



The Safety Connection

San Diego



Scott Simerson

The President’s Message — February, 2021

Welcome to February 2021!

First off, I would like to welcome some of our newest members; Charisa Carkhuff, Kyle Bergen, Mike Walker joined us in December, please make them feel welcome when you see them in a meeting (virtual for now)!

Fresh into a New Year and one month away from our own Professional Development Training event, time is of the essence! Coincidentally, I have a lot of projects going on in my job right now, and I can’t help but think back to something my



Read more about Helmikuu here...

Navy Recruiting Zone Supervisor told me about Time Management. He said, you have to think, “What can I do right now that will put someone in the Navy?”

So now, the question at work is what can I do right now to support the safety directors at the installations and the management at the headquarters office? This query is always attenuated by the use of the modifier “when is a particular project or tasking due?” Asking this question helps me focus my attention and helps me keep projects aligned. In my perfect world, I want to work a project from start to finish with no interruptions. Ha! As I’ve said before, we live far from perfect, so I’m forced to put projects aside while I wait for information to complete a data call, or I’m asked to work on something with higher priority. Sometimes the reason for the stoppage is incredibly mun-

(see President’s Message, Page 2)

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CLICK ON THE TOPIC TO JUMP TO THAT PAGE!

Thank you to all the sponsors of our 2020 Professional Development Conference!



CHUBB





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(President’s Message, from Page 1)

dane, like waiting on a slow computer (WHAT is it doing in the background?) or slow internet connection (don’t we live in 2021 yet?), so I have to turn to something else on my list while I wait, such as compose this letter. I generally don’t like idle time. The point is to always keep moving in a forward direction, get things done and move on to the next project.

Another way of moving forward that is so important is self-improvement. I mentioned this about a month back; a way of become more valuable to yourself and your world is through education. It just so happens that ASSP Safety Focus is coming up this month, and registration is open until Feb 19th.

They have a ton of courses available, every subject you could think of, in classes lasting from one to three days! Check it out at <https://safetyfocus.assp.org/> and while I’m talking about it, be sure to mark March 9th on your calendar for our own Professional Development Training event: <https://sandiego.assp.org/events/annual-chapter-professional-development-training-day/>

Thank you, and wishing you a great February! Fun Fact: In the Finnish language, February is called helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl"; when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice.

Stay Safe,
 – Scott

Scott Simerson
 President
 San Diego ASSP Chapter
president@sandiego.assp.org.

San Diego County COVID-19 website:
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status.html

Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 website: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

P.S., Totally off-topic; the latest creation from my personal chef and baker is a Black Cocoa Powder cake made with ricotta cheese, topped with black fudge frosting! I don’t recommend eating it before bed if you are trying to get some sleep, I felt like I had a big cup of coffee!

SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Committee met over GoTo Meeting on Tuesday, January 5th. Cait Casey, Lee Donahue, David Ferguson, David Hiipakka, Chris Malicki, Scott Simerson, Isaac Szmuiłowicz, Dusty Walton-Bowen, and Wesley Williams were present.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review/Approve Minutes from December 1st, 2020 ExCom Meeting:

- a. Lee Donahue motioned to approve and Wesley Williams seconded the motion to approve the minutes for December 1st.

Unanimous approval with no further discussion, no abstentions. Minutes approved.

2. Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Report: Chris Malicki

- a. Banking transactions continue to be nominal.
- b. There was some expense related to the purchase of ASSP masks.
- c. Lee—we lost six members in December and nine members in November. We are

(see ExCom Minutes, Page 3)



SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(ExCom Minutes, from Page 2)

- trending with more losses than gains.
- d. Chris—will reach out to Wells Fargo regarding actual and calculate the change in credit card fees in order to determine if we shift banks.
- e. We received the first PDT registration for \$50.
- f. Members may view a copy of the Treasurer’s Report upon request to the Chapter President.

3. COMT Updates

- a. Scott—made additional updates and looks forward to additional feedback from the team.

4. COMT Review; Nomination and Elections Committee names due December 1, 2020

- a. Again, this is not a hard deadline, just to keep us on task. Steve is absent again and Scott needs to discuss with Steve .

