



# St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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## Upcoming Events

### **December 12th - 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: **Dec 14, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time**

Topic: **Annual OSHA Update with Bill McDonald**

Keep up with local and national happenings from  
Bill McDonald, OSHA Area Director

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqcOmsqz4vEtWh7MYdWjeTpCwUE7x6fgEP>

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



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

**St. Louis Chapter**

*Presents... (Virtually)*



# ANNUAL update

*with*

**Bill McDonald**  
**Area Director, OSHA**

**Monday, December 14th, 2020**  
**NOON till 1:00 PM**

**REGISTER**



<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/LJwqcOmsqz4vEtWh7MYdWjeTpCwUE7x6fgEP>

## Calendar of Events

Your chapter officers and committee members are working hard to provide meaningful meeting topics for you throughout the year. Check out what's scheduled so far! If you have ideas on what should be covered, or want to share something yourself, please reach out to the chapter board and committee members (contacts at the end of this newsletter).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic &amp; Presenter</u>
January TBD, 2021 Thursday 5 pm Bristol Seafood Grill	Membership Appreciation Night No luncheon meeting this month! 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 8th, 2021 Monday Lunch	Dr. Amy Narishkin
March ?, 2021 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.
April 12, 2021 Monday Lunch	Mark Woodward
May 10, 2021 Monday Lunch	Nicole Kreeger - Social Media
June ?, 2021 Monday Lunch	ASSP Scholarship Golf Tournament Fundraiser
July 12, 2021 Monday Lunch	J. Bradley Young, Harris Dowell Fisher & Young L.C. - Workers Compensation Update
August 9, 2021 Monday Lunch	Treasa Turnbeaugh
September 13, 2021 Monday Lunch	TBD
October 11, 2021 Monday Lunch	Total Worker Health
November 8, 2021	TBD
December 13, 2021 Monday Lunch	OSHA Update Speaker Bill McDonald (Area Director in St. Louis) or Maryanne Martin (Compliance Assistance Specialist) will provide his annual OSHA fiscal year update and quick review of new/old initiatives.

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## Metal Coil Safety

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

Metal coils are used in some manufacturing operations to feed metal stock into punch presses or other efficient stamping or cutting machines. These coils are usually three to six feet in diameter and vary in width from an inch to several feet wide. Regardless of the coil being steel, aluminum, stainless steel or exotic alloys, that much metal is very heavy and will cause grave injuries if it were to fall on someone.

And that's what has happened. Narrow coils left standing on edge have been known to topple over, causing serious injuries and fatalities. There have been accidents while moving coils, and while attempting to reband partial coils at the end of a short production run so they can be stored. With the new emphasis on "just in time" production and inventory limits, some companies no longer run their presses until the coils are used up, so this risk is now more common. Cutting the banding from a coil or banding failures can also result in tragedy if the coil "clocksprings" or "tailslaps" with someone in the danger zone. There have even been cases where a coil has toppled inside its supposedly "safe" storage bin and fallen on a person.

Unfortunately, coil accidents don't seem to have caught the attention of industry safety standard-setting organizations. ANSI B11.18, "Safety Requirements for Machines Processing or Slitting Coiled or Non-coiled Metal", recognizes there are hazards, but doesn't have much to say about them, except for some precautions on cutting banding and rebanding partial coils. OSHA has also not said anything specific about how to safely handle and store them. The storage of coils, and related moving into and out of storage, seem to be a major danger exposure for people working with coils, but doesn't seem to have gotten much attention.

As a result, when I get the chance to visit a new plant and hear that familiar heartbeat-like thumping of a press line, I want to know what they're doing to protect the people from the coils.

**The following are descriptions of actual fatal coil accidents, some of which I investigated myself, either when I was at OSHA or in my current position:**

"Employee was working at the unloading station of a device that transfers steel from a coiling machine to a machine that loads the coil over on its side for shipping. Employee was apparently cutting 2 bands which hold several narrow coils together. When the employee cut the bands, a coil fell from the loader and pinned him against the frame of the machine that laid the coils over."

