

## St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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## **Important Links**

- Chapter Website
- Chapter Documents
- Current Job Postings
- Like Us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter
- Connect on LinkedIn

## **Monthly Meeting**

Monday, August 8th, 2022



**Topic: Suicide Prevention**Speaker: Brandon Anderson

Where: Syberg's, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights, MO 63043 When: Registration @11, Lunch @11:30, Presentation @12 Register for In-Person Meeting: August Meeting Registration

## **Next Meeting**

Monday, Sept 12th, 2022

**Topic: National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training Speaker: Kevin Deitsch, Warning Coordination Meterologist** 

Where: Syberg's, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights, MO 63043 When: Registration @11, Lunch @11:30, Presentation @12

**Register for In-Person Meeting:** 

## **Upcoming Meeting Calendar**

**Mark your Calendars Now!** 



#### **Mid-Missouri Section**

The Mid Missouri section provides networking and taining opportunities for the professionals working in and around Jefferson City and Columbia. Take a look at some of

## their upcoming meetings!

Mid-MO Section September Meeting

Mid-MO Section October Meeting

If you are interested in participating in these meetings or joining the Mid-MO mailing list, please reach out to <a href="Paul Krewson">Paul Krewson</a>

**Membership Appreciation Riverboat Cruise** 

Saturday, September 17th, 2022



https://stl.assp.org/events/riverboat-cruise/

#### **WISH Event**

Women in Safety and Health (WISH) had a great time celebrating our recent Platinum recognition by the National ASSP WISE group. We couldn't be more proud over our networking, friendships, mentoring, education and philanthropy. We look forward to a great next year!



To stay connected and be the first to hear about he next WISH event, contact Patte: <a href="mailto:ackermap@ssm-select.com">ackermap@ssm-select.com</a>

## **Tool Drive for Missouri Women in Trades**

The Women in Safety and Health (WISH) group and many of our employers held a tool drive for the coolest group of women and allies; Missouri Women in Trades (MOWIT). So many of our friends and colleagues donated. MOWIT was as blown away by the donation as we were by their awesomeness. Picturess don't really show all that was collected. We are appreciative of all who participated. We thank you all.







Have a donation but didn't pass it along yet?
You're not too late! Contact Patte: ackermap@ssm-select.com

## It Is Mold Season Again

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

Mold is one of those mysterious hazards that gets people spooked. It's lately a workplace concern and a source of stress for our HR and safety people. Given how humid and hot this summer has been, we might see mold appearing wherever we have the conditions for mold growth.

Where do the spores that produce mold come from? Everywhere. There's plenty of mold in the outdoors, and when we come in and out, open our loading docks, etc. naturally the mold comes inside. Problems arise in an enclosed space when there are conditions that favor the growth of mold: mainly moisture and warm temperatures. In a ventilated building we hardly ever see mold unless there are some serious roof leaks or water sources in the building that keep it damp. For example, when the drip tube for an HVAC

system is clogged, water can stand in drip pans and become a little mold farm. This mold will grow and release spores into the air. Then, indoor mold can greatly exceed normal outdoor levels.

There are no EPA or OSHA standards for mold levels. This is because human beings don't all react the same to mold. Although this isn't true for everybody, it usually takes a pretty obvious mold infestation to make people sick. Often the symptoms that people think are due to mold are due to other allergens, or simply the usual cold and flu bugs that go around, or Covid. This is particularly true when the air is dry during winter.

At OSHA we didn't order mold sampling until we had found evidence that there could be mold, and we may not have done sampling at all, had we not needed scientifically credible evidence of mold. We would look for peripheral evidence of mold such as moldy odors; visible mold sources such as spots of mold on walls or ceilings, or mold in attics, crawl spaces or HVAC ducts; mold-prone history of the building such as roof leaks, pipe leaks, or flooding; and the environmental conditions that commonly lead to mold growth such as dampness, poor humidity control, pipe leaks, or clogged HVAC drain tubes. Without water leaks or unusual moisture, then it would be surprising to find mold.

OSHA has some good informational material on mold at https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/molds/, and the EPA has an easy-to-understand booklet, http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-08/documents/moldremediation.pdf which is an informative read.

Knowing there are sometimes non-mold factors to blame for symptoms wrongly blamed on mold, we also looked for other environmental irritants and contaminants.

I recently did a couple of visual mold investigations in some schools and along with the damp walls, stained ceiling tiles, buckets to catch leaks and dark sooty residue on the air vents, I found some mold by looking above ceiling tiles and in closets. The problem traced back to roof leaks. The building will need a lot of work, because there are entire ceilings and walls which must be torn out. No air testing was necessary, although it's not a bad idea after cleaning to do some wipe samples to make sure the remediation crew got it all.

Mold is found all over the natural environment, so how do we know when there's **too much** mold? The mold count inside a closed building with a good HVAC system is usually about half of what it is outside. In a warehouse or factory where there is plenty of air exchange due to open dock doors, we may find mold levels are the same inside as they are outside. The rule of thumb is indoor mold levels should be in a range from 50% to 100% of what they are outside the building depending on how open to the outside air the building may be, and never higher. That's why the usual method for air testing for mold is to measure inside the building and outside.