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mask update: Wesley (secondary discussion: give-away vs. charge)

- a. Wesley – they have been ordered and we expect them in the next week or two. Next, we need to determine distribution.
- b. Scott – San Diego Youth Services 75 (Scott to deliver)
- c. Wesley - San Diego Rescue Mission 75 (Dusty to deliver)
- d. Isaac – Red Cross 50 (Isaac to deliver)
- e. Scott – Have Some for Ex Com Members 100
- f. Cait – Maybe Transition Warriors Program – never mind
- g. Wesley – he will meet up with selected persons to support distribution

2. Open Forum

- a. Dusty - John C. Tolley 50 Year Recognition – We are not sure who he is and need to find him. Maybe Enrique or Dan Hopwood knows him. Lee found him in the email database. Scott - We should present him with a plaque and at a minimum recognize him in the newsletter and social media outlets. Chris – will reach out to our promotional partners to get an estimated cost of the item.
- b. Lee - Future City junior high community support project. Lee has been a judge for a few years and is trying to emphasize safety as part of the project. This year is virtual. Teresa Bonilla has also been a judge in the past and enjoyed the process. Participants work yearlong on the project. It is a national competition, but the local school winners go to regional competition and regional winners go to nationals. This may be an opportunity to participate and encourage the elements of safety be weaved into the process.
- c. Next ExComm Meeting discusses opportunities to address the title “Programs”.
- d. Discussion regarding succession planning:

Chris - Former Committee Members are disappearing. What happened to Amy, Allison, Steve, Enrique (Enrique did have his business to run)? We have some that have completely ghosted.

Lee/Scott – Maybe a 3-year term is too long? Are people getting burnout? Why is this happening?

Dusty – People seem to drop off in the Past President position, after they have served as President, so we are really looking at a 2-year term and we are still losing people. It is a long commitment, peoples work and personal conditions change.

Chris – Employer support is a huge part of the success in the position. There were previous Presidents that did not have employer support and it was challenging.

Scott – Likes the President-elect position as it is a transition into the President position and does help prepare them.

We are all-volunteer and should ask questions and inquire in order to reduce, minimize, and prevent future “ghosting”.

Scott – Because of time constraints, we should continue this discussion at a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Delegates** — Nothing to report.
- 2. Government Affairs** — Nothing to report.
- 3. Job Line** — David could not get into the online job line and reached out to Mark H at society. There are currently 7 positions available with an 8th pending. The automatic delete function is working well except for those postings like Cal OSHA that do not have end dates. David will try to add a new position for the San Ysidro health clinic. Lee confirmed the site migrated to a new site and has provided David the info.
- 4. Membership** — Absent—Lee - December - Lost 6 and November - Lost 9.
- 5. Newsletter** — Deadline is the 15th of each month. Was waiting for NIOSH to update some info and is adding PDT flyer.
- 6. Programs** — Absent
Scott - Fernand has elected not continue as the Programs Chair in 2021-2022
We have no speaker for January.
Lee – we should consider an open forum option and still try to get Mara from SDYS.
Lee will facilitate January open-forum and Scott to open the meeting. Scott will reach out to Mara at SDYS.
Chris - does not like the title “Programs” and thinks the name should change to better reflect the position. According to Chris, this would cause a change in the bylaws.

(see ExCom Minutes, Page 4)



SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(ExCom Minutes, from Page 3)

7. **Public Affairs** — Red Cross is still offering lunch and learn training for 1/12 Covid-19 Preparedness, 1/19 General Preparedness and Kids, 2/16 Review and Preparedness Kids. Isaac will get the updated flyer to Lee for publication. Listos California (State program to support people – jobs/wellness/ etc.). Program funding was continued and Isaac is awaiting a reply from his contact Caroline to determine if there is need for additional support.
8. **Social Media** — Awaiting final flyer for PDT .
9. **Webmaster**— Absent— Lee: The website was migrated on December 9 with no warning and Claire was initially missed on the notification. Lee looped her in and confirmed to Scott that we are updating the website at least every 90 days – newsletter, job updates, and more.
10. **Succession Planning** — Current leadership should speak

with past leaders in order to gain additional insight regarding experience as a board members or chapter volunteer. Cait can reach out and this “listen & learn” can be leveraged to consider improvements to help secure and maintain leaders and succession of Chapter positions. Looking at other groups and compliments to the board for ongoing efforts through Covid-19.

11. **Special Projects** — Nothing to report.
12. **PDC** — Wesley – Next PDC/PDT meeting 1/19/2021.

Last Call: None

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, 2021—GoTo Webinar—Open Forum/Mara from SDYS (pending availability)

Next PDT Planning Meeting: January 19th, 2021—GoTo Meeting

Next EC Meeting: February 5th, 2021—GoTo Meeting

Next PDT Date: March 9th, 2021—GoTo Webinar

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Government Affairs Committee:

by Scott Simerson

Cal/OSHA Issues Citations to Multiple Employers for COVID-19 Violations at Meat Processing Facilities

December 23, 2020

Oakland—Cal/OSHA has cited eight employers for not protecting workers from COVID-19 during inspections at meat processing facilities across the state. The inspections were opened upon learning of a COVID-19 fatality and several illnesses, and after receiving complaints. The employers cited failed to take required steps to prevent COVID-19 infection in

the workplace such as safe physical distancing procedures or proper face covering usage for workers in production areas.

