



# The Safety Connection

## San Diego



Scott Simerson

### The President’s Message — March, 2021

Welcome to March 2021!

I would like to welcome our newest members; Mark Cheroe and Nuria Ibarra joined us in January, please make them feel welcome when you see them in a meeting (virtual for now)!

It’s March already, and we are almost through the first quarter of 2021, believe it or not! By the time you read this, our PDT will be only a few days away; please support your chapter by enrolling for free attendance, or opt for the \$50 registration for up to 0.4 CEU points. Tell your colleagues to do the same!

The current chapter administration is ¾ of the way through the term, and I know I have asked for your input in the past. Honestly, it’s been pretty quiet, and if you opted to not say something because you thought someone else would say the same thing, I’m here to tell you they did not. So, with that on the table, what can

our chapter do better, and where should we be focusing our efforts now and in the future? What would you like to see us doing?

Another way you can help shape your (our) chapter is by helping run it. We currently have four positions we are looking to staff for the next chapter year; Government Affairs Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary, and President-Elect. Nobody can be expected to volunteer for a position without

knowing more about it, so here is a quick look at what each position entails.



Government Affairs; the chapter government affairs chair serves as liaison between chapter members and ASSP’s national government affairs efforts. Specifically, you will inform chapter members on ASSP’s efforts at the national level, lead the chapter’s involvement in state government affairs, work in partnership with ASSP staff and other ASSP

(see [President’s Message, Page 2](#))

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**CLICK ON THE TOPIC TO JUMP TO THAT PAGE!**

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## 2020 - 2021 Officers

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president@sandiego.assp.org

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### **JOB LINE CHAIR:**

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### **PDC COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

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### **SUCCESSION PLANNING CHAIR**

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### **SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR:**

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## *(President's Message, from Page 1)*

chapters to ensure that the voices of ASSP members are included in deliberations. You provide updates to chapter members on federal, state and local OSH-related legislation, and attend chapter general membership and Executive Committee meetings. Support for this position is found in a transition meeting with the outgoing chapter government affairs chair (me), and additional support will be available from our chapter president and ASSP Chapter Services. Some of the benefits of this position are opportunities to develop leadership and strategic planning skills and earning certification maintenance points. The term of office is preferably 1 year, July 1 - June 30, the average hours per month is up to 4 hours, less if you have notices sent to your email.

Membership Chair; the chapter membership chair monitors and grows the chapter's membership by coordinating the chapter's member recruitment, orientation and retention efforts. You will work with the chapter's executive committee to identify and pursue opportunities to enhance the experience for existing and future chapter members. In this position, you will develop and coordinate member recruitment and retention campaigns with engagement of the chapter Executive Committee and existing members, as well as work with the Executive Committee to establish membership recruitment and retention targets, then develop and implement strategic activities to meet those targets. As Membership Chair, you will deliver regular reports on chapter membership goals, benefits, engagement opportunities and member highlights, monitor the chapter roster, meeting guest lists and coordinate outreach to members nearing expiration and to convert guests to members. The Chair coordinates new member orientation, and attends chap-

ter general membership and Executive Committee meetings. You will be supported in this role through required online training from ASSP, a transition meeting with outgoing chapter membership chair, a copy of the Membership Chair Manual, access to the Membership Chair blog and other ASSP resources, and have support from the chapter president and ASSP Chapter Services. Some of the benefits of this position include the opportunity to develop transferrable leadership and project management skills, attend the ASSP Leadership Conference for training and networking, and earn professional certification maintenance points.

The time commitment is 1 year, July 1 - June 30, the average hours per month is up to 8 hours.



Secretary; the Chapter Secretary attends chapter general membership and Executive Committee meetings, records and distributes minutes of all chapter and Executive Committee meetings, and maintains and retains all chapter files, including minutes and correspondence. The Secretary works with the chapter communications chair and the newsletter editor to ensure members receive timely and effective notices of chapter meetings and functions, and helps to ensure consistent and appropriate messaging across chapter communication channels (website, social media accounts, newsletter and other publications). The Secretary may also assist the Chapter President in completing reports, and assume duties of Chapter Treasurer if necessary. Support for this role comes from required online ASSP training before taking office, a transition meeting

*(see President's Message, Page 3)*



*(President’s Message, from Page 2)*

with outgoing Chapter Secretary, and additional support is available from the Chapter President and ASSP Chapter Services. The benefits of this position include opportunities to develop transferrable leadership, recordkeeping and communication skills, attending the ASSP Leadership Conference for training and networking, and earning professional certification maintenance points. The term of office is a minimum 1 year, July 1 - June 30, the average hours per month is up to 8 hours.

