



St. Louis Chapter Newsletter January 2020



Next Meeting

Thursday, January 16th

OSHA Update (and Coat Drive, see box below)

Enjoy food and libations at Bristol Seafood Grill on Olive and relax with others in your field at this event. Exclusively for St Louis Chapter Members.

Location:

Bristol Seafood Grill
11801 Olive Blvd
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Time:

5:00pm Open
7:00pm Safety Professional of the Year Award

Register:

<https://stl.assp.org/events/assp-member-appreciation-night/>

Coming Up

Monday, February 10th, 2020 – Lunch

OSHA Defense - Speaker Julie O'Keefe, Attorney at Law of Armstrong Teasdale Law Firm. Update on strategies to defend against OSHA citations

Monday, March 2nd, 2020 – All Day

Professional Development Conference, hosted at Ameren Headquarters on Chouteau Ave. Join members of the local American Industrial Hygiene Association for a day of professional training, and earn some continuing education. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-professional-development-conference-saint-louis-aiha-ssp-tickets-43723068876>

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Chapter Board Nominations

The time has come to elect new Chapter Board Members. Rick Reams will transition into the Board position of Past President automatically, but all other positions must be voted on at our April member meeting. YOU are encouraged to participate, either by running for a board position or being on a committee. Let a current board member know if you would like to serve, or speak up at the next meeting. A slate of candidates will be posted in advance of our April member meeting.

WISH Coat Drive

The WISH coat drive has donated 25 coats to those in need. Should you still be interested in donating outerwear, contact Patte Ackermann at ackemap@ssm-select.com

Powder Coat – Not as Safe as You Think

by William Kincaid, P.E., CSP, CIT

Sr. Loss Control Consultant

Lockton Midwest

Powder coating has achieved some real popularity in the past decade or so. It solves so many problems – no flammable liquids creating a fire hazard and frightening the property insurance engineers, no Volatile Organic Compounds aka “VOCs”, and no employee exposure to solvent vapors. Because it’s safe, right? As an OSHA safety engineer, I saw a lot of powder coating lines in the course of my investigations, and never thought much about them. Some lines didn’t even have anyone inside the spray booth. If the line required hand application of powder, as they all apparently do, just slap some paper dust masks on the painters. With our lax OSHA standards for nuisance dust, the dust masks would likely be “voluntary use”, and that should be enough. Because powder coating is so “safe”. That casual attitude carried through into my work in private industry. I thought “hey, powder coat, no problem.” As some of you may have thought as well.

Not so fast – powder coating isn’t as safe as you think it is. At least not all of it.

Much of powder coating’s reputation for safety is based on the environmental side. The EPA is fussy about the amount of VOC emissions and doesn’t like solvents. Powder coating eliminates the vast majority, if not all, of the VOC output. Add the lack of flammable solvents – which means no flammable mixing and storage rooms, no bonding and grounding, no warehousing of flammable drums, no in-rack sprinklers, spill containment, etc. – and you have an attractive alternative to the good old-fashioned solvent-based coatings.

OSHA’s levels for total dust exposure have become a little tighter lately. The dust exposure is often reduced by the spray booth, so that’s good, but it may not be enough to get the dust to safe levels. You can’t have a strong draft in a powder booth without interfering with the application process. It depends on the way the operators have to spray the powder, where they stand, how the parts being sprayed affect the spray cloud, and other factors. There’s also the combustible dust hazard of powder coat but that’s

usually controlled by housekeeping and static electricity control. For a lot of powder coating applications, the employee safety and health side aren't an issue. Simple powder coating is pretty safe. When we get into better finishes, more durable, outdoor-ready coatings, for example, the ingredients it takes to get there become a problem.

Some powder coat finishes have crystalline silica as an ingredient. Merely handling the powder creates an exposure, and there's a lot of handling involved in running a coating line. By now we're all familiar with how low the Permissible Exposure Levels are for crystalline silica. Since some powder coat material has a little crystalline silica in it, per OSHA we need to assess the employee exposure. I'm not aware of a specific rule for any other component of the powder coat, but the silica gets us on the hook for air testing.