“Enforcement of COVID-19 protections at meatpacking and food processing facilities has been a priority of Cal/OSHA given the high rates of positive cases and alarming number of deaths among food processing workers,” said Cal/OSHA Chief Doug Parker. “These citations represent a portion of our enforcement efforts in these industries. More citations will be issued when violations are identified and inspections are closed.”

The employers cited for COVID-19 violations include:

Employer Name	Industry	Worksite Location	Inspection Type	Proposed Penalties
Smithfield Foods, Inc.	Meat processing	Vernon	Complaint	\$58,100
CitiStaff Solutions	Staffing Agency	Vernon	Unprogrammed Related*	\$46,695
Central Valley Meat Holding Company dba Central Valley Meat Co.	Meat processing	Hanford	Complaint	\$50,000
OWB Packers, LLC dba One World Beef	Meat processing	Brawley	Fatality	\$23,000
California Farms Meat Company, Inc.	Meat processing	Vernon	Complaint	\$11,700
CLW Foods, LLC	Meat processing	Vernon	Referral	\$32,700
California Enterprises Employment, Inc.	Temporary employment	Vernon	Unprogrammed Related*	\$24,200
HR Staffing Solutions Inc.	Temporary employment	Vernon	Unprogrammed Related*	\$19,200

*Indicates multiple employers at a worksite

(see Government Affairs, Page 5)



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

(Government Affairs, from Page 4)

Cal/OSHA on November 12 [cited Smithfield Foods, Inc. in Vernon \\$58,100 in proposed penalties for multiple COVID-19 related violations](#), including two serious in nature, and its staffing firm [CitiStaff Solutions was also cited \\$46,695](#) for two serious violations. Both employers failed to ensure that workers used face coverings properly in production areas and during breaks, and failed to provide effective training and instruction on how the virus is spread and how to disinfect areas properly. The investigators determined that Smithfield Foods, Inc. failed to adequately address at least 300 COVID-19 illnesses (including three that required hospitalization) amongst its employees and contracted workers hired by CitiStaff Solutions. Smithfield Foods, Inc. further failed to report serious COVID-19 illnesses to Cal/OSHA.

[Central Valley Meat Co. was cited](#) for not informing employees of possible exposure when coworkers were infected with COVID-19 and for failing to provide face coverings and ensure their proper use. Cal/OSHA opened a complaint-initiated inspection at the facility in Hanford on April 29 and identified violations in the employer’s training procedures and response to COVID-19 hazards. Citations were issued on December 11 with \$50,000 in proposed penalties for two violations classified as serious.

In June, Cal/OSHA became aware that several One World Beef Packer employees were hospitalized for complications related to COVID-19, including one employee who died. When Cal/OSHA inspected the Brawley facility, investigators noted that workers in the production lines and quality assurance area were not provided protective barriers and were working too close to each other. Furthermore, the employer failed to report the serious illnesses and fatality within the eight-hour time limit as required by law. [Cal/OSHA cited One World Beef Packer \\$23,000 on December 11](#) for one serious violation and a regulatory violation for failing to report the serious illnesses.

After reports of outbreaks, Cal/OSHA opened inspections at meat processing plants in Vernon last June and July as part of a targeted enforcement effort. An onsite inspection at [California Farms Meat Company](#) confirmed the employer did not implement physical distancing procedures or install barriers in the production area, where workers separated chicken by hand and operated machines within close distance of each other. Cal/OSHA cited the employer \$11,700 in proposed penalties on December 14 for the serious violation.

In July, Cal/OSHA opened inspections with [CLW Foods](#) and its

staffing firms [California Enterprises Employment](#) and [HR Staffing Solutions](#) in Vernon. The employers were cited on December 14 for multiple violations, including some categorized as serious for failing to address COVID-19 hazards by training employees and ensuring proper physical distancing procedures on conveyor lines, in the production area and when employees took breaks. CLW Foods and California Enterprise Employment were also cited for failing to report serious COVID-19 illnesses to Cal/OSHA.

To assist employers with understanding their requirements to protect workers from COVID-19, Cal/OSHA has created guidance and resources. This includes a model written COVID-19 Prevention Program, [COVID-19 information page](#) and free webinars for certain industries from Cal/OSHA Consultation Services.

Cal/OSHA has posted FAQs and a one-page fact sheet on the regulation, as well as a model COVID-19 prevention program. Employers are invited to participate in training webinars held by Cal/OSHA’s Consultation Services branch.

Cal/OSHA will convene a stakeholder meeting in December that will include industry and labor representatives to review the requirements of the emergency regulation and solicit feedback and recommend updates.

U.S. Department of Labor Reminds Specific Employers to Submit Required 2020 Injury and Illness Data by March 2, 2021

January 4, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers that the agency will begin collecting calendar year 2020 Form 300A data on Jan. 2, 2021. Employers must submit the form electronically by March 2, 2021.