President-Elect; the P-E supports the Chapter President in providing direction to the chapter consistent with our by-laws, ASSP’s mission and vision statements, goals and code of professional conduct. As P-E, you will work with the Chapter President and Executive Committee to develop and execute strategic activities related to succession planning and chapter sustainability, and serve as acting President in their absence or as requested. You will assist with planning and attend the chapter Executive Committee and general membership meetings, and may attend Regional Operating Committee (ROC) meetings. As you may know, our P-E is also traditionally head of the PDC Committee. Support for the President-Elect position is provided with required online training from ASSP, a transition meeting with outgoing Chapter President-Elect, and additional support is available from the Chapter President and ASSP Chapter Services. Benefits of this position are opportunities to develop transferrable leadership and strategic planning skills, grow your professional network, the opportunity to attend the ASSP Leadership Conference for training and networking, and earn professional certification maintenance points. The time commitment is a minimum 1 year, July 1 - June 30, the average hours per month is up to 10 to 15 hours, plus potential travel to and attendance at ROC if the chapter president is unable to attend.

I hope you will consider the advantage of opportunities these positions hold; besides networking, potential skill development, and leadership, you can shape our future and make our chapter work better for our community! If I can answer any questions or concerns you have about



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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Newsletter@sandiego.assp.org).

these positions, please send me an email and I’ll be glad to talk with you.

Stay Safe,

– Scott

Scott Simerson, President, San Diego ASSP Chapter  
[president@sandiego.assp.org](mailto: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](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; I have a list of home maintenance tasks I perform on the first Saturday of the month; run the generator, clean the dishwasher, clean my CPAP, and check vehicle under-hood fluids and tire pressures (including the spare). I’m a self-professed appliance maintenance nerd; I keep the owner’s manuals, and affix labels denoting the date of installation, and date of last cleaning (refrigerator coils, dryer vent, etc.). While in the garage the other day, I noted I installed the water heater almost a year ago. I pulled the manual out of the mounted plastic sleeve and flipped through it to check for must-do items. I don’t know how I missed it before, but did you know that Rheem recommends flushing a few quarts of water from the drain EVERY MONTH to remove sediment from the bottom of the tank to prevent premature failure? I thought this was an annual! I’ll be adding this task to my monthly list, and urge you to check out your water heater; give it some love so it will serve you long and faithfully!



Take care of your water heater and it will take care of you!



## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Committee met over GoTo Meeting on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brooks Carder, Cait Casey, Jo Curcio, Lee Donahue, David Ferguson, David Hiipakka, Fernand Kuhr, Chris Malicki, Scott Simerson, Isaac Szmuiłowicz, Dusty Walton-Bowen, Wesley Williams, and guest Tom Logan (Region 1 Executive Officer, Area 3 Director) were present.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **1. Review/Approve Minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ExCom Meeting:**

- a. Scott motioned to approve the December minutes. Wesley Williams seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Unanimous approval except Fernand Kuhr abstained.

#### **2. Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Report: Chris Malicki**

- a. February financial reports—nominal charges.
- b. Some PDT expenses.
- c. 8 people registered for PDT.

#### **3. COMT Updates**

- a. Scott sent the spreadsheet seeking input and has prepared a slide deck with additional info .

#### **4. Masks Received**

- a. Wesley is ready and will coordinate with those who are going to distribute.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **1. Chapter Check-Up**

- a. Website updated.
- b. SPY submitted January 31—Enrique Medina 2020.
- c. Scott pulled bylaws and noticed that we no longer have a North County section, but it still appears in our bylaws and needs to be pulled. Scott used the bylaws off the website. Lee will check to see if these are the most recent. Scott thought they had been updated and will check if they need to be updated.
- d. Society Elections will open March 1st.
- e. President-Elect, Secretary, & Programs will be vacant and Chris will be nominee for Delegate position.
- f. Chapter Dues Report – no need to change dues.
- g. Financials – deadline is March 31st – Chris is handling. Financial year runs through March 31st.

#### **2. Nominations and Elections**

- a. Scott will announce openings and put out with them for members.
- b. Leverage ASSP Resources – community leaders.
- c. On demand modules of training and succession planning training is available.
- d. Regional Operating Committee Meeting is in April 16; 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 – Wesley will make that.
- e. Financials due to society by May 31.

#### **3. Chapter Bylaws**

Need to be reviewed every two years. It was last signed in 2018.