For the easiest possible level of compliance, we need to be able to show employee exposure to respirable crystalline silica is always below 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) under any foreseeable conditions. If it's over 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ then a slew of burdensome silica rules kicks in. That will be the end of allowing workers to wear their street clothes while working with the powder, the end of careless housekeeping, and the beginning of clear delineation of the silica areas. Along with the silica rules there is likely a need for a respiratory protection program if respirators must be used. The need for strict silica measures and a respiratory program are based on precise air monitoring which must be done. It takes quite a lot of monitoring to stake out the areas where exposures are high enough to merit employee protection.

Note handling the filters, cleaning the area around the booth, changing out of the Tyvek suits etc. will stir up dust so the respirator needs to stay on while doing these things; and air testing should include everything the operator does involving the powder coat material.

Powder coating can also include a substance called TGIC (triglycidyl isocyanurate). TGIC is a chemical compound formulated in some powder coatings as a curing agent, and it is blended with polymers and pigments during the powder coating manufacturing process in order to encapsulate the TGIC. Powder coated items receive a heat treatment in an industrial oven which allows the powder layer to melt and chemically react to form a hard and durable surface. When there is TGIC in the powder, the TGIC chemically reacts with polymers during the curing process and transforms into a stable polymeric matrix.

Industry studies have shown that products coated with a TGIC powder coated finished are considered non-toxic and do not present a health risk to the consumer. However, TGIC is a sensitizer. The problems arise due to the TGIC released during spraying and curing. Some of the people who are exposed to TGIC become allergic to it. Once that happens, they can't ever be anywhere near it without risk of serious reactions. The more they are exposed, the greater the risk of sensitization. Sensitization includes the skin and lungs. We can't allow people to have this material on their bare skin or to breath it. It's enough of a problem the European Union has taken steps to eliminate TGIC from the powder coats used in their borders. Here, we can use it, but we need full coverage protection.

We're not talking about giving out a few Tyvek suits the guys can wear any way they want. There must be true 100% coverage – a suit worn properly will include gloves taped off to the wrists, a hood, and a full-face respirator. This will include not just the guy in the booth – what about the dozen or so other people working within twenty feet of the booth, hanging items on the powder line, taking them off, and sticking them into boxes? If there are sloppy housekeeping practices, it might even go farther than that. NIOSH did a safety review of a TGIC powder coating line and said “Painters should use a vacuum, instead of compressed air, to remove powder paint from clothes. Painters also should cover their hands and other exposed skin when painting and wear powered air-purifying respirators with loose-fitting hoods.”

TGIC leads to a lot of extra costs which a booth can't control – the suits, having to keep the area around the booth clean without compressed air and protecting other employees in the area, the extra potential for WC claims, etc. OSHA has written up some big citations for TGIC without the right protections - the icing on the cake.

Unfortunately, the booth is part of the problem. A booth doesn't do much other than allowing overspray to be recycled back into supply and keeping the dust from settling all over the area. Powder coating paint booths usually have a low draft in them, because the air shouldn't blow too hard on the powder spray before it sticks to the parts. Both the air being breathed and the possible skin contact with the sensitizer are problematic in a spray booth. If TGIC and silica are involved, we have to look at the respiratory protection and the full coverage skin protection. It can become a big problem because there's so much behavioral safety involved in keeping everyone doing what they need to be doing.

All the data out there says protect as much of the skin as possible, 100% covered plus full-face respirator (or airline hood, which is good if you have a painter who doesn't like to shave every day). If there's any powder on bare skin, it needs to be washed off quickly, something which is hard to do when someone is covered with the stuff head to toe. The hands are a little trickier to protect because plastic gloves can be non-conductive and you need electrical continuity with the operator when powder coating to prevent static buildup. I've seen non-conductive gloves recommended, and other recs to not wear gloves but to wash the hands all the time. Neither sounds all that easy to me.

