

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



ASSP



PENSACOLA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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February 17th Meeting Pre-Accident Investigation

Location: Gulf Breeze Hampton Inn and Suites
Time: 11:30am-1:30pm
Fee: Free (Lunch courtesy of Matthew!)

Learn the history of safety and how to create a “just” culture. Learn how trending data can help you see into the future, understand that we shape how our organizations learn by how we respond to failure and understand we need to fix the work, not the worker.

Presented by: Rod Courtney, CUSP, CST, HSE Manager, Ampirical

Rod began his career in the US military. He served as an Army Combat Medic from 1990-1994 on active duty and 1994-1998 in the reserves. While on reserve status he worked in law enforcement and attended college at Armstrong Atlantic State University and Columbia Southern University where he studied Occupational Health & Safety. He has been a Certified Safety Technician for 28 years and became a CUSP in 2019. In 2007 Rod went to work in the renewable energy sector building thousands of megawatts of wind turbines and solar plants across the country. He ultimately became the Director of HSS&E for one of the largest renewable energy construction companies in the US. Rod is now the HSE Manager for Ampirical, who is one of the fastest growing companies in the country. Since 2006 they have been a premier engineering & construction firm dedicated to the Utility Industry and were named one of “Americas Safest Companies” by EHS Today for 2021.

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

EPA Drafts Approach to Assess Ambient Air, Water Exposures to Fenceline Communities

Last week, the EPA published a proposed screening-level approach for assessing ambient air and water exposures for communities near industrial facilities. The draft approach is intended to be used to evaluate potential chemical exposures and associated risks to “fenceline communities” in risk evaluations conducted and published under amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) legislation.

In its press release about the new draft methodology, the EPA explains that the previous administration narrowed the scope of the first 10 TSCA risk evaluations so that they “generally did not assess air, water, or disposal exposures to the general population.” The EPA announced the reversal of this policy in June, declaring its intent to expand its consideration of exposure pathways for the first 10 TSCA risk evaluations.

The EPA previously said it will reopen and update the risk evaluation for 1,4-dioxane to consider whether to include additional exposure pathways that were excluded from the supplemental and final risk evaluations. The agency intends to use the newly proposed screening-level approach to determine if six other chemicals that were among the first 10 EPA evaluated under TSCA—methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, perchloroethylene, NMP, and 1-bromopropane—present unreasonable risk to fenceline communities.

For further details, see EPA’s [press release](#).

President’s Message

What if you threw a party and nobody came? That is the feeling I am getting for the Pensacola Chapter. We have scheduled an excellent slate of speakers for you, but we are only getting one or two of you to each meeting. We cannot continue to attract speakers with that kind of turnout. If you are a member of the chapter, **YOU NEED TO PARTICPATE!!!**

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 17th (third Thursday) at 11:30am. The topic is "Pre-Accident Investigations" and our speaker is Rod Courtney from Ampirical.

ATTENTION!!!! MEETING LOCATION CHANGED!!

The library was not available for this meeting. We will be meeting the Gulf Breeze Hampton Inn and Suites. The address is 61 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

I will also be staying in town to host a happy hour (5:30pm) at McGuire’s. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN COME!!** We will not have a presentation, but please come out if evenings are better for you. I am trying to gauge the relative interest in meeting times. **YOU MAY ATTEND BOTH!**

Now, here is the bad news. The chapter may fold if you don’t start coming. The Pensacola Chapter was originally carved out of the Mobile Chapter footprint. We will be merged back in if the Chapter is found by ASSP to be non-compliant. We currently do not have a candidate for President and I doubt the Vice President candidate will remain on the ballot without one. Without officers there will be no meetings. Without meetings and associated reporting, the chapter will be non-compliant. We can surrender the Charter before that occurs, but it has the same net effect.

Interestingly, we just had a meeting in Tallahassee. We only have 12 members in that area and four of them showed up. For contrast we have 80 members in the rest of the chapter and only 1-2 of you have been participating.

So it’s time to “put up”. I have risen to President in three chapters (Augusta, Atlanta, and Pensacola). I’ve done it twice in one of those. We affectionately refer to people like me as retreads. That means former officers are welcome and encouraged to take another tour of duty. But whether you are a retread or willing to jump in the ring the first time, we need you now. **YOU DO HAVE TIME TO GET INVOLVED.** The question is whether or not it’s a priority for you! We need nominees for President and Secretary ASAP. Please email Stanley Gray (stanleygray10@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Sincerely concerned,

Matthew Parker

MS, CIH, CSP, ARM

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Future Meetings: Third Thursdays

Put these on your calendar NOW!!!!

March 17, 2022

If the Fish Aren't Biting, Its Time to Change the Bait,
Danny Smith

April 21, 2022

Risk Assessment in Joint Employer Environments,
Scott Debow

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>

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

Membership Stuff

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

Jobs

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

<https://jobs.bcsp.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

Photo of the Month



“Reach for your goals” shouldn’t apply to ladder safety!