"Employee was preparing to load a coil winder with a five-foot diameter, 4-inch-wide coil weighing approximately 3500 pounds and climbed into the storage enclosure with the coil to put a sling through its center. The employee somehow dislodged the coil and caused it to topple onto himself, killing him instantly."

"Employee was a crane operator and was double stacking or removing a coil of steel from the top of stacked coils. The lower end coil rolled forward causing other coils to fall. The employee came down from the crane cab to check the fallen coils and the other coils fell on the employee causing the fatality."

"Employee was operating an overhead crane moving large coils of steel in the staging area. He apparently lost control of a coil or dislodged a stacked coil and was struck by it. He had only been in the area for 3 days and was in training but working alone."

"Employee was using an overhead crane to lift a wide coil that had been stacked three high. As he lifted the coil, the movement apparently dislodged one or more neighboring coils, causing one 10,000-pound coil to slip forward off the row and pin the victim against a row of coils behind him."

Although I'm not aware of any specific standards for storage and handling of steel coils, based on some experiences I've had, my observation is the safer companies ensure coils are always treated with a great deal of respect and caution. Note the word "always". One of the coil fatalities I investigated involved a coil that was handled safely 99% of the time, no exaggeration. It was left on edge for a couple of minutes, unsecured, and with the worst sort of perfect timing, the coil tipped and killed a person. In another of my cases, a narrow coil left on edge for just a moment toppled onto a very nice, hardworking lady who was nearing retirement. This moment cost her both legs.

Coils seem to be safer when maintained in one of the following four states:

1. Stored vertically in a close-fitting rack
2. Mounted on a coil winder or otherwise secured on a machine
3. Laid down and stored horizontally
4. Supported by an overhead hoist or other appropriate material handling device, but never over people, and never allowing a person to be in a place where shifting coils could strike them

(There are also lots of companies where we see wide coils laid out on edge on floors, with wedges or other cribbing to prevent them from rolling. These are sometimes several layers of coils high. It's a legitimate, commonly used storage method, but the differences between a safe arrangement and a dangerous arrangement can be subtle. As a result, this storage arrangement doesn't make the cut for the "safer" storage methods.)

The narrower a coil is compared to the diameter, the less stable it will be if stood on edge. Some companies use precautions only for the coils they think of as "narrow" and just do whatever they want with the ones they think of as "wide". The question is to which coils are "narrow coils" which would require this extra-cautious handling is hard to answer. Wider coils are still potential dangers.

Wider coils are less likely to topple over if bumped or hit by a forklift, but not impossible to tip. Worse, wide coil storage arrangements can reflect this complacent attitude, using only simple wedges or cribbing blocks to secure the coils. There have been fatalities when wide, seemingly stable coils were stacked in such a way that attempting to remove a coil from the stack with a hoist dislodged other unsecured coils. Putting larger coils on top of smaller coils, being a little sloppy with the stacking arrangement, mishandling leading to popped banding, etc. can cause an unstable, unsafe condition. The hazards might be a little different for wide coils than for narrow coils, but they are still hazards.

If in any doubt about the stability of coil storage, secure them all.

Again, I do not know of any standards which tell us the full story on to safely handle coils, regardless of the multiple serious accidents and fatalities related to coil handling. I'd be interested to know if there are standards out there that I've overlooked in my searches for better coil safety. Err on the side of safety and consider all coils to be inherently unstable, maintaining sensible, reliable safety precautions at all times to prevent toppling unless there is valid reason not to.

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## WISH/WISE Updates

The Women in Safety and Health (WISH) group held a roundtable on best practices for jobsite lunchroom hygiene and safety. Many ideas were shared and the attendees were looking forward to implementing what they had learned at their work places.

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## Jim Andrews

Last month, our Chapter lost one of our longest serving members, Past President Jim Andrews, CSP. Jim passed away on November 11, just one day after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a loyal participant in our Chapter for over fifty years.



