



March-April Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello ASSP Northwest Chapter members!

These are very interesting times to live and work through. I hope this message finds you well and healthy. ASSP has indicated that in-person events should be taken to virtual platforms through May 15 2020. With that in mind, our April and May chapter meetings are canceled and we are working with other chapters in ASSP's Region V and other resources to come up with virtual education options for you to replace the in-person meetings.

If you have not already, check out [ASSP's Vimeo channel](#) for an archive of years worth of online content including Society webinars, and webinars put

on by common interest groups and practice specialties like [this one from WISE](#) on empowering your job search, which featured Northwest Chapter member Terra Carbert.

ASSP is maintaining a [COVID-19 landing page](#) to keep you up to date on resources you can use at your workplace. The landing page will also serve as the location for news related to Safety 2020. At this time, ASSP does expect to present Safety 2020, "At this time, we plan to present Safety 2020 from June 23-25 in Orlando, FL. This includes our pre- and post-conference courses. With some companies temporarily restricting travel and conference registration, we extended our early registration rate through April 27. In the event Safety 2020 is cancelled, we will refund your registration fee. ASSP will continue to monitor emerging information and make decisions accordingly. Our Board of Directors will revisit its Safety 2020 decision at the end of April."

Although these times are calling for social distancing, I encourage you to think of it as physical distancing - don't limit your social connection! Find new ways to connect with family, friends, and colleagues using the tools that have been available to us for years, and some new ones too. A video call can do a lot for your well-being, reach out to those you usually like to connect with, and you don't HAVE to talk about COVID-19! With the weather improving, let's think about things we can do to connect with the others in our household and to the environment. There's a fantastic [Lawns to Legumes program](#) in Minnesota that provides grant money for converting your grass lawn to habitat for bees. We are fortunate to live in the upper midwest where we have access to trails, wilderness, and plenty of opportunity to be physically distant from others while enjoying the fresh air of the spring.

"See" you soon on a forthcoming virtual chapter event. Stay safe and healthy!

Abby Ferri

President - ASSP Northwest Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE APRIL IN-PERSON CHAPTER MEETING IS CANCELLED, BUT

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING INVITES!!!**MEMBERSHIP UPDATES****APRIL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER**

Link to the April newsletter [HERE](#)

COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the country, government agencies are working diligently to respond. Here are a few specific activities related to COVID-19:

- OSHA has released a guidance document with recommendations for how employers should prepare their workplaces to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. While the document is not a standard or regulation, it is important to note that employers are required by the OSH Act to provide their employees with a workplace free of recognized hazards. [View the document](#)
- OSHA has issued an alert with tips on how to protect yourself from the disease. [View the alert](#)
- OSHA released temporary enforcement guidance in response to the shortage of N95 masks. The guidance aims to help increase the availability of N95 masks for healthcare providers. [Read the guidance](#)
- OSHA has provided guidance requiring the recording and reporting of workplace exposures to COVID-19. [Read our coverage](#)
- CDC has released interim guidance for employers to plan and respond to COVID-19. The agency is actively updating the guidance so be sure to check it regularly. [Read the guidance](#)

We continue to closely monitor how this pandemic is affecting occupational safety and health. We encourage you to visit our [COVID-19](#) page for more information.

Trump FY2021 Budget Proposal

The Trump administration has released its proposed federal government budget for the fiscal year 2021. This budget proposes a \$4.5 million cut in OSHA's funding, the elimination of the Chemical Safety Board and a \$152.8 million cut in funding for NIOSH. The proposed budget is the beginning of the government agency funding process, and final appropriations may be different than the amounts proposed.

[Read our budget report](#)

OSHA Emphasis on Amputations and Silica

OSHA has continued two National Emphasis Programs (NEPs) on amputations in manufacturing industries, and respirable crystalline silica. For both NEPs, the agency will provide assistance to help employers comply with regulations for 90 days before it begins programmed inspections in the targeted areas. [Read our coverage](#)

Department of Labor News

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released its [annual report](#) on workplace fatalities. According to the report, there were 5,250 workplace fatalities in 2018, a 2 percent increase from 2017. This increase in fatalities shows that employers must be more proactive in their occupational safety practices. [Read our press release](#)

Legislation

Listed below are important state and federal legislation that would affect OSH. We encourage all members to write to their representatives in support of these bills. [View our detailed report](#)

U.S. Federal Bills

US HB 1309 would direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an OSH standard that would require healthcare and social service employers to implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan. ASSP has supported this bill since its inception as it furthers the safety of two industries with disproportionately high violence rates. [Read our report](#)

US HB 3668 would require OSHA to issue a standard on protecting workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses. [Read the bill](#)

Below are pending and recently enacted state bills that will impact OSH in their respective states.

Arizona

AZ HB 2282 would make it a civil penalty for a worker to operate a commercial vehicle that is out-of-service or has not received all necessary repairs. This bill has been steadily moving through the legislation process and looks like it will be enacted. [Read the bill](#)

California

CA AB 203 is a recently enacted bill that requires construction employers in areas where Valley Fever is endemic to provide effective awareness training on Valley Fever to all employees upon hire and on an annual basis. [Read the bill](#)

CA AB 457 would require CAL OSHA to adopt a standard on lead exposure that created by the OSH Standards Board. [Read the bill](#)

Washington

WA HB 1841 would require that all trains and switching assignments have at minimum two crewmembers. [Read the bill](#)

WA HB 2681 and WA S 6205 create safety requirements for long term care workers, as they are at a higher risk for workplace incidents. These bills are nearing the end of the legislative process and will most likely be enacted. [Read the bills](#)

Minnesota

MN S 4099 would require anyone who operates a crane with a lifting capacity of five tons or more to have a crane operator certificate from a nationally recognized and accredited certification program. This bill is moving slowly and about to reach a deadline. [Read the bill](#)

Massachusetts

MA HB 1601 would require certain construction industry employers to provide at least ten hours of OSH administration training to employees. Legislators are drafting the bill.

Important Regulations

The following regulations were recently enacted.

AZ 5781 2019 is an Arizona regulation that reduces the permissible clearance between a hoistway face of the hoistway doors and the hoistway edge of the landing sill to 19 mm for swinging doors and 57 mm for sliding elevator doors. The updated standard is intended to protect users of residential elevators from a potential safety hazard associated with a larger clearance.

CA 25528 2018 is a California regulation that requires employers to ensure that when handling a suspension strand that is being installed on poles carrying exposed energized power conductors, employees shall wear insulating gloves and shall avoid body contact with the strand until after it has been tensioned, dead-ended and permanently grounded.

CA 25900 2019 is a California regulation that amends rules to clarify when employers must respond to a heightened risk of employee exposure to wildfire smoke.

Government Affairs Committee Members

Jim Thornton (Chair)

James Krueger

Paulette Lantuh

Mark Grushka

Zack Mansdorf

Ann Lindsey

Leann Shirley

Kirk Phillips

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Weiss, government and external affairs specialist, at governmentaffairs@assp.org.

NEWS & RESOURCES

ASSP NEWS YOU CAN USE

Seven Keys to Effective Crisis Communication

When a crisis occurs, you must communicate with your workers, the public and the media to ensure everyone has the information they need to stay safe. Following these seven steps will help you deliver your messages effectively.

Read On!!!

2020 ASSP Education Calendar

View our 2020 course offerings that include courses on these key topics fall protection, safety management, risk, certification exam preparation and total worker health. [View all courses](#)



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