

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



# ASSP



## PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### September 17th Meeting OSHA Update

**Location:** WebEx Meeting  
**Time:** 11:30am-1:00pm  
**Fee:** Free

Our speakers are Jose Gonzalez, Area Director, and Francisco Garcia, Compliance Assistance Specialist with the OSHA, Mobile Area Office

Jose A. Gonzalez holds a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Natural Science from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. He began his career with the US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as an Industrial Hygienist in 2012 at the Mobile Alabama Area Office, where he conducted health and safety inspections of South Alabama private industry and Federal Government employers. On 2019, Mr. Gonzalez was selected as the Area Director for the Mobile Area Office.

Francisco J. Garcia holds a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. He began his career with the US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a Safety Specialist in 2010 at the Andover Area Office, where he conducted health and safety inspections of Northeastern Massachusetts of private industry and Federal Government employers. On 2020, Mr. Garcia was selected as the Compliance Assistance Specialist for the Mobile Area Office

Please RSVP for the meeting at our website.

<https://pensacola.assp.org/>

You will be sent an invite for the WebEx meeting

# ASSP PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## IH Corner

### COVID-19 Testing

According to the CDC, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person-to-person. The main infection route is between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can contract COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Recent studies suggest that the SARS-CoV-2 virus may remain viable and infective on surfaces for hours to days, depending on the surface's material type (fabric, tile, steel, etc.).

Thorough cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces are recommended by the CDC and believed to be essential in preventing the spread of infection. The presence or absence of the viral genetic material on surfaces can now be directly tested. SARS-CoV-2 molecular-based swab tests can be used to identify contaminated areas or demonstrate effectiveness of cleaning protocols. But the number of samples required to achieve a representative surface area can be large, and therefore expensive.

Additionally, any samples collected are as good as when they are collected. Recontamination by another individual can make this efficacy testing moot. ATC recommends that surrogate testing be used as an indicator of surface or air cleanliness. This sampling includes airborne bacterial plates, bacterial surface contact plates, surface ATP testing, etc.

Need a good IH???

Give me a call I know a few.

Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP, ARM  
470-636-1960

## President's Message

Hi Pensacola Chapter Members,

My name is Jill Przymus (rhymes with Christmas), and I am your 2020-2021 Chapter President. In 2004, I moved from Minnesota to the Florida Panhandle, Navarre to be exact, to begin my safety and health career with Zenith Insurance Company. I assist Zenith workers' compensation policyholders, from Pensacola to Gainesville, with injury prevention and claim cost containment. While I telecommute, the transition to no in-person policyholder visits the end of March as the result of COVID-19 was quite the transition for me. I love people, and being around them! This is why I was drawn to join ASSP 12 years ago. ASSP gave me the opportunity to meet new people, and as a bonus, foster my passion for safety.

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of our lives, including how we will be able to, at least in the immediate future, interact as a Chapter. When chapter meetings begin in September, they will be conducted virtually at least for the first three months. The Executive Committee will be monitoring the situation to determine if meetings can shift back to face-to-face in 2021. Please know, these changes are for your safety and the safety of our families, workplaces, and communities, as well as, our speakers who have generously agreed to donate their time and knowledge to our Chapter.

A silver lining is that more members can attend virtual meetings! The Pensacola Chapter currently has 133 members stretching from Escambia County to Jefferson County. I am hoping to hear more of your voices, or if you have video, see more of your faces, during the virtual meetings. I will work hard to provide a valuable and meaningful experience to our chapter members. In doing this, I hope to increase chapter meeting attendance, as well as, increase participation within the chapter. But I need your help. We always have room for more volunteers! We currently have the Communications Chair (help keep the chapter's social media up-to-date) and Membership Chair (monitor and grow the chapter's membership) open, but don't be shy if you are interested in running for an Executive Committee position, or you would like to be speaker. Please contact me, or one of the Chapter's Executive Committee Members to get involved and begin developing, or honing, transferable team and consensus-building skills.

To keep up-to-date on chapter news, visit our routinely updated website and new LinkedIn Page (ASSP Pensacola Chapter). Thank you in advance for your support. Stay safe, and I look forward to meeting you all this year!



Jill Przymus, MEHS, ARM

# ASSP PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## Membership Benefits

ASSP is where OSH professionals find a vibrant community, one that helps them grow professionally through education, networking and advocacy for the profession. Through our member communities, ASSP connects OSH professionals across all industries, genders, generations and ethnicities, and enables them to engage with one another on a global scale. Safety Education and Training, Safety Publications, Career Support, Safety Advocacy, Safety Standards, Student Resources, Member Recognition. If you need some hints on convincing your boss, click here.

<https://www.assp.org/membership/benefits-qualifications/employer-justification>

## OSHA Inspection Process

OSHA recently posted a video regarding the inspection process. View it here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA6bixDzeLY>

## Call for Speakers

We are seeking suggestions, ideas, recommendations, proposals, hints, etc for speakers for the ASSP meetings. Please contact us with your thoughts!!!

