



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

September Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter Meeting Updates: Season Opener was a Win!

Our Chapter meeting season opener was a success with Jim Krueger from Minnesota OSHA providing updates on what's happening at MNOSHA and the impact of 2022 legislation. We had around 55 people attendees in person and online. Here are a couple of take aways:

- Minnesota is now part of the Chicago Region (renamed from Region V).
- By the time you read this adoption of the changes to the hazard communication standard will have been published.
- Penalties go up again on October 1. Minnesota still provides credits for size, having a safety program and history.
- There were 32 fatalities last year, down from 45 the year before. Falls in general industry and electrocutions are increasing concerns.
- There has been an increase in workplace violence injuries and fatalities, especially in healthcare and convenience stores.

Congratulations to Scott Norman and Greg Olson who both won a free registration at an upcoming meeting! We will continue to give away two free registrations at each meeting.

Mark Your Calendars For a Great Line-Up!

October 8: Health & Safety's Missing Link: The Human Element | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Location: The Builders Group, Eagan | [Register Here](#)

Attendees will learn insight and ideas on best practices that can be used to improve employee/worker safety, health, wellness within their organizations. These ideas cover the human elements of using positive reinforcement, developing safe habits, and educating employees on the effects of sleep deprivation on health & safety and the benefits of healthy sleep. Typically, one leads to the other. Many times, we discover that human behavior contributes in some way to incidents/injuries.

Kirk VonRueden, CSP, CIT, SMS, is currently the EHS Manager at two production plant operations for Interplastic Corporation in the Twin Cities. During his 15 years of EHS experience, Kurt has been involved in many incident investigations within companies from different industries. After learning about the frustrations some organizations encounter when they cannot identify the root cause of why “employees do what they do” before an injury occurs, Kurt researched and studied some possible contributing factors that traditionally safety programs do not address. He calls these factors the “human elements”. Human beings are complex and not always understood biologically when it comes to health and safety programs. Time and again he has seen how EHS professional have a desire to make an impact within their own organizations by focusing on the Human Element.

November 12: Emergency Chess: “Preparing for the When Not If and Emergency Will Happen” | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Location: Marsh & McLennan, Golden Valley | [Details Here](#)

The threats faced many years ago are not the same type of threats today. From civil unrest due to political and social instability, global outbreaks of disease and cyber threats, the tried and true emergency response plan that was useful several years ago needs to be updated. The way workers work, in the office, from home and hybrid, will be considered. You'll learn the PACE system of emergency management and how to teach their workers a multilayered approach to emergency incident management that will increase their odds of survival.

December 10: Fall Hazards and Fall Protection for Construction & General Industry | Location: TBG, Eagan | [Details Here](#)

January 14: Joint Meeting with AIHA: Challenging Emergencies and Rescues from the Rescuer's Perspective | Location: 3M, Maplewood

Submitted by Carol Keyes, CSP | Northwest Chapter President Elect

NEWS TO SHARE

UMD MEHS Students Form a ASSP Student Section

Just a quick congrats to the UMD MEHS Students on their recent election for their Student Section. More details to follow at a later date.

- **President** - Makenzie Clough
- **Vice President** - Kaija Jezierski
- **Secretary** - Elizabeth Mcdermott
- **Treasurer** - Benjamin Long
- **Program Chair** - Ramiro Perez
- **Membership Chair** - Anthony Saari
- **Special Programs Chair** - Ian Lindberg

Quad Cities Chapter Hosting Free Virtual Meeting: AI Impact on Safety | October 16 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm | [Register Here](#)

With nearly two decades of expertise in Environmental, Occupational, and Health Safety (EOHS), Jonathan brings a wealth of experience spanning heavy industry, maritime, aeronautical, and general industry sectors. Jonathan's extensive background in managing complex safety and regulatory challenges across diverse environments underscores a deep commitment to fostering safe and compliant workplaces. Jonathan's proven track record of developing and implementing effective safety programs and strategies has consistently enhanced operational efficiency and risk management in dynamic and high-stakes settings.

Jonathan enjoys spending time with his wife and their three young boys outside of work. They live on a micro-farm in Fallbrook and enjoy anything to do with the outdoors. Jonathan also spends his free time refurbishing classic

muscle cars and motorcycles, building Gundam model kits, collecting classic video games, and just having fun.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

AIHA PDC | November 14, 2024

Find additional details [here](#).

Member Get a Member Program

When a new full member lists a current member as their referring member in the membership application, the referring member gets the credit and is eligible for prizes at different thresholds. The prizes are outlined in the link below as well as a refer-a-friend tool with some suggested messaging to new potential members. Members typically refer their own colleagues, friends, and associates in safety to become members.

<https://www.assp.org/membership/member-get-a-member>

Chapter Board Meetings - Guests are Invited!

Did you know your Northwest Chapter Board meets monthly to manage Chapter affairs? These meetings usually take place prior to the regular monthly programs and are open to all Members. It is possible to attend these meetings in person or via a conference call. Observing these meetings is a great way to get an inside look at what it takes to be an ASSP “Platinum Chapter”. It is also a good way to learn more about the various Chapter leadership positions and get involved!

If you have never been to a Board Meeting and want to check it out, come early to the location for the monthly Chapter Program and join us. If you want to attend the Board Meeting via conference call, please contact a member of the board to get a unique login credentials.

Mentorship Corner: Need Some Help or Do You Want to Help?

Sometimes, ASSP members encounter difficult matters that transcend and/or may lie outside the professional literature, their coursework, and experience. The chance to discuss creative solutions and resources (on a confidential basis), with a Chapter mentor can often be helpful.

On the other side of the coin, seasoned professionals, in their roles as mentors can gain significant benefit from knowing that they have helped a mentee negotiate a difficult challenge, and have had a positive impact on the safety and well-being of employee groups connected with their mentee's workplace, and (possibly) that organization's customers and the wider community, as well.

We invite you to explore such opportunities.

ASSP News to Share

[Do Authentic Leadership Behaviors Improve Workplace Safety](#)

[Outcomes?](#) There is a direct relationship between authentic leadership and workplace safety, according to a new study. Here's how to lead in ways that get results. [Read more](#)

[Life as a Global Safety & Health Professional: 10 Tips to Help You](#)

[Succeed](#) The safety profession allows you to protect workers around the world — if you know how to excel in a global position. Here are 10 tips for working overseas. [Read more](#)

[Why We Need a Paradigm Shift to Prevent Fall Injuries &](#)

[Fatalities](#) Despite advances in PPE, regulations and standards, fall fatalities still occur at an alarming rate. Russell Duren joins "The Case for Safety Podcast" to discuss how we can reverse this trend. [Listen now](#)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the current job openings that are posted on our Chapter Website: [Current Openings – ASSP Northwest Chapter](#)



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