A better option would be to evaluate whether we really need a powder coat which contains TGIC and silica, or if there's something safer just as good which has neither. I'm working with a few powder coating operations and I've been unable to convince anyone to get rid of the TGIC. One company is buying a very expensive oil-less compressor and airline hoods rather than replace the TGIC with a safer type of powder. For some reason, they say the TGIC stuff is cheaper. It disagrees with what I've heard as a non-purchaser of powder coat, but not having access to pricing I can't argue it.

Some powder coat materials don't deserve a reputation for being inherently safe. It may be only a small portion of the powder coating materials in use, but for the ones which have the extra hazards of silica and TGIC, the additional precautions add significant costs and efforts to keep employees safe. Just don't assume because it's powder coat, it must be safe – because some of it isn't.

MARCH 2nd, 2020



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ST LOUIS

Joint Professional Development Conference with the AIHA & ASSP Saint Louis Local Sections

Nationally Recognized Speakers without the travel cost.

Topics include: *TBD*

CEU's available through University of Central Missouri (UCM or CMSU to many of us); Certificates of Attendance will be provided and speaker handouts will be available online. (Approved for TBD CEUs)

Unemployed members of local sections receive free registration - Contact St Louis ASSE or Donn Cahill (for AIHA)

Thank you to AMEREN for the generous use of their facility.

Continental Breakfast, Lunch & afternoon Snack included in the price of the conference.

Lunch Scheduled includes: LUNCH TBD

Date And Time

Mon, March 2, 2020
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM CST
[Add to Calendar](#)

Location

AMEREN Headquarters
1901 Chouteau
Saint Louis, MO 63101
[View Map](#)

Refund Policy

Refunds up to **7 days** before event



Save the Date- 5th Annual



MAY 12-15, 2020

The Lodge of the Four Seasons

Lake of the Ozarks, MO

May 12th, 2020

Morning Pre-Conference – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fall Protection Equipment Inspector Class

Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Robert Trent Jones Course

Conference - May 13 & 14, 2020

Keynote Speaker: Don Kernan, a consultant who also serves the CCBS as a Safety Accreditation Commissioner and an Advisor to the Board.

Exhibitors located in the Main Ballroom

Book your hotel reservation. Rooms are \$112.00 a night. Hotel reservations at this rate will be accepted until April 10, 2020. Bring your family and make it a vacation, the room rate is good weekend before and after. May 8-17, 2020. Based upon availability