Before we try to do costly air measurements or surface sampling, we look for mold, or if we can't find any, we look for the reasons we would have mold, mainly signs of moisture in the building. If there are leaks and mold, there will usually be at least the smell of mold, which is the same as the smell of the cellar of an old house. We can measure the moisture levels in drywall and other building materials with various moisture reading instruments.

The EPA says "In most cases, if visible mold growth is present, sampling is unnecessary." Even if it's not on the visible side of the wall, mold can grow inside. The spores can make their way into the breathing air even from inside a wall.

Safety note: while investigating mold and moisture problems, do not touch mold or moldy items with bare hands. Do not get mold or mold spores in your eyes. Don't breathe in mold or mold spores. Consult EPA and OSHA for the right PPE and containment guidelines for your situation.

Mold testing must be done both inside and outside the building, or it doesn't tell you anything useful. Asking a company to briefly explain their test protocol is advised because if they don't know this basic rule about testing indoors and outdoors, they probably aren't very good at mold testing and don't deserve the \$500 to \$2000 they probably charge.

Mold remediation is generally done by professionals unless it's a very small area. Buildings with sensitive populations, such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes, should always be remediated by highly qualified people following a remediation plan with a qualified remediation manager overseeing the work.

The remediation manager's highest priority must be to protect the health and safety of the building occupants and remediation workers.

If you suspect mold or receive a mold complaint, start with a safely performed assessment of the building to determine if the conditions for mold growth are there. That's the starting point, not air testing. Save your money, at least until you have some basis to say there probably is mold inside the building - if there is mold, you're going to need that money for remediation.

~Bill

## **EHS Conference Opportunity**

Missouri Association of Manufacturers



## September 13-14, 2022

The **Missouri EHS Conference** brings together those working in environmental, health and safety roles to connect and learn about new compliance regulations, leading technology, work comp challenges, the healthcare landscape and the culture of safety.

This 2-day conference will feature experts in the EHS field, covering a variety of topics and sharing best practices to ensure employees and facilities are safe.

## White River Conference Center

600 W. Sunshine Street Springfield, MO



## Pricing

Member\* \$350 Non-Member \$400

\*Member pricing requires Member Portal login. Contact MAM Office for assistance at (417) 863-7262

## Register Today!

Space is limited!

https://www.mamstrong.org/ehs-conf

## St. Louis Safety Council Events

# Evolving To Truly Human Leadership

# With Bob Chapman

#3 of The World's Top 10 CEOs by INC. Magazine

## Location:

Saint Louis University
Busch Student Center

Time: Sept 14, 2022 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM CDT

#### Schedule:

Registration: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Presentation: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Reception: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM



# **Bob Chapman**

Bob Chapman, CEO of Barry-Wehmiller Companies, a global supplier of manufacturing technology and services based out of Saint Louis, will share how 'Truly Human Leadership' evolved and how it transformed Barry Wehmiller into the thriving global organization it is today. You'll hear simple yet groundbreaking ideas to improve your business, your team, your safety, your personal relationships, and more.

Prices are for \$65 per ticket.

Reservations are limited so book now!

For more details go to www.stlsafety.org

We look forward to see you there!

Hosted By:





# 19 TH ANNUAL GREATER ST LOUIS SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

BUSCH STUDENT CENTER
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
ST. LOUIS, MO

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF BEST PRACTICES, TRENDS, & UPDATES, WITH WONDERFUL LOCAL EXHIBITORS AND FRIENDS

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW WWW.STLSAFETY.ORG/CONFERENCE







Save the date for the 19th Annual Safety and Health Conference Thursday, October 13th at SLU

## **St. Louis Chapter Executive Board Contacts**

**President -** Dennis Pivin - DPivin@aegion.com

**Vice President** - Nate Richardson - nate.richardson.safety@gmail.com

**Secretary -** Krista Hyde - kristahyde@kristahyde.com

**Treasurer -** Mae Patrick - stlassptreas20@att.net

Past President - Steve Williams - swilliams@frenchgerleman.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

**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

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

Publishes and distributes the chapter newsletter to all chapter members

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

## **Golf Scholarship**

Jesse Taborsky – jesse.taborsky@crbusa.com

Nick Zahner – nzahner@murphynet.com

Organizes and runs the annual golf tournament supporting local safety focused students

**Programs** – Patte Ackermann, PT – ackermap@ssm-select.com

Plans the program time and needs for presentations & coordinates schedule

Social Media - Open

Maintains Face book & Twitter accounts promoting discussion with local membership

## Women In Safety Excellence (WISE) Coordinators

JaNola Rigsby – jrigsby@qualsafesolutions.com

Patte Ackermann, PT – ackermap@ssm-select.com

Organizes the WISH events to promote the community of women in Safety & Health

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 <u>click here</u> to unsubscribe from ASSP St. Louis Chapter messages.

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