Jim was a devoted advocate for protection of workers throughout his life. Over his long career, Jim worked his way up from railroad engineer to electrical lineman to safety professional. Jim remained a member of IBEW Local 309 for 65 years. He was a Safety Consultant for Ralston Purina Company and Employer's Insurance of Wausau, Wisconsin. Jim's career culminated as Vice-President and Safety Director for Fred Weber Inc. in Maryland Heights, Missouri. Jim continued to push for safer workplaces as a consultant after retirement. Fred Weber's annual "Jim Andrews Safety Leadership Award" was established in his honor.

Even in his eighties and well into his retirement Jim attended many of our Chapter meetings. Jim was known for engaging stories and for adding his questions and insights to our guest speakers' presentations. Our Chapter will miss our uniquely dedicated friend, Jim Andrews.

You can watch his funeral service at Faith Freeburg Baptist service ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5msNaocfko8&feature=emb\\_err\\_woyt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5msNaocfko8&feature=emb_err_woyt)) or read more about Jim here: <https://kurrusfh.com/obituaries/james-r-andrews/>

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## 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](mailto:sbiver@wustl.edu), Research Coordinator for Washington University School of Medicine.

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## An Excerpt from Chris Archer's Newsletter

For more from Chris, visit his website at <https://www.askarcher.com/>

As I have highlighted before, the Missouri workers' compensation community is awaiting the interpretation of section 287.220 for primary injuries that have occurred after the effective date of the changes made to the statute in January 2014 addressing the Second Injury Fund's liability for permanent totals.

There are pending two cases at the court of appeals in the Eastern District that will weigh on how broad the SIF liability will be for these serious cases, although Parker is the name of a case already at the Missouri Supreme Court. Employers have a vested interest in broad SIF liability due to the simple fact that the court will likely find the Employer liable for lifetime indemnity payments if the SIF is not found liable. Here is language in the statute:

Section 287.220

(a) a. An employee has a medically documented preexisting disability equaling a minimum of fifty weeks

of permanent partial disability compensation according to the medical standards that are used in determining such compensation which is:

- i. A direct result of active military duty in any branch of the United States armed forces; or
  - ii. A direct result of a compensable injury as defined in section 287.020; or
  - iii. Not a compensable injury, but such preexisting disability directly and significantly aggravates or accelerates the subsequent work-related injury and shall not include unrelated preexisting injuries or conditions that do not aggravate or accelerate the subsequent work-related injury; or
  - iv. A preexisting permanent partial disability of an extremity, loss of eyesight in one eye, or loss of hearing in one ear, when there is a subsequent compensable work-related injury as set forth in subparagraph b of the opposite extremity, loss of eyesight in the other eye, or loss of hearing in the other ear; and
- b. Such employee thereafter sustains a subsequent compensable work-related injury that, when combined with the preexisting disability, as set forth in items i, ii, iii, or iv of subparagraph a of this paragraph, results in a permanent total disability as defined under this chapter.

The current Industrial Commission has narrowly interpreted the language in the statute in a number of cases finding no SIF liability; although each of them have dealt with cases tried solely against the SIF with the Employer having settled their file.

Their interpretation is that only the qualifying pre-existing disability can be considered with its resulting synergistic effect on the primary disability. If other disabilities are considered, the claim for permanent total disability against the SIF must be denied. Their interpretation suggests iii above should be read to be also in b. above. The cases have also ignored the disjunctive "or" that separates the qualifying pre-existing disabilities.

If the current Commission's interpretation holds, there will be many claimants who will not qualify for permanent total disability from the Second Injury Fund.

That permanent total liability will shift to the Employer I am afraid in those cases.

We will see if the Missouri Supreme court agrees; likely early next year.

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## Newsletter Contributions

~Dan Bembower

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](mailto:updates@stl.assp.org) or contact me directly at [dan.bembower@usi.com](mailto:dan.bembower@usi.com). Thanks for reading!

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## 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.

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