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OSHA, Trade Group Update Safety Guide for Working with Robots

As companies are using robotic technologies to perform dangerous or repetitive tasks, employees are now working with robots more often. The World Robotics 2021 Industrial Robots report estimates currently that more than 310,000 industrial robots now operate in U.S. factories. While the robots can provide benefits to the workplace, they also introduce new hazards such as struck-by/caught-between, crushing and trapping, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic and environmental.

Back in 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Association for Advancing Automation (formerly the Robotic Industries Association) formed an alliance to share technical knowledge, improve awareness about workplace hazards and appropriate safeguards, and identify needed research on the use of traditional industrial and emerging collaborative robotic technologies.

Recently, the alliance updated and expanded a chapter in the OSHA Technical Manual on [Industrial Robot Systems and Industrial Robot System Safety](#). Updates include technical information on the hazards associated with industrial and emergent robot applications, safety considerations for employers and workers, and risk assessments and risk reduction measures.

The manual serves to guide OSHA compliance officers as they perform inspections at facilities with robotic systems, and provides a technical resource for safety and health professionals overseeing the use of robotic systems in workplaces.

A Risk-based Approach to Managing Fatigue

The COVID-19 pandemic has radically altered the way we work, and the way work is organized. Mandatory and voluntary lockdowns ushered in a new era of remote telework, as employers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors sought ways to adapt, continue their operations, and provide products and services to their customers, clients, members, and constituents. Workers deemed "essential" continued to report to their jobs — too often without adequate personal protective equipment and too often paying the price in illness and death (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#)). Now two years in, with establishments and offices beginning to open up, some workers are returning to very different physical workplaces. They are donning masks and may (or may not) find other public health safeguards in place, e.g., testing or vaccination requirements, barriers, social distancing, etc. And, finally, engineering controls like ventilation and air purification are getting the attention they deserve, given their place and effectiveness in the time-tested [hierarchy of controls, now applied to COVID](#).

Telework Is Here to Stay

But while many workers venture out into changed work environments, many others will continue to work remotely from home, alone, often in makeshift spaces with repurposed furniture. Global Workplace Analytics [estimates](#) that 36.2 million workers or 22% of Americans will be working remotely by the year 2025. This is an 87% increase from pre-pandemic levels. For more information on teleworking rates and lost work in the U.S. during the pandemic, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics [here](#). For information on the sociodemographic characteristics of U.S. workers who switched to telework during the pandemic, see the Census Bureau [here](#). For a more international look at teleworking trends and prospects, see OECD [here](#).

Telework has its pros and cons, risks and benefits – especially in the current context. For some, telework was and remains a welcome innovation, a perk only available to some. It means no commute or commuting costs, no rigid work hours, more flexibility, and an ability to “balance” work and family obligations. But telework put into place because of and now prolonged by the COVID-19 pandemic has also come with a cost to some workers – isolation, loneliness, anxiety, depression, fatigue, lack of social and coworker support, disrupted routines, and burnout.

Enter “Resilience”

These negative impacts of telework have raised to prominence the concept of “*Resilience*” – basically the capacity to adapt well to difficult situations: in this case, adapting to the changes and challenges associated with telework and recognizing that it may be extended for a time or even become the “new normal” for some workers.

To foster resilience, many employers are providing ways to help their workers cope with burnout and develop resilience in the face of the pandemic and its intersecting challenges (see [here](#) and [here](#).) These include, for example, mindfulness, self-care, and stress management

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training, access to mental health practitioners, and training courses in personal resilience. These efforts can be well-intentioned and welcomed by workers. They may also be helpful to the employers and companies that provide them, as a way to retain and help their teleworking and remote employees be as productive as possible.

Worker Resilience — What’s Missing?

But is something missing in these solutions? Sociologist Fabienne Scandella [addressed](#) the missing element and the issue of “the resilient teleworker” in the latest volume of [the European Trade Union Institute’s \(ETUI\) magazine](#), tracing the origins of the increasingly popular buzzword “resilience.” (ETUI also hosted a [webinar](#) on workplaces in the pandemic.)

On their face, these employer-sponsored and individual worker-focused resilience efforts can seem laudable, generous, pragmatic, and unworthy of any serious critique.

But, according to Scandella, there is a rub: They focus on the individual worker as the locus of change and control, when it’s often the demands, expectations, workload, lack of control, and other conditions of the work that are at the

root of worker stress and need changing. The focus on individual workers avoids challenging and adapting the conditions and organization of work itself. Work is a collective experience, and its impacts should be viewed and addressed at that level.

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

“Safety is something that happens between your ears, not something you hold in your hands.” – Jeff Cooper