

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



# ASSP



## PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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### **November 18th Meeting Diversity and Inclusion in Safety**

**Location:** West Florida Public Library  
**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm  
**Fee:** Free (Lunch courtesy of Matthew!)

Elizabeth Browne, MEng, CSP discusses how diversity in the safety profession is especially important so that all minority and majority groups are considered. Challenges faced by minority groups for entering the safety profession will be discussed as well as conscious and unconscious bias and how it affects culture. Safety hazards that affect minority groups at greater rates will be identified. Application of Best Practices for improving Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace are a key focus as well.

#### **Presented by: Elizabeth Browne, MEng, CSP**

Elizabeth Browne, MEng, CSP is a partner with Spencer – Safety, Health and Environmental. She is a Safety Engineer, Certified Safety Professional, an OSHA Authorized Trainer – General Industry and a Red Cross authorized trainer for CPR, First Aid and Basic Life Support. Spencer-SHE provides all-in-one solutions for facilities' compliance needs with a mission to make workplaces safer and healthier while protecting the environment for future generations. Elizabeth supports this mission through employee engagement, interactive training, hazard assessments and working collaboratively with clients in order to eliminate and control risks.

**To encourage participation, Matthew will kindly cover the lunch! Please try and join us. It is time for a return to normal as best as we can. Let's support the chapter AND ATTEND like we used to!**

Please RSVP for the meeting at our website.

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

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## **IH Corner**

### **Vapor: An Argument for the Defense**

Among the properties of chemicals such as molecular weight, solubility, reactivity, pH and such, vapor pressure (VP) is the most important property for worker health considerations. In basic terms, VP is the tendency of molecules at the surface of the chemical to break free from the whole and become airborne. VP is associated with the term evaporation. The ability of a chemical to evaporate into the air, makes the understanding of vapor pressure very important.

Every chemical has a VP, commonly expressed in millimeters of mercury (mmHg). Temperature greatly effects each chemical's VP. Unless otherwise stated, a chemical's VP is reported at 25 degrees C. Chemicals with very low VPs are solids while chemicals with high VPs are gases. In between are liquids and vapors. The air you are breathing now has a VP at 760 mmHg. Water has a VP at 17.5 mmHg. Place a drop of water and a drop of oil on a table at the same time. Which of these chemicals evaporates, or totally dries, quicker? Water, therefore, has a higher VP than oil. Further, if there were an emulsion of water and oil, not considering toxicity or other factors, which chemical would present the greatest initial inhalation exposure? The one with the higher VP. If there were solids within the oil water emulsion, the solids may never evaporate. This concept may be greatly expanded to help explain worker exposure risk to mixture of chemicals.

Per OSHA, about 32 million workers work with and are potentially exposed to one or more chemical hazards. There are an estimated 650,000 existing chemical products, and hundreds of new ones are introduced annually. Most chemicals in commerce are ingredients in mixtures. OSHA HazCom 29 CFR 1910.1200 requires employers train workers on information on safety data sheets, labels, and placards. VP information is found in

SDS Section 9: Physical and chemical properties.

OSHA does not specify how much a worker should know about VP. An employer merely saying "vapor pressure" may suffice for worker understanding of the term during required HazCom and SDS training. Required HazCom, however, is the foundation for voluntary risk communication. A good understanding of VP is necessary for good awareness of RiskCom.

The following is an example of HazCom to RiskCom: An open container of paint contains a mixture of 65% solids and fillers that include silica and lead oxide, all with VPs below 0.1 mmHg, along with 35% solvents with equal proportions that include propanol VP 18.0 mmHg, methyl isobutyl ketone VP 19.95 mmHg, and ethanol VP 43.7 mmHg. As required, the SDS includes health hazard information on the chemical contents of the paint, with silica and lead being the most toxic components. The container of paint evaporates. How much silica and lead did workers working near the open container of paint inhale?

RiskCom means that workers understand that silica and lead are not harmful under conditions of use at the workplace. Paint must be dried then sanded, sawed, or other physical means to liberate silica and lead into the air. All factors being equal, which solvent evaporates faster, propanol or ethanol? You should know enough now to answer that question. An explanation of a chemical's VP, such as provided above, may help workers and others differentiate between hazard and risk. This concept should apply to all chemicals used or found in the workplace.

Chemicals with a bad reputation, such as silica and lead, are often attacked by lay people and even experts as causing health problems simply because of their presence. An SDS often reads like a smoking gun when an illness happens. But dose i.e., how much of the chemical enters the body, must always enter the argument of causation. Association is never causation without confirmation of dose.

## **President's Message**

Greetings all. The revival of the Pensacola Chapter continues. We increased the non-officer attendance by 50% in the last meeting. WooHoo!!!!!! Sounds good right? Unfortunately, that means we went from two attendees to three. Please plan now to attend the November meeting. The Chapter was formed to provide a venue for routine professional and social interaction. Don't let the pandemic or your job take that away from us. The networking and professional education is worth your time and effort to attend. I will buy the lunch again. See you there!!!! Please, if you would prefer evening meetings in Pensacola, let me know; my email is on the cover page of this newsletter. On other news....

