

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



# ASSP



## PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### **November 19th Meeting**

### **Mental Health's Impact on Workplace Safety**

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

Attendees will learn how employee mental health issues impact workplace safety and the company's bottom line. From the information provided, attendees can begin to assess how their company is addressing employee mental health issues. Then using the information and resources provided, help foster a safer and healthier work environment.

Presented by Ms. Tracy Blausen, M.A., Program Director, Women and Children's Center at Chautauqua Healthcare Services of Lakeview Center.

Tracy is currently the director of a residential substance abuse treatment facility with a target population of pregnant or postpartum IV users. She is a graduate of University of Wisconsin – Parkside with a dual degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She also has a master's degree in Forensic Psychology from The Chicago School. She has worked in mental health and substance abuse for 16 years and in the field as a supervisor for 12 of those years. She has been actively involved in a unity coalition to reduce gun violence in Wisconsin as well as an Opiate Task Force – a coalition of partner agencies and community members actively working to reduce opiate misuse and overdoses in the community. Currently she is actively involved in expanding peer support development and opportunities in Northwestern Florida.

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**

### **Respiratory Hazards in the Workplace**

Across the globe, it is estimated that 1 in 10 people will become sick due to respiratory hazards encountered in the workplace annually, according to The American Journal of Respiratory Care and Medicine. With respiratory protection being one of the most cited violations of OSHA standards when conducting a jobsite inspection, worker education and following preventative health practices is crucial. Dusts, solvent vapors, and oxygen deficient atmospheres are just several hazards likely to be encountered in the workplace.

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) regulated by OSHA requires employers to evaluate any conditions in which workers can be at risk of toxic chemical exposure, as well as the effects of such exposure. The HCS helps employers design and implement these protective programs for employees who could be exposed to hazardous chemicals.

This year has also illustrated the hazards associated with viruses, bacteria and mold. With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing and flu season beginning, administrative controls such as additional cleaning and sanitation, temperature and wellness screenings, and distancing measures should be put into place. PPE such as masks and respirators should be worn where risk is present. Screens, splashguards, or other barriers should also be considered, especially in high-frequency areas where interactions with the public can occur.

Need a good IH?

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

## **President's Message**

2020 keeps on giving! Hurricane Sally surprised us in September, resulting in our first chapter meeting of the year to be canceled. Then we had a couple scares with hurricanes Delta and Zeta, and it does not seem like COVID-19 is going away anytime soon. Fortunately, the panhandle is resilient and so are safety professionals. It is in our nature to prepare; however, some things we just cannot anticipate, so we must be able to react efficiently and effectively. Know that you can find support within the ASSP community – we are here to help.

I am thankful that our September speakers from OSHA's Mobile, AL office rescheduled for January 2021. In addition, we also had a successful October Chapter meeting where we met new members, and reconnected with others, as well as gained insight and clarification on how new cannabis laws fit with the FL workers' compensation statute. Thank you for those who attended, and for those who could not make it, I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Our November Chapter Meeting topic is fitting for 2020 – Mental Health. I am looking forward to having Ms. Tracy Blauser discuss mental health in the workplace and how it relates to safety. Now more than ever, increasing our knowledge and understanding of mental health is important for our own wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of others. I hope you can join us on November 19th! Sign up on our website. I know there is a link in this newsletter which was developed by one of our newest Chapter Members, Mario Crocetti. He graciously volunteered to be the Communications Chair. You can get more involved too! Just reach out to me or one of the Executive Committee members.



Jill M Przymus,  
MEHS, ARM

## **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>

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## NSC Distracted Driving

The NSC recently released a report on distracted driving. October was distracted driving awareness month, recognizing a hazard causes over 276,000 injuries and 4,000 deaths annually. The report can be viewed [here](#).

## 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 [mario.crocetti@gmail.com](mailto:mario.crocetti@gmail.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>

<https://pensacola.assp.org>

If you have an opening at your organization you would like to share with the chapter and have posted for members to view, let Mario Crocetti or Matthew Parker know!

## Future Meetings: Third Thursdays

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

**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 or Mario Crocetti.

## Four Best Practices for EHS Training

With the right approach, EHS managers can drive better retention of important training concepts among their workforces. Here are four best practices that can help you get through to employees in the classroom—and provide a greater chance that your EHS training will stick.

**1. Focus on Your Company's Culture from the Top Down:** Culture is your invisible ally in providing better EHS training. It's important that leaders across your organization abide by policies, rules, and regulations addressed in your safety training. If they don't, why should your employees? Without management support, health and safety training will not stick with anyone else inside your organization

**2. Encourage Everyday Accountability:** Encouraging your employees to hold themselves and their peers accountable on an everyday basis will help ensure training sticks. When employees are not merely accountable to management but also have an interest in protecting each other's health and safety as well, they will be more likely to engage with and retain EHS training.

**3. Use Data and Analytics to Verify Effectiveness:** If your EHS training is sticking, you'll be able to uncover data that supports this. If you conduct training for how to safely handle dangerous equipment or proper hazardous waste management, you may find that fewer injuries occur, fewer citations are issued from regulatory agencies, and internal EHS audits demonstrate compliance and cultural readiness.

**4. Make It Engaging and Interesting:** While you should take EHS training seriously, you can still make it engaging. You can conduct it via simulated or gamified environments. You can also ask questions and take anonymous polls throughout each training module to learn more about what type of content resonates the most with your learners.

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## Photo of the Month



Not all trench walls get a trench roof! Know your surroundings.

## 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](#).

## ASSP SafetyFocus 2021

Whether it's technical savvy or business acumen, safety professionals never stop learning. Achieve your professional development goals and find your focus at SafetyFOCUS 2021.

SafetyFOCUS will take place February 8-12 and February 15-19, 2021 and is an immersive learning experience that is unparalleled in the safety industry. It features more than 95 occupational safety and health (OSH) courses taught by world-class experts that will help you deepen your knowledge and find solutions you can apply immediately at your organization.

Due to the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and its cascading effects on safety and health, work, travel, and large gatherings, SafetyFOCUS has shifted from an in-person event to a live virtual experience in 2021. This format will make SafetyFOCUS more accessible while offering the same networking opportunities and high-quality education you expect from ASSP.

Courses available will consist of these topics:

- Business skills and personal development
- Certification prep
- Construction
- Ergonomics
- Fall protection
- Human and organizational performance
- Industrial hygiene/health
- Risk assessment and management
- Safety management systems
- Training and education

Register [here](#) for this exciting event!

## Quote of the Month

"Safety brings first-aid to the uninjured."

F.S. Hughes