## Newsletter Stuff

Please forward this newsletter to any other in the chapter area that might be interested. If you wish to be added to our mailing list please email [matthew.parker@atcgs.com](mailto:matthew.parker@atcgs.com)

## Membership Stuff

Ready to join? You can apply online: <https://store.assp.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Join-ASSP>

## Jobs

<http://jobs.assp.org/>

<https://jobs.bcspp.org>

<http://www.ehscareers.com>

## Future Meetings Third Thursdays

**Put these on your calendar NOW!!!!**

**October 15, 2020**

**Cannabis and Comp**

**Sue Anger, Esq., Assistant Vice President, Claims Legal**

**Zenith Insurance Company**

**November 19, 2020**

**Mental Health in the Workplace**

**Tracy Blauser, M.A., Director,**

**Chautauqua Healthcare Services of Lakeview Center**

**December 17, 2020**

**TBD - Christmas Party???**

**Let us know if you'd attend.**

## Tallahassee Meetings

Attention Tallahassee Members. We will be holding supplemental meetings at your end of the Chapter territory this year. We will try to do a full chapter meeting there, but at a very minimum will do a local meeting for you to facilitate local networking.. If you know a location for the meeting or have an idea for a speaker or topic, contact Matthew Parker.

## OSHA Respirator and Face Mask Guidance

OSHA has published a series of frequently asked questions and answers at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/covid-19-faq.html>. Some regard the use of masks in the workplace. "As our economy reopens for business, millions of Americans will be wearing masks in their workplace for the first time," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. "OSHA is ready to help workers and employers understand how to properly use masks so they can stay safe and healthy in the workplace."

The new guidance outlines the differences between cloth face coverings, surgical masks and respirators. It further reminds employers not to use surgical masks or cloth face coverings when respirators are needed. In addition, the guidance notes the need for social distancing measures, even when workers are wearing cloth face coverings, and recommends following the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance on washing face coverings](#).

These frequently asked questions and answers mark the latest guidance from OSHA addressing protective measures for workplaces during the coronavirus pandemic. Previously, OSHA published numerous guidance documents for workers and employers, available at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>, including [five guidance documents aimed](#) at expanding the availability of respirators.

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## Photo of the Month



Yeah, Noooooooooo!

## Whistleblower Protection

OSHA) has ordered U.S. Corrections LLC headquartered in Melbourne, Florida to reinstate an employee for reporting personal and commercial motor vehicle safety concerns. OSHA also ordered the company to pay more than \$70,000 in back wages, \$30,000 in punitive damages, \$7,341 in compensatory damages, \$30,000 in emotional distress damages and reasonable attorney's fees.

OSHA investigators determined the company violated the whistleblower provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) when it terminated the employee who reported to company managers that a co-driver threatened the employee's personal safety. The employee also reported that the co-driver violated U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, including driving in excess of posted speed limits, hours-of-service worked and keeping inaccurate driving logs.

For more information on whistleblower protections, visit OSHA's [Whistleblower Protection Programs webpage](#)

## OSHA

Our speakers this month are from the Mobile Area Office, but the office officially responsible for our part of Florida is the Jacksonville Area Office: 1851 Executive Center Drive, Suite 227  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
(904) 232-2895

## Coronavirus FAQs

**How does someone get infected with COVID-19?** COVID-19 is spread from an infected person to another person that is in close contact (within 6 feet) and by respiratory droplets such a cough or a sneeze.

**How severe is the illness?** The WHO (World Health Organization) says 80% of people with COVID-19 have a mild form of the illness with cold- or flu like symptoms. The people most likely to get seriously ill from this virus are people over 60 and/or those with pre-existing health conditions.

**An employee has reported respiratory illness and a temperature; should we require the employee to report to work?** The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends encouraging employees with acute respiratory illness, other symptoms, and a fever to stay home and not report to work.

**An employee is concerned they could be exposed to COVID-19 because there are cases in our community; should we require that employee to still come to work?** Currently, the CDC states the infectivity rate occurs when patients become symptomatic. If the employee shows no COVID-19, or flu like symptoms, then employees may report to work as scheduled.

**We have a large workforce and a limited number of break areas what should we do?** Initiate an additional cleaning schedule for employee break areas; encourage employees to clean their break areas before and after use. Implement a staggered break policy to limit the number of employees in break rooms at one time.

**Should we develop an Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan?** Yes, employers should be prepared to protect their workforce with a written plan. The details will be determined by various factors including by not limited to the type of business, size, employee proximity, work environment, and community status.

## Quote of the Month

FEAR has two meanings:

Forget Everything And Run  
or  
Face Everything And Rise.  
The choice is yours.