#### **4. Member Resources**

Specialty Webinars and Live Virtual Events – Safety Focus 2/8 -2/19

#### **5. COMT—Review and Discussion of:**

Reporting Requirements  
Operation Activity  
Member Requirements

#### **6. 3rd Quarter**

Slate of Candidates, Update Website, Membership Service Recognition

#### **7. Return Face-2-Face Guidance for Chapter Programming**

Not likely there will be any F2F events in the near future. Is in-person meeting necessary?  
Currently, local, state, & fed guidelines  
Chapter finances are fine  
Chris: Admiral Baker Club was closed, but will check into current status  
National is doing virtual.

#### **8. Proceeding with In-Person Events**

Scott: Don’t anticipate any time soon.

#### **9. Member Recognition**

SPY – Enrique Medina  
Scott – appreciation for the entire group  
If you are aware of members who need recognition please share

#### **10. Member Get a Member Campaign**

Scott – Find a prospect that may benefit from membership. It’s unfortunate that we don’t have the breakfast meetings as it makes it easier

#### **11. 50 Year Safety Award for John Tolley**

Chris will check into different options and follow-up with Scott

#### **12. Creation of a Past Presidents Advisory Panel**

Goal: Be available to provide guidance and advice to current panel and presidents. Bylaws also state 2-years of past Presidents should be available and part of the EC.

Wesley: Talked to Enrique and said he will be available next year.

Brooks: at ASQ – past chairs have continued involvement and been very useful and it is a lot of knowledge.

Tom: Has seen what he refers to as “Past Presidents Disease” and it took 2-3 years for them to comeback.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Delegates** — Absent—Nothing to report.
- 2. Government Affairs** — Nothing to report.
- 3. Job Line** — There are 11 openings on the job line. A couple

(see *ExCom Minutes, Page 5*)



## SAN DIEGO ASSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*(ExCom Minutes, from Page 4)*

- hours a week to manage the posting and take down of the jobs.
2. **Membership** — January lost 2 and gained 2.
  3. **Newsletter** — Going fine.
  4. **Programs** — Nothing to report. Feeling "out of the speaker circuit" and the spreadsheet. Tom – have you set up for CEU's for multiple attendance – Scott: No, it is too much work. Dusty – BCSP recognizes a point for membership. Tom – also a point for Board Member.
  7. **Public Affairs** — Red Cross is still offering lunch and learn training. Isaac has prepared a document and it will be shared with members. Isaac did a presentation on behalf of the Red Cross. They are looking for additional presenters. Listos California is continuing to make calls – discuss disaster preparedness or awareness. Connect with Isaac if you're interested in participating.
  8. **Social Media** — Initial and follow-up for the February speaker. PDT reminders every 2 weeks and again in early March to drum up attendance.
  9. **Webmaster**—Absent—Lee and David confirmed sites and accounts are being managed.
  10. **Succession Planning** — Our engagement with SDYS was great and we can establish with other organization, we are broadening. She would like to send masks to the Past Presidents. Isaac is also an example that broadens our presence. Broadening our relationships will help visibility.
  11. **Special Projects** — We should do an evaluation survey on the PDC. Scott has started that as its part of the CEU requirement package.
  12. **PDC/PDT** — Speaker gifts, picture and profiles for the program, working through Go-To Webinar to make sure we practice controls, reaching out to speakers to confirm, Wesley will work with Teresa regarding the SCIF vendor inquiry. Isaac will also help. Scott – Jo Curcio referred a sponsor and also Claire (Chubb) also wanted to be a sponsor and there is no sponsor link on the webpage. Lee will update. Scott Simerson, no indication on CEU's. Tom – can put 0.4 CEU's pending.
- Last Call:** Tom Logan – Area Director, participating in area meetings. In your current positions, what would you like to pass on when you transition? Job descriptions should be available for the transition. Chris – there are descriptions in the bylaws. Scott – past presidents shared a thumb drive where they previously saved all the data. We could create a cloud repository and pass down the items.
- Cait prepared subcommittee positions last year.
- Tom terms out this year.
- Next Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021—PDT
- Next PDT Planning Meeting:** March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021—GoTo Meeting
- Next EC Meeting:** March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021—GoTo Meeting
- Next PDT Date:** March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021—GoTo Webinar

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

### Government Affairs Committee:

*by Scott Simerson*

### Biden Administration Signals Strong Support for Worker Safety

January 21, 2021

The new Biden Administration has taken several actions expected to improve COVID-19 protections for workers across the country and accelerate the country's response to the devastating pandemic.

President Biden issued an Executive Order, Protecting Worker Health and Safety, directing OSHA to issue updated guidance on COVID-19 workplace protections. According to the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response

and Pandemic Preparedness, the administration expects the guidance to be released in the coming weeks.