The OSHA COVID Emergency Temporary Standard is almost ready for implementation. The White House OMB has concluded their review and OSHA has suspended future stakeholder meetings. That typically means that the publication in the Federal Register is the next step. Once published, it goes into effect within a few days.....ten I think. I believe there will be numerous legal cases filed against it and a national

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injunction is possible. There is a letter from Governor Desantis on our Linked-In page that discusses a special session of the Florida Legislature on November 15th for the sole purpose of addressing (blocking) vaccine mandates.

The ASSP Board of Directors has postponed the vote regarding the House of Delegates until early 2022. The specific date has not been announced, but they want more time to address the concerns and objections voiced by the chapters. The governance webpage is still active at <https://www.assp.org/about/assp-governance>. Please read and watch what you can. This is a very important vote that we will need to take in the chapter soon.

And lastly, on October 27, 2021, OSHA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings in the Federal Register. With this publication, OSHA is beginning the rulemaking process to consider a heat-specific workplace standard. A standard specific to heat-related injury and illness prevention would more clearly set forth employer obligations and the measures necessary to more effectively protect employees from hazardous heat. The ultimate goal is to prevent and reduce the number of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities caused by exposure to hazardous heat. The publication of the ANPRM initiated a 60-day public comment period allowing OSHA to gather information, diverse perspectives and technical expertise on issues that might be considered in developing a heat standard.

Matthew Parker  
MS, CIH, CSP, ARM  
2020-2021 ASSP Pensacola Chapter  
President

## **Future Meetings: Third Thursdays** **Put these on your calendar NOW!!!!**

**January 20, 2022**

**Topic and Speaker TBD**

## **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 us know!

## **Tallahassee Meetings**

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.

## **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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## **US Department of Labor, Manhattan Construction Florida Collaborate to Promote Workplace Safety at Southwest Florida International Airport Terminal Expansion Project**

The U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) has signed a strategic partnership with Manhattan Construction Florida Inc. to promote worker safety and health at the Southwest Florida International Airport expansion project in Fort Myers. The University of South Florida On-site Safety and Health Consultation Program is also a partner in the effort.

The partnership seeks to prevent worker injuries and exposure to hazards during a terminal expansion construction project by developing a contractor-government approach to safety and health. Participants will focus on the use of personal protective equipment, heat illness prevention; hazards related to falls; struck-by and caught-in objects; electrical equipment and work practices; fire protection and prevention; safe use of hand and power tools; and silica and noise exposure. The partnership will also encourage contractors to develop and implement safety and health programs, and provide safety and health training to employees, employers and supervisors.

“Worker safety and health partnerships rely on the collaboration between OSHA, management and labor to leverage resources and maximize results,” said OSHA Area Office Director Danelle Jindra in Tampa, Florida. “While each partnership is unique, they all demonstrate a commitment to ensuring all workers end their workday safely.”

The Southwest Florida International Airport expansion project includes constructing a connector between the three existing concourses, consolidating the Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints, as well as providing additional seating, concession spaces and a business lounge. In total, more than 164,000 square feet of space will be remodeled, and 117,000 square feet of space will be added to the airport terminal.

OSHA's [Strategic Partnership Program](#) works with employers, employees, professional and trade associations, labor organizations and other interested stakeholders to establish specific goals, strategies and performance measures to improve worker safety and health.

### **Photo of the Month**



**Watch your step entering and exiting the toilets!**

## **New and Revised Standards Help Employers Better Protect Workers**

As a global leader in the development of workplace safety and health standards, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) has published several new and revised voluntary national consensus standards that help employers minimize on-the-job risks to better protect their workers.

“Standards lead organizations big and small in the same direction to achieve safer and healthier workplaces,” said ASSP President Brad Giles, P.E., CSP, STS, FASSP, GIOSH. “They are a cornerstone of a successful business, setting minimum requirements that help maximize operations, increase the bottom line and ultimately save lives.”

With regulatory requirements being slow to change and often out of date, compliance is not sufficient to protect workers. Voluntary national consensus standards provide the latest expert guidance and fill gaps



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where federal regulations don't exist. Leading companies rely on them to drive continuous improvement and injury prevention.

ASSP's broad collection of new and revised workplace safety standards focus on psychological safety and health, fall protection, construction and demolition operations, and prevention through design.

## **New standards recently published**

[ANSI/ASSP/ISO 45003-2021, Occupational Health and Safety Management – Psychological Health and Safety at Work – Guidelines for Managing Psychosocial Risks](#), provides guidance for managing psychosocial risk and promoting well-being at work as part of a safety and health management system based on ISO 45001.