Electronic submissions are required by establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees classified in specific industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Visit the Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA for more information and a link to the Injury Tracking Application.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women

(see [Government Affairs, Page 6](#))



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

(Government Affairs, from Page 5)

by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Annual Adjustments to OSHA Civil Penalties

January 13, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor has announced adjustments to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) civil penalty amounts based on cost-of-living adjustments for 2021.

In 2015, Congress passed the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act to advance the effectiveness of civil monetary penalties and to maintain their deterrent effect. Under the Act, agencies are required to publish “catch-up” rules that adjust the level of civil monetary penal-

ties, and make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation no later than January 15 of each year.

OSHA’s maximum penalties for serious and other-than-serious violations will increase from \$13,494 per violation to \$13,653 per violation. The maximum penalty for willful or repeated violations will increase from \$134,937 per violation to \$136,532 per violation.

Visit the OSHA Penalties page for more information. The Department of Labor Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2021 final rule is effective January 15, 2021, and the increased penalty levels apply to any penalties assessed after January 15, 2021.

Membership Committee:

by Jo Curcio

Hardship Membership Program

Hardship membership program. If you (or a colleague) have lost your job as a result of COVID-19, please contact the ASSP customer service team at customerservice@assp.org or call (847) 699-2929. Our hardship program can help you maintain your ASSP membership for up to 1 year while you seek a new opportunity.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER ASSP 2020 SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



ENRIQUE MEDINA



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Membership Chair

by Jo Curcio

Welcome

Welcome to our newest members!

Mark Cheroe
Nuria Ibarra

Job Line

by David Ferguson, CSP, CEA, REPA

Looking for a new job? Local employers are looking for you! Visit our job-line at sandiego.assp.org/current-openings/ to see current opportunities such as:

- Flatiron—[Project Safety Manager](#)
- Dexcom—[Sr. Director, EHS](#)
- Dexcom—[EHS Manager](#)
- Aerotek—[EHS Specialist](#)
- FormFactor—[EHS/Facilities Manager](#)
- Grifols—[EH&S Manager](#)
- Qualcomm—[EHS Engineer](#)
- Dexcom—[EHS Engineer I](#)
- Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma—[Director, Safety Health & Environment](#)
- San Ysidro Health—[Safety and Wellness Specialist](#)
- Cal/OSHA—[Inspectors](#)

The [blue](#) links should take you directly to the posting, when available. Otherwise, see the [San Diego ASSP Job Listing](#) for full details and instructions on how to apply. Check out these and other great jobs today!

Check us out on social media!



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[American Society of Safety Professionals—San Diego ASSP Chapter](#)



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Do you have an item of interest, safety-related event, sister-organization meeting, special accomplishment, or other newsworthy article that you would like shared with your fellow San Diego ASSP members? Submit it for consideration via e-mail no later than the 15th of the month! Please e-mail all submissions along with your contact information, including name, e-mail address, and phone number, to Newsletter@sandiego.assp.org.



ASSP Career Center

The ASSP Career Center is a free comprehensive resource available to all ASSP Chapter members who are looking for a job or those who are employed and want to advance their safety careers. The Career Center’s Job Seeker Resource Center offers resume writing tips, tools to build your resume online, and a Resume Bank where you can post your resume anonymously for employers to view, except for your name and contact information. But that’s not all! You also get interview preparation and follow-up strategies, such as how to bring up and negotiate a salary.

The Job Board lets you to search for job postings throughout the US and internationally by applying filters that fit your criteria, and save them by keyword, location, industry, or job function. The Job Alert automated search sends new postings that meet your criteria right to you, instead of having to log in to search for new jobs. You also get help with career advancement to move your career forward or change industry sectors, including using social media for networking, how to work effectively with recruiters, how to give notice, and negotiating salary and benefits. And you have access to expert coaching!

Employers can post and manage job openings, search and manage job candidates, create a company profile, upload position templates, consult a Resume Bank, and much more. This is a great free resource designed with you in mind—visit the ASSP Career Center and Job Board at jobs.assp.org/.

February 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Calendar of Special Events February 2021

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>
1-28	American Heart Month
1-28	Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
4	World Cancer Day
8	International Epilepsy Day
9	Safer Internet Day
7-13	National Burn Awareness Week
22-28	National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
27	Anosmia Awareness Day

Click on an event to learn more!

Always find the latest San Diego ASSP events at sandiego.assp.org/event!



****SAVE THE DATE****

**ASSP SD
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING***

WHEN

**March 9th, 2021
7:30am – 3:30pm**

WHERE

VIRTUAL TRAINING

GoToWebinar Virtual Platform

***Training meets Navy threshold for normal
supervisor approval, per OPNAVINST 5050.34**

JOIN US!