"It is critical that the federal government protect the health and safety of America's workers and take swift action to protect workers from exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace," the administration says. "They should not have to wonder whether they will make it home from work safely or whether they will bring the virus to their loved ones or their communities."

The executive order also directs OSHA to determine the need for emergency temporary standards and to launch a national emphasis program to focus resources on work-

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



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

### *(Government Affairs, from Page 5)*

place violations that endanger the largest number of workers. Several states, including Virginia, California and Oregon, have issued emergency temporary standards related to COVID-19.

As acting OSHA administrator and deputy assistant secretary, Jim Frederick, a former United Steelworkers safety official, an ASSP member and a frequent contributor to ANSI/ASSP consensus standards, will play a key role in the agency's response to the executive order. ASSP joined AIHA and NSC in supporting Frederick's appointment to the new post.

"Our organizations . . . recognize that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue and believe that achieving the mission of OSHA of creating safe and healthful working conditions for workers requires strong, positive leadership," the groups said. "Mr. Frederick is a leader who would enable OSHA to provide employers with the information, tools and resources to keep workers safe and healthy."

### **OSHA Issues Stronger Workplace Guidance on Coronavirus**

January 29, 2021

OSHA announced today that it has developed stronger safety guidance to help employers implement coronavirus protection programs and identify risks that could lead to exposure. This announcement comes after President Biden's executive order last week directing OSHA to provide employers with better guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.

"Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace" identifies several elements essential employers should include in their COVID-19 prevention programs:

- 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.

- Implement protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.
- Ensure coronavirus policies and procedures are communicated to both English and non-English-speaking workers.

The guidance also details measures employers can implement to limit the spread of the virus, such as physical distancing protocols, use of surgical masks or cloth face coverings, and removing infected or potentially infected people from the workplace. In addition, the guidance offers best practices for the use of personal protective equipment, improving ventilation, routine cleaning and proper hygiene.

"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," says M. Patricia Smith, senior counselor to the Secretary of Labor. "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."

This guidance will be updated regularly based on developments in science, best practices and standards.

### **OSHA Proposes Updates to Hazard Communication Standard**

February 9, 2021

OSHA has issued a proposed update to its Hazard Communication Standard. The update is based on the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), and is meant to align the standard with other federal agencies and international trading partners.

OSHA reports the proposed changes would improve dissemination of hazard information so employees are more appropriately apprised of exposure to chemical hazards in the workplace.

The Hazard Communication Standard was last updated in 2012 to reflect previous changes to GHS. The official version of the proposed rule will appear in the Federal Register on Feb. 16. You can submit comments until April 19.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Membership Chair

by Jo Curcio

Welcome to our newest members!

- Daniel Garay
Lilly Sabet
Rogelio Soto
Hortencia Yescas
Marisa Yescas



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:

- EIS—GCQ Quality, Safety, & Compliance Manager
Waxie—Director Environmental, Health, & Safety
Sysco—Safety Director, San Diego
Level 10 Construction—Safety Manager
Flatiron—Project Safety Manager
Dexcom—Sr. Director, EHS
Dexcom—EHS Manager
Grifols—EH&S Manager
Qualcomm—EHS Engineer
Orange County—Senior Safety Specialist
ASML—EHS Specialist
Amazon—Senior Site EHS Manager
Semper Solaris—Solar Safety Manager and Solar Safety Coordinator
Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma—SH&E Coordinator
Anaergia—EH&S Manager
Tandem Diabetes Care—EH&S Specialist II
Kasai Consulting—EHS Consultant/Industrial Hygienist
General Atomics—EH&S Manager
Henkels & McCoy—Safety Specialist III
BNBuilders—Safety Manager & Safety Engineer
Dudek—Safety 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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LinkedIn ASSPSanDiego



Instagram assp\_san\_diego



## 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/](http://jobs.assp.org/).

### March 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	29	30	31			

## Calendar of Special Events

### March 2021

Dates	Event
1-31	Brain Injury Awareness Month
1-31	National Nutrition Month
1-31	Workplace Eye Wellness Month
1-31	National Ladder Safety Month
1-7	Telecommuter Appreciation Week
1	Self-Injury Awareness Day
2	World Teen Mental Wellness Day
11	National 311 Day
14-20	National Patient Safety Awareness Week
14-20	National Poison Prevention Week
14	Daylight Saving Time Begins
20	First Day of Spring
22-28	National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week
23	American Diabetes Association Alert Day
23	National Near Miss Day
26	Epilepsy Awareness Day

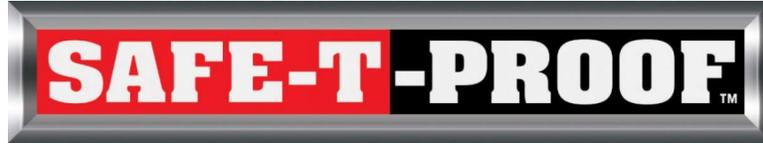
Click on an event to learn more!

