

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



ASSP



PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Chapter Officers

President

Jill M Przymus, MEHS, ARM
Zenith Insurance Co.
850-450-9337
jprzymus@thezenith.com

Vice President

Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP, ARM
ATC Group Services
(470) 636-2659
matthew.parker@atcgs.com

Secretary

Maralee Sartain, ASP
(850) 324-7088
stembolic@gmail.com

Treasurer

Albert E Bressler
A and A Guns
(850)485-5590
breskriv@gmail.com

Membership

Stanley Gray
850-791-3662
stanleygray10@gmail.com

Chapter Delegate

Maralee Sartain, ASP
(850) 324-7088
stembolic@gmail.com

Member-At- Large

James Horne
Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC)
850-882-7356
james.horne.4@us.af.mil

Past-President

Maralee Sartain
(850) 324-7088
stembolic@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Matthew Parker, MS, CIH, CSP, ARM
ATC Group Services
(470) 636-2659
matthew.parker@atcgs.com

October 15th Meeting Cannabis and Comp

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

Attendees will learn how to differentiate between cannabis, marijuana and medical marijuana, as well as between THC and CBD. In addition, they will learn how the Drug-Free Workplace Program (DFWP) requirements outlined in the FL Workers' Compensation Statue are legally interpreted, and how to strengthen their company's DFWP.

Presented by: Sue Anger, Esq., Assistant Vice President, Claims Legal, Zenith Insurance Company

Susan Anger is Zenith Insurance Company's Assistant Vice President of Claims Legal for the State of Florida. She is based in the Zenith Insurance Company Sarasota office and manages Zenith's attorneys and litigation throughout the State. Sue has practiced Workers' Compensation defense since 1988 and joined Zenith in January 2016, after having practiced in several state-wide firms. She grew up in Cape May, New Jersey, and attended Ursinus College, near Philadelphia. Sue moved to Florida in 1983 to attend Stetson University College of Law.

Please RSVP for the meeting at our website.

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

You will be sent an invite for the WebEx meeting

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IH Corner

Water Water Everywhere

Hurricane Sally is gone, but Hurricane Delta is threatening us once again. The current track has it passing over New Orleans, but we are in the cone of probability and right turning storms tend to turn right more than predicted.

Wind damage is likely as this is slated to be a strong Category 2. But even if you escape the wind, water intrusion can occur through your building envelopes.

The IICRC Water Damage Guidelines state there are three categories of water. The categories of water refer to the range of contamination in water, considering both its originating source and quality after it contacts materials present on the job site. Time and temperature can affect or retard the amplification of contaminants, thereby affecting its category. Restorers should consider potential contamination, defined as the presence of undesired substances; the identity, location and quantity of which are not reflective of a normal indoor environment; and can produce adverse health effects, cause damage to structure and contents or adversely affect the operation or function of building systems.

- Category 1 water originates from a sanitary water source and does not pose substantial risk from dermal, ingestion, or inhalation exposure
- Category 2 water contains significant contamination and has the potential to cause discomfort or sickness if contacted or consumed by humans..
- Category 3 water is grossly contaminated and can contain pathogenic, toxigenic or other harmful agents and can cause significant adverse reactions to humans if contacted.

Need a good IH???

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

Society President's Message

Our profession is evolving faster than ever. Over my career in OSH, we have moved from a compliance focus to best practices to advocating for safety management systems, assessing risk and understanding human performance. In the past decade, some organizations have begun to embrace another emerging method, Total Worker Health (TWH). In fact, according to a 2019 ASSP survey, 56% of members said their organizations had incorporated some aspects of TWH concepts and practices into their safety and health program or management systems.

TWH provides an opportunity for us to advance our profession as well as the safety and well-being of the people in our organizations. NIOSH defines TWH as a system of policies, programs and practices that integrates protection from work-related safety and health hazards with the promotion of injury and illness prevention to advance worker well-being.

Implementing and using TWH strategies can help our organizations address evolving business conditions, create a sustainable benefit to worker safety and health, and improve our organizations' financial health. TWH also represents an opportunity to demonstrate how we contribute to our organizations' goals. Beyond providing technical expertise, we must show leaders that we understand our business and its risks and that we can help identify ways to improve systems to enhance worker well-being.

