



St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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Important Links

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Upcoming Events

November 9th - Virtual Chapter Meeting - 12pm

Please join us for a Virtual Chapter Meeting! There is no cost to attend, but we do need you to register prior to the meeting. The St. Louis Chapter has purchased a Zoom subscription to allow a high quality experience.

When: **Nov 9, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time**

Topic: **Addressing Safety Issues: "What is your message?" vs "What are you saying?"**

Sheila Schmitt will lead a discussion on why that matters (beyond the obvious) and how to make sure you are clearly communicating with your team.

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUtd-CqpjMvHtYDMYtwlhm64pEQ-N8VqkdB>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



ASSP MONTHLY MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Sheila Schmidt, CSP, ARM

(Safety Risk Consultant at Missouri Employers Mutual)

Addressing Safety Issues:
"What is your message?" vs. "What are you saying?"

Sheila will lead a discussion on why that matters (beyond the obvious) and how to make sure you are clearly communicating with your team.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



NOVEMBER 9th, 2020



NOON CENTRAL TIME



REGISTER

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtd-CqpjMvHtYDMYtwIhm64pEQ-N8VqkdB>

<https://stl.assp.org/event/>

The Limits of OSHA Leniency During the Pandemic

~Bill Kincaid, P.E., CSP, CIT

In mid-April, OSHA issued some guidelines which reflected an understanding that some services may not be feasible during our current pandemic, making it virtually impossible to keep up with recurring obligations such as hearing tests and required retraining. The compliance staff was given temporary discretion to not write citations in those instances. **But there were limits on that leniency.** OSHA didn't say compliance with annual requirements was no longer necessary. Knowing how people tend to grab onto an exemption and run with it, sometimes overlooking the limits of that exemption, it's a topic we should explore before too much more time passes.

The OSHA guidelines document says, in summary, if employers can't meet their obligations for some standards due to pandemic restrictions after making good faith efforts to comply, then the compliance officer has discretion to not write citations. OSHA Area Offices will assess an employer's efforts to comply with standards that require annual or recurring audits, reviews, training, or assessments. If the good faith efforts result in realizing it will be possible to safely comply with some recurring obligation, then not complying would be cited as usual. (<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-16/discretion-enforcement-when-considering-employers-good-faith-efforts-during>)

In this document, OSHA has listed "Examples of Situations Where Enforcement Discretion Should be Considered". This list includes these headings:

- Annual Audiograms
- [Annual] Process Safety Management Requirements (Process Hazard Analysis (PHA) Revalidation, Review of Operating Procedures, and Refresher Training)

- Hazardous Waste Operations Training
- Respirator Fit Testing and Training
- Maritime Crane Testing and Certification
- Construction Crane Operator Certification
- Medical Evaluations

The key factor to remember here is OSHA looks at whether there was a good faith effort to comply with recurring requirements. Back in April, when there were mandatory shutdowns of so many businesses, some services were simply not possible. OSHA officers were told when it was not possible to safely comply with a recurring obligation, the compliance staff should use their discretion before writing citations.

That was April. Six months later, most surviving vendors have adapted to the pandemic. Impossibility is a lot harder to come by in some areas.

Let's look at one of the more common recurring obligations, audiometric testing, also known as audiograms, also known as hearing tests. If a good faith effort ends up in not finding a way to get audiometric tests done because no local hospital, hearing clinic, test van or occ doc is doing them, then the OSHA compliance officer is supposed to use discretion in writing citations. That is a long way from a blanket halt on OSHA citations for not doing audiograms.

Back in April, audiograms were likely very hard to come by, even though hearing services were considered "essential services" in many areas. That started to change in May, when the National Hearing Conservation Association issued its "Best Practices Guidelines for Safely Conducting Hearing Testing During the COVID-19 Pandemic". By now the NHCA guidelines have been implemented in many testing locations, and by many testing van companies. It is now possible to run our employees through annual hearing tests depending on the area.

If there is an available vendor for audiometric tests and they can be done without undue exposure to COVID – physical distancing, etc. – then there is no good reason not to do them. It might be necessary to change the way they're done. Maybe the usual van we use is still shut down, but the local clinic will do them, for example. Sure, it costs more to have them done in a clinic than on a van, but it's not enough of a difference to make testing infeasible. OSHA will write a citation if it was possible to do the audiograms safely, yet they were not done.

As usual, when there is an exemption from some standard, we need to read the full document. It's a good idea to revisit any annual requirements which we put on hold back at the start of this pandemic. It could be time to catch up and get them accomplished.