Always find the latest San Diego ASSP events at [sandiego.assp.org/event/](http://sandiego.assp.org/event/)



Thank you to all our 2021 PDT Sponsors!

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Thank you to our esteemed presenters!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Howard, NIOSH

Chris Connelly
United States Navy

Bob Holmes
Travelers Insurance

Ron Gannt
Reflective Consulting Group

Scott Swaaley
MAKESafe Tools

Cathi Marx
Aspen Risk Management

Jason Lamborne
Safety Matters Transportation

We haven't forgotten our vendors from 2020, either—we know you would have been there if we could have done this in person! Thanks for your support, hopefully we'll see you next year...





## OSHA News Releases

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



Check OSHA's [COVID-19 webpage](https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus) at [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](https://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](https://www.cdc.gov).

### U.S. DOL Announces OSHA Will Investigate Complaints of Whistleblower Retaliation Under New Antitrust, Money Laundering Laws

February 19, 2021

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration is now overseeing worker retaliation complaints filed under two new whistleblower statutes – the [Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act](#) and the [Anti-Money Laundering Act](#).

Under the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act, OSHA will investigate individual whistleblower's complaints of retaliation for reporting criminal anti-trust violations to their superiors or the federal government; or for showing cause, testifying or participating in, or otherwise assisting an investigation or proceeding related to antitrust law vio-

### U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA Issues Proposed Rule to Update Hazard Communication Standard

February 5, 2021

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today issued a proposed rule to update the agency's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to align with the seventh revision of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

OSHA expects the HCS update will increase worker protections, and reduce the incidence of chemical-related occupational illnesses and injuries by further improving the information on the labels and Safety Data Sheets for hazardous chemicals. Proposed modifications will also address issues since implementation of the 2012 standard, and improve alignment with other

lations.

In Anti-Money Laundering Act cases, OSHA will investigate individual whistleblower's retaliation complaints for reporting money laundering-related violations to their superior or the federal government; or for showing cause, testifying or participating in, or otherwise assisting an investigation or proceeding related to a violation of anti-money laundering laws.

Until OSHA issues interim final rules, the agency will process whistleblower complaints related to these statutes using procedures under the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century.

OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of more than 20 whistleblower statutes protecting employees from retaliation for reporting violations of various federal agencies and Canada.

Individuals may submit comments identified by Docket No. OSHA-2019-0001, electronically at [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), which is the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Read the [Federal Register notice](#) for details. The deadline for submitting comments is April 19, 2021.

OSHA has preliminarily determined that the proposed modifications would enhance the effectiveness of the standard by improving dissemination of hazard information so employees are more appropriately apprised of exposure to chemical hazards in the workplace.

Established in 1983, the Hazard Commu-

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.

ous workplace safety and health, airline, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health insurance reform, motor vehicle safety, nuclear, pipeline, public transportation agency, railroad, maritime, securities, tax, anti-trust, and anti-money laundering laws, and for engaging in other related protected activities. For more information, visit [www.whistleblowers.gov](https://www.whistleblowers.gov). ▀

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Release Number: 21-301-NAT

U.S. Dept. of Labor news materials are accessible at [www.dol.gov](https://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).

nication Standard provides a standardized approach to workplace hazard communications associated with exposure to hazardous chemicals. OSHA updated the standard in 2012 to align with the third revision of the United Nations' GHS to provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information.

Under the Occupational Safety & 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. [Learn more about OSHA](#). ▀



**NIOSH Now:**

**Masks Block More Cough Aerosol Particles than Face Shields**

CDC recommends wearing face masks in all public settings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. NIOSH recently tested face masks, neck gaiters, and face shields to see how well they block the small aerosol particles produced by people when they cough. We asked lead author William Lindsley, NIOSH biomedical research engineer, to explain the study, published in the journal *Aerosol Science and Technology*.

**What do we know about the efficacy of different types of face coverings?**

We tested how well face coverings stopped cough aerosols from being expelled into the air (called source control).

**Highlights**

**New Webpage Highlights NIOSH 50th Anniversary Info!**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of NIOSH! NIOSH will be recognizing this important milestone through various channels throughout the year and posting links to them on the [NIOSH 50th Anniversary](#) webpage. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and visit the new webpage to stay up to date on NIOSH 50th activities.