To do this, we must be prepared to mitigate the effects of an aging workforce; recognize changing employment relationships, such as virtual and gig work arrangements; develop awareness of work-related stress disorders, psychosocial risks and chronic diseases; and adapt to shifting cultural norms. Achieving this takes a broad, collaborative approach and requires leadership commitment, a dedicated team educated in the concepts, a gap analysis that identifies the organization's needs and an action plan.

If your organization is not yet ready for that level of implementation, consider piloting a TWH program. For example, smoking is a known risk factor for back injury. If your workforce has a high number of work-related back injuries and a high rate of smoking or tobacco use, have you correlated the data and considered strategies that could reduce the broader risk?

To read the entire message, go to: <https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2020/10/01/embracing-total-worker-health>

Deborah R. Roy,
M.P.H., R.N., CSP, COHN-S, CIT, FASSP, FAAOHN,
2020-2021 ASSP President

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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

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!!!!

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.

January 21, 2020

OSHA Update – Rescheduled from September

Jose Gonzalez, Area Director, OSHA, Mobile Area Office

Francisco Garcia, Compliance Assistance Specialist

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 Whistleblower Protection Program

OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of more than 20 whistleblower statutes protecting employees from retaliation for reporting violations of various 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 and tax laws, and for engaging in other related protected activities. The list can be viewed here:

<https://www.whistleblowers.gov/sites/wb/files/2019-12/WB-Statute-Summary-Chart-10.8-Final.pdf>

For more information on whistleblower protections, visit OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Programs webpage here:

<https://www.whistleblowers.gov/>

OSHA) will hold a teleconference Oct. 13, 2020, to solicit public comments and suggestions on key issues facing OSHA's whistleblower protection program. This is the sixth in a series of meetings on how the agency can improve the whistleblower program. The meeting will be held from 1- 4 p.m. EDT and is open to the public. Advance registration is needed. To participate, [register by Oct. 6, 2020](#). Call-in information will be provided to all registrants. There is no fee to register.

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Photo of the Month



It's the sudden stop
at the bottom!

Apply for an ASSP Foundation Scholarship or Grant

Applications may be submitted for ASSP Foundation [academic scholarships and professional development grants](#).

ASSP Foundation offers nearly 150 awards each year ranging from \$500 to \$8,000 each. Since 1990, ASSP Foundation has awarded scholarships to students in OSH degree programs and professional development grants to practitioners continuing their education. More than 1,300 safety students and professionals have advanced their careers thanks to the generosity of the safety community.

Applications are accepted online through Dec. 1, 2020. Only one application need be completed to be eligible for all available awards. Awards will be announced May 15, 2021. Learn more at the ASSP Foundation's [website](#).

COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Legislation: Occupational Diseases

Occupational disease claims are analyzed differently than occupational injuries. An occupational disease is not normally the result of a single event. Rather, it normally results from an exposure that occurs over time to a specific hazard. The work-related exposure must have a harmful effect on the employee and there must be a causal relationship between the exposure and the harmful effect that is confirmed by a medical diagnosis.

However, one of the key determinations is whether the conditions of the employment created a greater hazard to the worker than to the general public. Routinely recognized occupational diseases include exposure to chemicals, toxic substances, fumes, noise, physical vibration, and radiation. These conditions of employment can create a greater hazard to the worker than to the general public. Because of this, many states have medical diagnoses listing officially recognized occupational diseases, such as exposure to anthrax and various forms of poisoning like lead, mercury, and arsenic poisoning.

While many states already recognize exposure to bloodborne pathogens as an occupational disease, other exposures – particularly to infectious diseases contracted through close contact with an infected individual such as influenza – are often denied, as the exposure is typically not seen as a greater hazard to the worker than to the general public. However, with the rapid spread of COVID-19, and the increased risk of exposure and contraction of this disease, many states have enacted rebuttable presumption legislation for first responders who contract COVID-19, similar to the rebuttable presumption laws for firefighters, police officers and healthcare workers. In these states, certain types of frontline workers who contract COVID-19 are automatically “presumed” to have a work-related condition without having to provide any further proof. Although this presumption is rebuttable – meaning employers can controvert this position with evidence – it is likely to be a high burden for employers to meet.

Quote of the Month

Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated. It cannot be harvested.

African Proverb