press release. “Knowing who is at greater risk for suicide can help save lives through focused prevention efforts.”

CDC offers suicide prevention strategies for employers. Among them:

• Implement employee assistance and workplace wellness programs.
• Provide access to online mental health screenings and web-based tools.
• Help reduce the stigma surrounding seeking assistance for mental illness.
• Increase awareness of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline — (800) 273-8255.

The study was published in the Nov. 16 issue of CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

This article originally appeared in Safety+Health on December 27, 2018.
PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS:

2. (12/4) Signature Hardware Recalls Wall-Mounted Shower Seats Due to Fall and Laceration Hazards: www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/Signature-Hardware-Wall-Mounted-Shower-Seats-Due-to-Fall-and-Laceration-Hazards
5. (12/6) Skip Hop Recalls Convertible High Chairs Due to Injury and Fall Hazards: www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/Skip-Hop-Recalls-Convertible-High-Chairs-Due-to-Injury-and-Fall-Hazards
HELPFUL LINKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

American Industrial Hygiene Association: http://www.aiha.org/
American Red Cross: http://www.redcross.org/
American Society of Safety Professionals NEW Main Website: https://www.assp.org/ NEW
ASSP Center for Safety and Health Sustainability http://www.centershs.org/ NEW
ASSP Learning Library: http://www.safetybok.org/ NEW
ASSP Risk Assessment Institute https://www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute NEW
California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), (Cal/OSHA): http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/
Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): http://www.epa.gov/
FEMA “Be Ready” Website: http://www.ready.gov/
Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA): http://www.msha.gov/
National Institute of Health Sciences (NIH): http://www.niehs.nih.gov/
National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Main Website: https://www.osha.gov/
San Diego ASSP Website: https://sandiego.assp.org/ NEW