**Needlestick Injuries are Preventable**

Healthcare personnel who use or may be exposed to needles are at increased risk of needlestick injury. Needlestick injuries can lead to serious or fatal infections with bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, or HIV. Learn more about how to protect yourself and your coworkers from needlestick injuries. [Learn more.](#)

**NIOSH Partners with NSF for Second Year to Fund Workplace Robotics Research**

NIOSH has partnered with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to [make funding available](#) to study the integration of ro-

We used a device that simulates coughs to propel small aerosol particles through different face coverings placed on a manikin head. We did not test these devices as personal protective equipment to prevent aerosols in the environment from being inhaled by the wearer.

We found that a 3-ply cotton face mask blocked 51% of the cough aerosol particles, and a polyester neck gaiter blocked 47% as a single layer and 60% when folded into a double layer. Face shields, however, blocked only 2%.

**Are there any face coverings we see often that are not effective?**

We are testing other types of face coverings. Our preliminary results suggest that

botics technologies in the workplace. simulation to evaluate potential hazards to humans in a virtual environment. Those interested in applying for funding can view the funding opportunity on the [NSF website](#). The deadline to apply is **May 3, at 5:00 p.m.** in the submitter’s local time zone. [Learn more.](#)

**NIOSH + Safe-In-Sound Award Winner!** NIOSH, in coordination with the Safe-In-Sound award committee, is proud to [announce the winner of the 2021 Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention award](#) to Vertical Lift, AH-64 Apache Helicopter of the Boeing Company! Their “Hush Kit” innovation drops the noise level of the helicopter to safer levels for workers when work is being performed. For more information about the Safe-in-Sound awards please contact [Thais Morata](#).

**Join Us to Help Prevent Struck-by Incidents**

The second annual [National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents in Construction](#) is planned for April 26. The event coincides with [National Work Zone Aware-](#)

bandanas are not as effective as other face coverings, probably because of the loose fit.

**Is any face covering better than no face covering?**

Yes, our results indicate that any face covering is better than no covering, as also specified by CDC guidelines.

**What questions remain?**

For face masks and gaiters, we would like to test how different materials perform, the effect of fit, and the effectiveness during breathing versus coughing. For face shields, we would like to test alternative designs. We also would like to test all these devices using a broader size range of aerosol particles.

More information is available:

[CDC | Guidance for Wearing Masks](#)

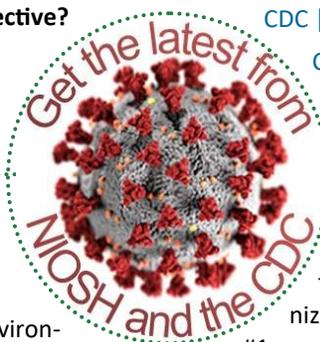
[CDC | Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

[CDC Calls on Americans to Wear Masks to Prevent COVID-19](#)

[ness Week](#), which is April 26–30. The Stand-Down asks contractors to pause work to recognize that struck-by incidents are the #1 cause of injuries and the #2 cause of death among construction workers. Contractors are encouraged to educate their crews about risks and prevention. All national events will be held virtually for easier access.

**Survey Helps to Identify Common Root Causes of Falls From Heights**

NIOSH and partners recently released the [Fall Experience Survey](#). Falls continue to be the leading cause of death in the construction industry. This survey aims to fill in gaps in information on the common root causes of falls from heights. Please take the survey if you have experienced, witnessed, or investigated a fall incident. The results will guide new material development supporting the [National Campaign & Annual Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction](#). Watch this [video](#) for more information.





## HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

### Virtual happy hour: Survey examines remote working and drinking

January 27, 2021

**New York** — Nearly half of remote employees have signed off early to have an alcoholic drink or have had a drink during the workday amid the COVID-19 pandemic, results of a recent survey indicate.

On behalf of sparkling water manufacturing company HOP WTR, researchers from marketing research company OnePoll surveyed 2,000 U.S. adults to examine their at-home habits during

the pandemic. Of the respondents, around 800 were at least 21 years old and working from home. The researchers found that 46% of respondents said they’ve logged off early to have a drink, while 45% have had an alcoholic beverage while on the clock.

Overall, 53% said they’ve been drinking more frequently during the pandemic, at an average of four alcoholic drinks a week.

Other findings:

- More than 60% of the respondents

working remotely said virtual happy hours with co-workers have contributed to their increased alcohol intake.

- 52% of all respondents said they’ve felt the need to drink while watching the news.
- About 60% said they’ll try to drink less in the future.

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on January 27<sup>th</sup>.



person?

- What, if any, consequences did the employer experience as a result of the fall incident?

Kramer said one of the goals is to augment current data by gathering more in-depth information about incidents and interventions to better protect workers at height.