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

**\$50 FOR
ATTENDEES
SEEKING
CEU CREDIT**

**ENGAGING
&
RELEVANT
TOPICS**

**VENDOR
SPOTLIGHT**

sandiego.assp.org

****STAY TUNED FOR
MORE DETAILS TO
BE COMING SOON!**



American Red Cross
Southern California Region

Be Red Cross Ready



Get a Kit



Make a Plan



Be Informed

February 2021 Lunch and Learn Disaster Preparedness Presentations

Join the American Red Cross and learn how to Be Red Cross Ready. Be Red Cross Ready is a one-hour seminar on how to prepare households for local hazards. Our presenters will highlight general preparedness and four unique local hazards. Join us to learn how you can Be **Red Cross Ready!**

Home Fires

February 5, 2021 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

Wildfires

February 12, 2021 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

Floods and Landslides

February 19, 2021 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

Earthquakes

February 26, 2021 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

General Preparedness

March 5, 2021 12:00pm

[Join Here](#)

For detail, additional preparedness information, or to schedule a presentation, please contact:

Imperial and San Diego Counties:

Melissa Altman at

melissa.altman@redcross.org

(858) 357-6472

Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties:

Kimberly Aufrecht at

kimberly.aufrecht2@redcross.org

(714) 313-5440



OSHA News Releases

U.S. Department of Labor
OSHA, Office of Communications



U.S. Department of Labor’s OSHA Announces \$3,930,381 In Coronavirus Violations

January 8, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC — Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic through Dec. 31, 2020, The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued citations arising from 300 inspections for violations relating to coronavirus, resulting in proposed penalties totaling \$3,930,381.

OSHA inspections have resulted in the agency citing employers for violations, including failures to:

- Implement a [written respiratory protection program](#);
- Provide a medical evaluation, respirator fit test, training on the proper use of a respirator and PPE;
- [Report](#) an injury, illness or fatality;
- Record an injury or illness on OSHA [recordkeeping forms](#); and

- Comply with the [General Duty Clause](#) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

OSHA has already announced citations relating to the coronavirus arising out

Announce Date	Establishments	Proposed Penalties
10/2/2020	37	\$484,069
10/9/2020	25	\$429,064
10/16/2020	23	\$309,023
10/23/2020	27	\$381,388
10/30/2020	32	\$421,887
11/6/2020	35	\$471,337
11/17/2020	24	\$354,765
11/20/2020	29	\$296,919
11/27/2020	12	\$153,480
12/4/2020	11	\$101,207
12/11/2020	8	\$101,206
12/18/2020	10	\$141,883
12/23/2020	5	\$50,893
12/31/2020	16	\$152,101
1/8/2021	6	\$81,159
Totals:	294	\$3,930,381

Click the links for details and weekly breakdowns

that adjust the level of civil monetary penalties, and make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation no later than January 15 of each year.

OSHA’s maximum penalties for serious and other-than-serious violations will increase from \$13,494 per violation to \$13,653 per violation. The maximum

of 294 inspections, which can be found at dol.gov/newsroom. In addition to those inspections, [six more inspections] have resulted in coronavirus-related citations totaling \$81,159 from OSHA relating to one or more of the above violations from Dec. 25 to Dec. 31, 2020. OSHA provides more information about individual citations at its [Establishment Search website](#), which it updates periodically.

A full list of what standards were cited for each establishment – and the inspection number – [are available here](#). An OSHA standards database can be found [here](#).

Resources are available on the agency’s [COVID-19 webpage](#) to help employers comply with these standards. ▀

Media Contact:

Megan Sweeney, 202-693-4661
sweeney.megan.p@dol.gov
Release Number: 21-20-NAT

Check OSHA’s [COVID-19 webpage](#) at www.osha.gov/coronavirus frequently for updates. For further information about coronavirus, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

penalty for willful or repeated violations will increase from \$134,937 per violation to \$136,532 per violation.

Visit the [OSHA Penalties page](#) for more information. The Department of Labor Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2021 [final rule](#) is effective January 15, 2021, and the increased penalty levels apply to any penalties assessed after January 15, 2021. ▀

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at www.dol.gov. The Department’s [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

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January 13, 2021

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In 2015, Congress passed the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act to advance the effectiveness of civil monetary penalties and to maintain their deterrent effect. Under the Act, agencies are required to publish “catch-up” rules



U.S. Department of Labor Issues Stronger Workplace Guidance on Coronavirus

January 29, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued stronger worker safety guidance to help employers and workers implement a coronavirus prevention program and better identify risks which could lead to exposure and contraction. Last week, President Biden directed OSHA to release clear guidance for employers to help keep workers safe from COVID-19 exposure.

“Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace” provides updated guidance and recommendations, and outlines existing safety and health standards. OSHA is providing the recommendations to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace.

“More than 400,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 and millions of people are out of work as a result of this crisis. Employers and workers can help our nation fight and overcome this deadly pandemic by committing themselves to making their workplaces as safe as possible,” said Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Labor M. Patricia Smith. “The recommendations in OSHA’s updated guidance will help us defeat the virus, strengthen our

economy and bring an end to the staggering human and economic toll that the coronavirus has taken on our nation.”