WISH Invites



Join the WISH Chapter of WISE for a
ZOOM ROUNDTABLE

to discuss

**LUNCHROOM BEST PRACTICES
(DURING THIS PANDEMIC)**

*Monday, November 16th, 2020
From 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm*

REGISTER

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArdqhqzsvGdxx2>



WISH/WISE

Presents...a REPLAY

A Panel Discussion On:

"Suggestions for Avoiding, Combating & Overcoming Gender Disparity in the Workplace"

11/12/20 - 2:30pm to 4pm

S P E A K E R S



Tiffany Slater



Amy Narishkin



Kathi Dobson



Samantha Wayant



Gold ChapterWISE Winner
2020



WISE

Women in Safety Excellence



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkd0yupzljGtQyE2NwaXn9PwGpJFwYk0Zx>

SAFETY AND HEALTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1001, Tolono, IL 61880

Web Site: www.safetyandhealthhistory.org
Phone: 217-485-3600 • Email: info@safetyandhealthhistory.org

SHHS
SAFETY AND HEALTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- Celebrating Our Past -

October 19, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE INCLUDE THE INFORMATION BELOW IN YOUR ORGANIZATION'S NEXT NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU!

October 2020 Issue Just Released: *The Archives of Safety and Health*, Volume 3, Number 4

The main publication of the Safety and Health Historical Society is a quarterly journal, *The Archives of Safety and Health*. The October 2020 issue (Volume 3, Number 4) contains articles for people engaged in and interested in safety and health history related to their practice. Key articles cover:

• 1918 EXPLOSION AT MORGAN, NEW JERSEY

In 1918 Morgan, NJ welcomed a newly constructed shell loading plant covering more than 3 square miles of land and employing 6000 workers. On the evening of October 4 one production facility exploded and led to a three-day nightmare. Today, the plant and event that impacted hundreds is essentially lost in history.

• WHAT IS BARBER'S ITCH?

For many decades a disease of the barbering business was "barber's itch." Known by a variety of names, this skin disorder was most often transmitted between customers via the barber's towel and tools. Self shaving and sanitation improvements that came about when states began licensing barbers nearly eliminated this disorder.

• HISTORY OF THE STEEL TOE SHOE

How did shoe manufacturers begin to offer protection of toes from falling objects and other forces? This article traces the history of steel toe shoes and boots.

• MEET RALPH NADER

One of the individuals who gave national attention to designing safety into automobiles was Ralph Nader. His book in 1965, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, caused the auto manufacturers to balance safety with styling and significantly improve protection of drivers and occupants. His efforts led to creation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 1966 that oversees vehicle safety standards.

• SPECIAL FEATURES

BOOK REVIEW: *A History of Occupational Health and Safety*, Michelle Follette Turk
1943 Department of Labor: Lifting Guide

Opioid Research Group

~ shared by Bary Stelzer

Hi all, I am research coordinator at Washington University and we seeking research participants who are:

- Currently or previously employed in construction

- Have been prescribed opioids
- Have a diagnosis of opioid use disorder (OUD) or are in recovery from OUD

The purpose of this research is to develop workplace guidelines for employers and organizations to help them develop policies and procedures to reduce opioid use and misuse among their employees and members.

Participation includes a one hour phone interview. The interview questions will address the individual's pathway to OUD, employment experiences while using opioids, and re-employment experiences including attempts, failures, and successes. The purpose of these interviews is to incorporate insights from employees' experiences into guidelines to improve employers' policies, programs, and practices. Interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Audio files will be destroyed after transcription and all identifiers will be removed from the text.

Participants will be paid \$40 for completing an interview. Payments will be made by either an electronic Amazon gift card or mailed check. The participant may need to provide their social security number in order to be paid. Your social security number is obtained for payment purposes only, it will not be retained for research purposes. Participants will also need to provide their name and address for a check to be mailed to them.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If an individual decides to participate in the study they may stop participating at any time. Any data that was collected as part of this study will remain as part of the study records and cannot be removed. If an individual decides not to take part in the study or if they stop participating at any time, they will not be penalized.

To learn more about the study, please contact Sam Biver at (314) 325-4386 or email sbiver@wustl.edu, Research Coordinator for Washington University School of Medicine.

NFPA Safety Bulletin

Electric Portable Space Heater Safety

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters

Oil or water-filled radiator

Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

Fan-forced heater

A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

Ceramic heater

Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

Infrared heaters

Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Fact

Two in five deaths in space heater fires involve portable electric space heaters.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfaa.org/education ©NFPA 2018

Newsletter Contributions

~Dan Bembow

We are always looking for additions to the newsletter. If you have something to share with the St. Louis safety community, please reach out and let me know at either updates@stl.assp.org or contact me directly at dan.bembower@usi.com. Thanks for reading!

St. Louis Chapter Executive Board Contacts

President - Steve Williams - swilliams@frenchgerleman.com
Vice President - Dennis Pivin - DPivin@aegion.com
Secretary - Nate Richardson - nate.richardson.safety@gmail.com
Treasurer - Mae Patrick - stlassptreas20@att.net
Past President - Rick Reams - ricky_reams@hotmail.com

Mid-Missouri Section Officers

President - Mark Woodward - mwoodwar@mem-ins.com
Vice President - Paul Krewson - paul@peakergo.com
Secretary/Treasurer - David Attebery - david.attebery@labor.mo.gov

Chapter Committee Chairs

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@qualsafesolutions.com
Maintains Face book & Twitter accounts promoting discussion with local membership

Please contact a board member or committee chair with comments or if you would like to participate in any of the chapter activities.

If you do not wish to receive these emails, please [click here](#)
to unsubscribe from ASSP St. Louis Chapter messages.