“We can understand what happened, and we can try to prevent it from happening again,” Kramer said.

During the webinar, Kramer said organizers intended to release the survey in January and keep it active through March. At press time, [it was not yet available online](#).

UPDATE: The [survey](#) is now available to complete.

This article originally appeared in [Safety+Health](#) on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Falls in construction: CPWR survey seeks worker observations

February 8, 2021

**Silver Spring, MD** — How can employer interventions be improved to help prevent fatal falls to a lower level among construction workers? CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training, in conjunction with the American National Standards Institute Z359 Committee, has developed a survey to collect observations from workers who have witnessed or experienced a fall.

CPWR and the committee, which oversees the [ANSI/ASSP Z359 standard for fall protection](#), are looking to “collect detailed information on past fall incidents and their root causes” as well as “fill gaps in knowledge” left by traditional data such as that from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the survey index webpage states.

“This isn’t the first time that CPWR has done a survey, but this is the first time that we’ve done one relative to working at heights, and so we’re excited about what information we’re going to get,” Thomas Kramer, president of the

International Society for Fall Protection and chair of the ANSI Z359 Committee, said during a [Dec. 15 webinar hosted by CPWR](#). “But we also realize that this is just the first step, and there’s going to be continuous efforts to improve this process and try to get richer data.”

The anonymous survey is estimated to take 15-20 minutes to complete. Respondents can do so more than once if they have insight related to multiple, separate incidents involving workplace falls.

Numerous survey questions pertain to the task taking place when the fall occurred, as well as the cause of the fall and any consequences. These include:

- What task were you/the individual doing at the time of the fall?
- What type of fall protection, if any, was being used at the time of the fall?
- What, in your opinion or the opinion of the investigation performed of the fall incident, were the primary cause(s) of the fall?
- What level of planning was done by the employer and/or a competent

[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](http://www.cpsc.gov)



US Health & Human Services  
Food & Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20993  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://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.*



- 2/3: Essaar Victory Innovations Recalls Electrostatic Sprayers with Lithium-ion Battery Packs Due to Fire and Explosion Hazards: [is.gd/Wu5yiD](https://is.gd/Wu5yiD)
- 2/3: Enerco Group Recalls DeWALT Cordless Kerosene Heaters Due to Fire and Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazards: [is.gd/tjtaTS](https://is.gd/tjtaTS)
- 2/5: Cadillac Escalade, Chevrolet Avalanche, Silverado 1500, Silverado 2500, Silverado 3500, Suburban, Tahoe, GMC Sierra 1500, Sierra 2500, Sierra 3500, Yukon: Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode (5 Recalls): [is.gd/X8CnFB](https://is.gd/X8CnFB), [is.gd/e2cQGC](https://is.gd/e2cQGC), [is.gd/uri5R7](https://is.gd/uri5R7), [is.gd/9rapvg](https://is.gd/9rapvg), and [is.gd/LcXCex](https://is.gd/LcXCex)
- 2/9: Hickory Harvest Foods Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Almonds in Sprouts Vanilla Flavored Yogurt Covered Cranberries: [is.gd/xGTv70](https://is.gd/xGTv70)
- 2/10: Edsal Recalls 2.2 Million Shelving Units Due to Injury Hazard: [is.gd/l3yDPU](https://is.gd/l3yDPU)
- 2/10: Nautilus Recalls Bowflex SelectTech Barbells Due to Impact Injury Hazard: [is.gd/qkfBtO](https://is.gd/qkfBtO)
- 2/11: Rep Fitness Recalls Strap Safety Brackets Due to Injury Hazard: [is.gd/Q7E0yd](https://is.gd/Q7E0yd)
- 2/11: Yamaha Recalls Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles Due to Crash and Injury Hazards: [is.gd/j4rdQL](https://is.gd/j4rdQL)
- 2/12: NZXT Recalls H1 Computer Cases Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/EhJdcH](https://is.gd/EhJdcH)
- 2/12: Primark Recalls Nose Piercing and Body Bars Due to High Levels of Nickel; Risk of Skin Irritation: [is.gd/JBVqmC](https://is.gd/JBVqmC)
- 2/15: Continental Tire recalls Continental, General, and Barum tires—Tire Failure may Cause Sudden Air Loss: [is.gd/fVeTrL](https://is.gd/fVeTrL)
- 2/17: Anker Play Products Recalls 10-in-1 Incredible Inventions Science Kit Due to Violation of the Federal Lead Paint Ban: [is.gd/ELTJZX](https://is.gd/ELTJZX)
- 2/17: National Presto Recalls Smokers Due to Electric Shock Hazard: [is.gd/jhjgYi](https://is.gd/jhjgYi)
- 2/17: Toro Recalls Power Max Snowthrowers Due to Amputation Hazard: [is.gd/NadEfG](https://is.gd/NadEfG)
- 2/17: Jimco Lamps Recalls Accent Tables with Charging Receptacles Due to Shock Hazard: [is.gd/CuH79c](https://is.gd/CuH79c)
- 2/19: Cooper Tire recalls Cooper CS5 Grand Touring 225/55R17 and Mastercraft LSR Grand Touring—Tire Sidewall Separation: [is.gd/YciQ9y](https://is.gd/YciQ9y)
- 2/21: Cooper Tire recalls Discoverer, Evolution, Courser, Deegan, Adventurer, Hercules, Back Country, Multi-Mile Wild Country, and Big O—Low Tread Gauge May Cause Tire Failure: [is.gd/lqWKt](https://is.gd/lqWKt)
- 2/24: SmartPool Recalls Children’s Multi-Purpose Helmets Due to Risk of Head Injury: [is.gd/zMgpzV](https://is.gd/zMgpzV)
- 2/24: Potter Electric Recalls Addressable Pull Stations Single/Dual Action Due to Failure to Alert to Fire: [is.gd/TR6144](https://is.gd/TR6144)
- 2/24: Northern Tool & Equipment Recalls Powerhorse Portable Generators Due to Shock Hazard: [is.gd/HEMK1V](https://is.gd/HEMK1V)
- 2/24: Urban Outfitters Recalls Margo Taper Candle Holders Due to Fire Hazard: [is.gd/slWmCB](https://is.gd/slWmCB)
- 2/25: Home Depot Recalls Wood Windsor Dining Chair Sets Due to Fall Hazard: [is.gd/o73sGI](https://is.gd/o73sGI)
- 2/25: MTIG Productions Recalls deSensua Wintergreen, Birch and Pain Soother Essential Oils Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning: [is.gd/V3apdO](https://is.gd/V3apdO)
- 2/25: Dr. Reddy’s Recalls Prescription Drug Blister Packages Due to Risk of Poisoning: [is.gd/lSbYO9](https://is.gd/lSbYO9)