Implementing a coronavirus prevention program is the most effective way to reduce the spread of the virus. The guidance announced today recommends several essential elements in a prevention program:

- Conduct a hazard assessment.
- Identify control measures to limit the spread of the virus.
- Adopt policies for employee absences that don’t punish workers as a way to encourage potentially infected workers to remain home.
- Ensure that coronavirus policies and procedures are communicated to both English and non-English speaking workers.
- Implement protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.

“OSHA is updating its guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus and improve worker protections so businesses can operate safely and employees can stay safe and working,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick.

The guidance details key measures for limiting coronavirus’s spread, including ensuring infected or potentially infected people are not in the workplace, implementing and following

begin collecting calendar year 2020 Form 300A data on Jan. 2, 2021. Employers must submit the form electronically by March 2, 2021.

Electronic submissions are required by establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employ-

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

physical distancing protocols and using surgical masks or cloth face coverings. It also provides guidance on use of personal protective equipment, improving ventilation, good hygiene and routine cleaning.

OSHA will update today’s guidance as developments in science, best practices and standards warrant.

This guidance is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations. It contains recommendations as well as descriptions of existing mandatory safety and health standards. The recommendations are advisory in nature, informational in content and are intended to assist employers in recognizing and abating hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm as part of their obligation to provide a safe and healthful workplace. ▪

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

ees classified in [specific industries](#) with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Visit the [Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA](#) for more information and a link to the Injury Tracking Application. ▪

U.S. Department of Labor Reminds Specific Employers to Submit Required 2020 Injury and Illness Data by March 2, 2021

January 4, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers that the agency will



Update on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response

COVID-19 Update

As part of NIOSH’s efforts to keep our stakeholders up to date on the CDC and NIOSH COVID-19 response, here is a summary of new information available.

COVID-19 Response Guidance for Businesses and Employers CDC recently updated their [Guidance for Business and Employers](#), addressing shortened quarantine options and additional considerations for testing. The updates also clarify information around mask-wearing.

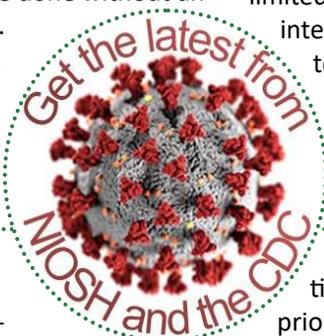
COVID-19 Checklists for Employers and Employees in Construction CDC offers [Construction Checklists](#) to share ways employers can protect construction workers, and how these workers can protect themselves, to slow the spread of COVID-19. The checklists are available as an interactive online tool or as a PDF in both English and Spanish.

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns CDC recently updated their [Isolation Gown Optimization Strat-](#)

[egies](#), moving the prioritization strategy of gowns from crisis capacity to contingency capacity. The updated information also clarifies the situations where gowns should be prioritized.

Workplace SARS-CoV-2 Testing: Consent Elements and Disclosures This recently updated [webpage](#) describes the elements of consent and recommended disclosures necessary to support employee decision-making for participating in workplace-based testing. Workplace testing should not be done without an employee’s consent.

Easy to Read COVID-19 Safety CDC has recently published [Easy to Read COVID-19](#)



NIOSH Now: Temporary Construction Workers Cite Barriers to Reporting Near Misses and Injuries

Despite beliefs that identifying workplace hazards and using situational awareness are the best means of protection, some temporary construction workers do not report jobsite risks and injuries, according to a study in the journal [Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#). In the workplace, situational awareness is the understanding of the environment and potential risks.

Temporary construction workers are at an increased risk of safety and health hazards and related physical injury, according to research. To understand these workers’ perspectives, the NIOSH-funded Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program at the Florida Department of Health investigated their

views on near misses where injuries almost occurred. Researchers talked to 43 temporary construction workers through six group discussions on safety and health risks associated with near misses and injuries. The study participants worked at temporary staffing agencies in South Florida and were mostly males with an average age of 41 years.

The group discussions, in English and Spanish, revealed that these workers made a clear distinction between near misses and injuries. They blamed themselves and coworkers for these incidents and believed that workers had the greatest ability to protect themselves. They said that they aimed to prevent injuries and near misses by connecting with more seasoned workers at new jobsites and shadowing, or observing,

materials. This information was primarily developed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and for those who read or listen with understanding below a third-grade level.

Toolkit for Essential Workers A new [communication toolkit](#) is available to help employers across various industries provide information about COVID-19 vaccines, increase awareness about vaccination benefits, and address common questions and concerns. The toolkit contains a variety of resources including key messages, FAQs, posters, newsletter content, and more.