[ANSI/ASSP Z359.9-2021, Personal Equipment for Protection Against Falls – Descent Controllers](#), sets minimum requirements for the design and use of descent controllers in rope access, rope descent and evacuation.

[ANSI/ASSP Z459.1-2021, Safety Requirements for Rope Access Systems](#), provides fundamental criteria for establishing and evaluating rope access systems for work at height. The best practices are applicable where ropes are suspended from or connected to a structure to protect a worker from falling. Requirements include a two-rope system for rope access, full-body harnesses and autolocking connectors with 3,600-pound gates.

## **Revised standards recently published**

[ANSI/ASSP A10.38-2021, Basic Elements of an Employer's Program to Provide a Safe and Healthful Work Environment](#), outlines minimum elements of a program for protecting

employees in construction and demolition.

[ANSI/ASSP A10.47-2021, Work Zone Safety for Roadway Construction](#), sets minimum requirements for workers involved in construction, utility work or maintenance on roads, also aiming to prevent crashes in work zones.

[ANSI/ASSP Z359.11-2021, Safety Requirements for Full Body Harnesses](#), creates minimum requirements for full-body harnesses commonly used for fall protection, travel restraint and rescue operations.

[ANSI/ASSP Z359.14-2021, Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems](#), establishes minimum requirements for self-retracting devices, including self-retracting lanyards. The devices are used where personal protection is needed to prevent falls from height, such as at a rock-climbing facility. The devices are becoming increasingly popular in the fall protection industry, but must be used properly.

[ANSI/ASSP Z590.3-2021, Prevention Through Design Guidelines for Addressing Occupational Hazards and Risks in Design and Redesign Processes](#), offers guidance on reducing or eliminating occupational safety and health hazards in the design process. It explains how to include prevention through design concepts in a safety and health management system. If worksites are designed from the start with safety in mind, fewer injuries will occur.

In addition to implementing safety and health standards, all employers are encouraged to regularly conduct workplace risk assessments, which are effective in combatting many safety and health issues across all industries.

## **Nonfatal injuries and illnesses in private sector down slightly, but respiratory illness cases rise dramatically**

The number of nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses in the U.S private sector, as well as the nonfatal injury and illness rate, decreased slightly in 2020. However, estimated injuries and illnesses that resulted in at least one day of lost work soared by nearly a third amid the COVID-19 pandemic, data released Nov. 3 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows. Workers in private industry experienced an estimated 2.7 million nonfatal injuries and illnesses in 2020 – down from 2.8 million the previous year. However, BLS reports an estimated 1,176,340 nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work – a 32.4% increase from 2019. According to an agency press release, that estimate includes more than 390,000 cases categorized as “other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified, which includes reported COVID-19 pandemic-related illnesses.”

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Additionally, the agency observed a surge in reported illness cases – which more than quadrupled to 544,600 in 2020 – and a notable jump in employer-reported respiratory illness cases, which climbed to 428,700 in 2020 from 10,800 the previous year.

BLS obtained its estimates from the agency's [Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses](#).

"Throughout the pandemic workplace safety has become more important than ever," said Lorraine Martin, NSC president and CEO. "Although incredible advancements are made in safety each year, the OSHA Top 10 list reminds us that we must continue to pinpoint areas where we can improve so we can better prioritize workplace safety in the future world of work."

Other 2020 data highlights:

- Total injury and illness cases decreased or stayed the same in all private industry sectors apart from health care and social assistance, which experienced a 40.1% increase.
- The total recordable rate in the manufacturing sector decreased to 3.1 per 100 FTE workers from 3.3 in 2019.
- Injured workers 65 or older had a median DAFW of 14, compared with 16 the year before.

The data release is the first of two annual reports from BLS. The second, [scheduled](#) to be released Dec. 16, will highlight [Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) findings.

## **2022 Region IV ASSP Professional Development Conference (PDC) - April 6-7, 2022**

The 2022 Region IV PDC will be held on Wednesday, April 6th and Thursday April 7th, 2022 at the Hilton Capitol Center in Downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana, located at 201 Lafayette Street.

In terms of logistics, all 2020 PDC registrations have been rolled over to the 2022 PDC in Baton Rouge.

**2022 Call For Speakers** - The PDC is currently accepting speaker applications for the 2022 PDC. To apply online visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3BYVQX>.

**CEUs** - Attendees will receive 1.1\* CEU Credits for attending both days of the conference (\*pending approval).

This Annual PDC provides one of the most sought after events for attendees to learn the profession's best practices focusing on Safety, Health, Industrial Hygiene & Environmental Issues. The PDC is attended by over 200+ attendees annually and features an Exhibition of over 30+ Sponsors and Exhibitors. The event features four keynote speakers and 28 breakout sessions with four concurrent tracks running throughout the two-day event. You do not need to be an ASSP member to attend.

Register for the event [here](#).

## **Quote of the Month**

"No job is so important, and no service so urgent- that we cannot take the time to perform our work safely."

-AT&T Bell System Safety Creed -1939