*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](http://www.aiha.org)

American Red Cross

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

American Society of Safety Professionals Main Website

[www.assp.org](http://www.assp.org)

ASSP Center for Safety and Health Sustainability

[www.centershhs.org](http://www.centershhs.org)

ASSP Learning Library

[www.safetybok.org](http://www.safetybok.org)

ASSP Risk Assessment Institute

[www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute](http://www.assp.org/advocacy/risk-assessment-institute)

Cal/OSHA

California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

Electronic Library of Construction Occupational Safety & Health

[www.elcosh.org/index.php](http://www.elcosh.org/index.php)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

FEMA “Be Ready” Website

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

Food and Drug Administration

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)

[www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov)

National Institute of Health Sciences (NIH)

[www.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.niehs.nih.gov)

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

[www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)

[www.cdc.gov/nora](http://www.cdc.gov/nora)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

OSHA Silica Fact Sheets

[www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchresults?pSearch=Controlling+Silica+Dust+in+Construction+&pSearch=](http://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](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/generalindustry_info_silica.html)

San Diego ASSP Website

[sandiego.assp.org](http://sandiego.assp.org)

US Chemical Safety Board (CSB)

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov)

### The COVID Corner

#### City of San Diego

[www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus)

Status of City Services: [www.sandiego.gov/status](http://www.sandiego.gov/status)

#### County of San Diego

[www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus)

211 San Diego: [211sandiego.org](http://211sandiego.org)

Sheriff's Department: [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net)

Office of Education: [covid-19.sdcoe.net](http://covid-19.sdcoe.net)

#### State of California

[covid19.ca.gov](http://covid19.ca.gov)

Employment Development Department: [www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)

Cal/OSHA: [www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General-Industry.html)

Department of Public Health: [cdph.ca.gov/covid19](http://cdph.ca.gov/covid19)

#### Federal Government

[www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

The White House: [www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america)

OSHA: [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](http://www.osha.gov/coronavirus)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV)

#### Global/Nongovernmental Resources

ASSP: [www.assp.org/covid-19](http://www.assp.org/covid-19)

Johns Hopkins: [coronavirus.jhu.edu](http://coronavirus.jhu.edu)

United Nations: [www.un.org/en/coronavirus](http://www.un.org/en/coronavirus)

World Health Organization (WHO):

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)

AIHA Back to Work Safely: [www.backtoworksafely.org](http://www.backtoworksafely.org)