Interim List of Categories of Essential Workers Mapped to Standardized Industry Codes and Titles An [interim list](#) is now available to help state, local, tribal, and territorial officials and organizations prepare for the allocation of initially limited COVID-19 vaccine supply. The interim list maps essential industries to [corresponding COVID-19 vaccination phases](#) and workforce categories, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

their safety behaviors. They identified a lack of safety and health priorities and policies within organizations, like not enforcing rules, as adding to the risk of workplace injury. In fact, these temporary construction workers said that the likelihood that they would report near misses and injuries was based on whether the incident is severe because they fear losing their job.

Although more research is needed to confirm these findings, they support the need for construction managers and seasoned or skilled workers to advocate for reporting hazards, near misses, and injuries. Jobsite-specific education on safety hazard identification and networks among workers to create hazard awareness are also supported by these findings.

More information is available: [NIOSH State Surveillance Program](#)



HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Survey Shows Many Remote Workers Concerned about their Mental Health

December 30, 2020

Hartford, CT — Thirty-three percent of people working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic are concerned about their mental health, according to the results of a [recent survey](#) conducted by health benefits provider Aetna Int’l.

The online survey of 4,011 employees and 1,007 employers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates also found that, since the onset of the pandemic:

- Stress (32%) and weight gain (43%) are the top health concerns.
- 74% of all workers – including 88% of those ages 18-24 – say poor mental health has impacted their productivity.
- 84% of workers agree that their men-

tal health is more important now than it was a year ago.

- 40% of employers say they’re concerned that a lack of social interaction among colleagues will have a long-term negative impact on some workers’ mental health.
- 61% of workers want to return to the office full time within six months, while 81% say they would return if they still can work remotely for part of the week.

“The pandemic has challenged businesses across the globe in myriad ways, not least of which is to reconsider their leadership, management and communication policies, along with their approach to employee health and well-being,” Aetna International President Richard di Benedetto said in a press release. “It has also put unparalleled pressures on employees to remain productive while balancing lockdowns, child care, finances and concerns around contracting COVID.”

“Forward-thinking organizations are leading with compassion and developing a corporate culture that puts well-being at its center, ensuring employees know what support is available to them, whether that’s locally, at home or in the palm of their hand.”

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“Forward-thinking organizations are leading with compassion and developing a corporate culture that puts well-being at its center, ensuring employees know what support is available to them, whether that’s locally, at home or in the palm of their hand.”

Researchers suggested various strategies for employers to support workers’ mental health, including providing access to personalized health care and embracing flexible work arrangements.

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on December 30th.



enough to just announce vaccine plans to employees. Instead, leaders are prudent to engage in conversations to understand the views of their workforce now to develop a vaccine strategy that is aligned with business goals and employee preferences.”

In the meantime, NSC is calling on employers to continue COVID-19 safety precautions such as encouraging the use of face coverings, physical distancing, frequent handwashing, remote work for all employees who can do so, testing and contact tracing.

“It will take time for vaccines to be widely available,” NSC states in a Dec. 10 press release. “We cannot let our guard down.”

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on December 9th.

COVID-19 pandemic: NSC Urges Employers to Make Vaccine Plans

December 16, 2020

Itasca, IL — The National Safety Council is calling on employers to support the adoption and rollout of [COVID-19 vaccines](#) in response to the Food and Drug Administration’s recent approval of the first such vaccine for emergency use.

In a Dec. 14 press release, NSC states that widespread support of the vaccine is needed for the health of the U.S. populace and the country’s economic recovery. The council recommends that all employers start developing a vaccine plan.

Plans should include educating employees on vaccine benefits and how to get vaccinated when it’s available, along with setting up an internal task force to handle all vaccine-related concerns. NSC suggests that task forces include professionals from human resources, legal, communications, and health and safety

Another recommendation: Answer employees’ questions about their legal rights. Employer-mandated vaccination may prove to be a thorny issue, according to the results of an Eagle Hill Consulting LLC [survey](#) of more than 1,000 employees conducted Dec. 4-8. Respondents were nearly evenly split on whether organizations should require COVID-19 vaccines, with about 49% in favor.

“The road ahead will be complicated for employers, as our research indicates,” Eagle Hill President and CEO Melissa Jezior said in a press release. “The workforce clearly is split on employer vaccine mandates, so it’s going to be contentious no matter where an employer lands on inoculation requirements.

“There has never been a more crucial time for meaningful employee engagement, which could make or break organizations already struggling. It won’t be

[Safety+Health](#) is the official magazine of the National Safety Council. You can sign up for free monthly newsletters [here](#).