The Lodge of Four Seasons

315 Four Seasons Drive

Lake Ozarks , MO 65049

<https://4seasonsresort.com>

Hotel Phone: 573-365-3000 - Hotel Fax: 573-365-8525

Toll Free Reservations: 888-265-5500, between 8 – 5 M – F

Registration Code: SAFECONEXPO

Online Registration use group attendee- room rates start at \$112.00

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/17336?groupID=2584426>



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

2019-20 Calendar of Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting Topic & Presenter	Menu
April 8, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Defensive Communication Speaker Mary Sue Love, Ph.D - Associate Professor SIU-Edwardsville.	
May 13, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Employment Law Speaker James Paul, SHRM, SCP, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. Review of some of the regulations that govern the workplace	
June 14, 2019 Friday ALL DAY	ASSP Scholarship Golf Tournament Fundraiser The Prairies Golf Club, Cahokia, Illinois - Registration is OPEN NOW!	
July 8, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Developing Safety Leaders Speaker Ray Boehm, Sr. Vice President, Risk Manager, Keeley Companies	Ball Park Buffet
August 12, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Joint Mtg AIHA Speaker Kerry Goyette presents a new perspective on safety and the behaviors that it affects. She will provide data driven solutions to help your team to be more safe, and in turn, more engaged.	BBQ Pork Steaks
September 9, 2019 Monday Tour Day, No meeting	Join us for a tour of Watlow Electric Manufacturing Co., a family-owned company that designs and manufactures industrial electric heaters, sensors, and controllers.	Catered meal on site
October 14, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Workers Compensation Speaker Chris Archer of Archer & Lassa LLC. will provide us with the latest information in the legal circles that affect worker's compensation.	Mexican Buffet
November 11, 2019 Monday Lunch*	Joint Mtg GSHMM Flint Walton , Technical Services & Training Specialist of Missouri Employers Mutual will be speaking on Understanding Your Experience Modifier and Workers' Comp – a practical review of the experience modifier and a real world look at understanding it and key factors to help control it	Chicken Delight
December 9, 2019 Monday Lunch*	OSHA Update Speaker Bill McDonald, OSHA's Area Director in St Louis will provide his annual OSHA fiscal year update and quick review of new/old initiatives.	Helen Fitzgerald's
January TBD, 2020 Thursday 5 pm Bristol Seafood Grill	Membership Appreciation Night <u>No luncheon meeting this month!</u> Enjoy food and libations at Bristol Seafood Grill on Olive and relax with others in your field at this event. Exclusively for St Louis Chapter Members.	
February 10th, 2020 Monday Lunch*	OSHA Defense Speaker Julie O'Keefe, Attorney at Law of Armstrong Teasdale Law Firm. Update on strategies to defend against OSHA citations	
March TBD, 2020 Monday ALL DAY Location TBD	Professional Development Conference Joint conference with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) to bring you high quality training at the best price, CEU's awarded.	

*Lunch at Sybergs Dorsett, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Lunch will include house salad, bread and dessert in addition to the listed entree.

American Society of Safety Professionals

St. Louis Chapter Committees

Website – Dave Callies – dcallies@kelpe.com

Maintains website with updated news, chapter events, and job postings

Newsletter – Dan Bembower – dan.bembower@usi.com

Publishes and distributes the chapter newsletter to all chapter members

PDC Chair – Dennis Pivin – DPivin@aegion.com

Coordinates logistics of professional development activities

Membership – Dianne Gibbs – dianne@ideasftp.com

Ensures new members are recognized & introduced at membership meetings

Public Relations – Steve Williams – swilliams@bellelectrical.com

Promotes chapter activities to the general public. Coordinates poster contest

Awards & Honors – Bill Kincaid – billkincaid@yahoo.com

Recognizes member achievement through chapter awards

Scholarship – Rob Miller – robertmiller91@yahoo.com

Promotes student scholarships & continuing education scholarships for members

Programs – Tim Michel – tmichel@keeleycompanies.com

Plans the program time and needs for presentations & coordinates schedule

Social Media – JaNola Rigsby – jrigsby@quasafesolutions.com

Maintains Face book & Twitter accounts promoting discussion with local membership

Please contact the committee chair with comments or if you would like to participate.

Mid Missouri Officers

Bret Derrick, Chairman

bderrick@broadwayergonomics.com

Mark Woodward, Vice Chair

mwoodwar@mem-ins.com

Bethany Watson, Membership Chair

bethany@365safetyservices.com

Job Opportunities

Job opportunities are posted frequently on the website:

<https://stl.assp.org/current-openings/>

Remember, the St. Louis Chapter offers unemployed ASSE members a free lunch at our monthly meeting!

St. Louis Chapter Board Members

Rick Reams – President, 618-670-6589 (ricky_reams@hotmail.com)

Steve Williams – Vice President, 314-213-5859 (swilliams@frenchgerleman.com)

Dennis Pivin – Secretary (DPivin@aegion.com)

Erica Heinssen – Treasurer, 207-522-0368 (elheinssen@hotmail.com)

Mark Krieger – Past President, 314-435-3630 (mark.krieger2007@gmail.com)

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<http://stl.assp.org>