Consumer Product
Safety Commission
4330 East West Hwy
Bethesda, MD 20814
www.cpsc.gov



US Health & Human Services
Food & Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993
www.fda.gov



NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC
SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation
Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
www.nhtsa.gov

FEATURED SAFETY RECALLS

Important: CPSC Recall Remedy Notice Due to COVID-19

Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding COVID-19, some of the remedies identified in recall press releases may not be available at this time. Consumers should check with recalling firms for further details. *It is important to remember that CPSC and recalling firms urge consumers not to use recalled products.*

12/23: Navistar—International Durastar, HV, MV, and Workstar: Engine May Rev and Overcome Parking Brake: is.gd/F7sNdq

12/28: Yamaha—MTT9GT (Tracer GT), MXTGTKL (NIKEN GT), MT10, XTZ12 (Super Ténéré), FJR13, XV19B (Star Eluder), and XV19 (Star Venture): Front Brake Switch Can Fail: is.gd/ev7XHD

1/4: Essar Inc. Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Rubbing Alcohol Contaminated with Methanol: is.gd/tDIFrw

1/6: Academy Sports + Outdoors Recalls Ozone 500 Density Bicycles Due to Fall and Injury Hazards: is.gd/rggqqqu

1/6: Rust-Oleum Recalls Aerosol Paint Due to Injury Hazard: is.gd/xjygri

1/6: Massimo Motor Sports Recalls Percussion Massage Guns Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Costco: is.gd/fxKnBB

1/7: Noble House Home Furnishings Recalls Chests, Cabinets and Dressers Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards: is.gd/bMAGWe

1/7: John Deere Recalls Frontier Rotary Tillers Due to Injury Hazard: is.gd/mdP2MJ

1/11: Boston Scientific Announces LOTUS Edge™ Aortic Valve System Voluntary Recall and Product Discontinuation: is.gd/UJa5BY

1/11: Midwestern Pet Foods Voluntarily Expands Recall of Pet Food for Aflatoxin Health Risk: is.gd/1yanSk

1/13: Belkin Recalls Portable Wireless Chargers + Stand Special Edition Due to Fire and Shock Hazards: is.gd/5QgwFf

1/13: Juratoys Recalls Toy Trumpets Due to Choking Hazard: is.gd/Uv2gxK

1/13: Sea to Summit Recalls Camping Pots Due to Burn and Scald Hazards: is.gd/NLnTu2

1/14: Scalpa Recalls Scalpa Numb Maximum Strength Topical Anesthetic Cream Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning: is.gd/LLv4SB

1/19: Rapala USA Recalls Rechargeable Fillet Knives Due to Fire Hazard: is.gd/0IFngJ

1/20: Nissan Pathfinder—Brake Light Switch Relay May Stick: is.gd/L25sFT

1/27: CB2 Recalls Junction Tall Chests and Low Dressers Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards: is.gd/bUyvaF

1/28: Wahl Clipper—Safety Recall for Deluxe Heat Therapy Massager: is.gd/YZusc3

**PRODUCT
RECALL**

Note: Agency logos are used here solely for identification and familiarity purposes, and do not constitute an endorsement by those agencies.



HELPFUL LINKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

American Industrial Hygiene Association

www.aiha.org

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

American Society of Safety Professionals Main Website

www.assp.org

ASSP Center for Safety and Health Sustainability

www.centershhs.org

ASSP Learning Library

www.safetybok.org

ASSP Risk Assessment Institute

www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute

Cal/OSHA

California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)

www.dir.ca.gov/dosh

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

www.cdc.gov

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

www.cpsc.gov

Electronic Library of Construction Occupational Safety & Health

www.elcosh.org/index.php

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

www.fema.gov

FEMA “Be Ready” Website

www.ready.gov

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Food and Drug Administration

www.fda.gov

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)

www.msha.gov

National Institute of Health Sciences (NIH)

www.niehs.nih.gov

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

www.cdc.gov/niosh

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)

www.cdc.gov/nora

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

www.osha.gov

OSHA Silica Fact Sheets

www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=Controlling+Silica+Dust+in+Construction+&pSearch=

OSHA Silica Frequently Asked Questions

www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/generalindustry_info_silica.html

San Diego ASSP Website

sandiego.assp.org

US Chemical Safety Board (CSB)

www.csb.gov

The COVID Corner

City of San Diego

www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus

Status of City Services: www.sandiego.gov/status

County of San Diego

www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus

211 San Diego: 211sandiego.org

Sheriff's Department: www.sdsheriff.net

Office of Education: covid-19.sdcoe.net

State of California

covid19.ca.gov

Employment Development Department: www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

Cal/OSHA: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html

Department of Public Health: cdph.ca.gov/covid19

Federal Government

www.coronavirus.gov

The White House: www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america

OSHA: www.osha.gov/coronavirus

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

Global/Nongovernmental Resources

ASSP: www.assp.org/covid-19

Johns Hopkins: coronavirus.jhu.edu

United Nations: www.un.org/en/coronavirus

World Health Organization (WHO):

www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

AIHA Back to Work Safely: www.backtoworksafely.org