



St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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Important Links

- [Chapter Website](#)
- [Chapter Documents](#)
- [Current Job Postings](#)
- [Like Us on Facebook](#)
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Be sure to check out this month's [job openings](#)!

[AB Tour - August 10](#)

Tickets are sold out. Don't forget to join next week if you've signed up!

PLEASE JOIN ASSP & WISH

ANHEUSER BUSCH BREWERY TOUR!

August 10, 2023

3:00-5:00 PM

Happy Hour to Follow

Meet at the AB Tour Center

\$20 to include Happy Hour Food & Drink

Contact Patte Ackermann with questions at

ackermapa@ssm-select.com

Head to [AB-Tour](#) to RSVP and Register



<https://stl.assp.org/events/ab-tour/>

Next Chapter Meeting - Monday September 11

Topic: Navigating Conversations Around Substance Use

Speaker: Stacie Zellin, Community Education Coordinator

[PreventEd](#) works to reduce or prevent the harms of alcohol and other drug use through education, intervention and advocacy.

Where: Syberg's, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

When: Registration @11, Lunch @11:30, Presentation @12

Register for Meeting:

<https://stl.assp.org/events/september-lunch-meeting-navigating-conversations-around-substance-use/>

Last Meeting Pictures

On July 10, 2023 ASSP was delighted to have Chris Archer, Attorney at Law – Archer & Lassa, LLC, speak on "Is it compensable?".



Attendees learned about compensability in a fun interactive Jeopardy-like format. We appreciated Chris's teaching and our contestants, AJ Gajdosik of Acuity Insurance and Chris Hamilton from Murphy Companies were the contestants representing the room.



Thanks to all of you for the fun session!

Scholarship Golf Tournament - Pictures

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Golf Tournament Fundraiser!

Find your group photo here (or just look for your friends): <https://stl.assp.org/photos/>



Missouri May Lose Drug Use Penalty for Marijuana

~ Shared from Brad Young, Harris Dowell Fisher & Young L.C.

Missouri Workers Compensation Update (Read Time: Less Than 3 minutes)

Under the Missouri Workers Compensation Act, Employers can test for marijuana and reduce workers compensation benefits in situations where the employee tests positive for marijuana. That provision is found in Section 287.120.6, and it states:

6. (1) Where the employee fails to obey any rule or policy adopted by the employer relating to a drug-free workplace or the use of alcohol or nonprescribed controlled drugs in the workplace, the compensation and death benefit provided for herein shall be reduced fifty percent if the injury was sustained in conjunction with the use of alcohol or nonprescribed controlled drugs.

However, the statutory language listed above does not specifically reference marijuana, only alcohol or “nonprescribed controlled drugs”. As you know, in November of 2022, Missouri legalized marijuana. As such, under state law, marijuana is not a “nonprescribed controlled drug”.

Currently, Marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA; 21 U.S.C. §801 et seq.). As such, marijuana is still “illegal” under federal law and Missouri Employers can continue to test for marijuana use and reduce workers compensation benefits in situations where employees test positive for marijuana after a work-related injury.

CONCERNS

According to reporting from Kyle Jaegar of Marijuana Moment, the federal government aims to finish its review of marijuana’s current legal status by the end of 2023, based on remarks from the head of the U.S. Department of Health of Human Services (HHS), Secretary Xavier Becerra. Becerra stated at a press

briefing in Sacramento recently that he aims to provide President Joe Biden with a cannabis scheduling decision this year. More about this can be found here: <https://www.mcglinchey.com/insights/federal-legalization-of-marijuana-may-be-closer-than-you-think/>

Per the above, as well as many other sources, both Republicans and Democrats in Washington are moving to decriminalize marijuana on the federal level. If (*ONCE*) this happens, Employers would lose the right to reduce workers compensation benefits in situations where employees use marijuana in conjunction with a work-related accident.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I have been working through both Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM), and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, to amend the Missouri Workers Compensation Act to ensure that even if marijuana is legalized on the federal level, Missouri Employers will still be able to test for marijuana use after a work-related injury and that Missouri Employers would still be able to reduce workers compensation benefits in the event that an employee suffers a work-related injury in conjunction with his use of marijuana.

Attached please find the proposed legislation that I have submitted to various state senators and state representatives through both Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM), and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. However, to date, none of the state senators or state representatives contacted have agreed to submit these amendments to modify the Missouri Workers Compensation Act.

I recommend that all employers, carriers, brokers, or any other organizations that work with Employers to manage workers compensation costs and benefits contact their state senators and state representatives to emphasize the importance of taking action now - - BEFORE marijuana legalized marijuana on a national level, thereby preventing Missouri Employers from reducing workers compensation benefits in situations where employees use marijuana in conjunction with a work-related accident.

- Brad

Calendar of Events

Take a look at what's coming up! Mark your calendar now.



ASSP ST. LOUIS CHAPTER EVENTS 2023



Sybergs on Dorsett (unless otherwise stated)
Networking: 11:00-11:30 - Lunch: 11:30-12:00
Announcements & Speaker: 12:00-1:00



Sharida Mitchell - Territory Account Manager
Mallory Safety & Supply

Monthly Meeting - April 10th, 2023 11:00 am to 1 pm
Building a Safety Culture - Getting the "Buy-In"



Dr. Hobbs, (L) St. Louis Orthopedic and Sports Medicine
Dr. Minges (R) Orthopedic Spine Surgery - Joint Presentation
Monthly Meeting - May 8th, 11:00 am to 1 pm
"Neck/Shoulder Syndrome in the Workplace"



Annual Golf Tournament - June 9th, 2023 - 7 am to 3 pm
St. Peters Golf Club, 200 Salt Lick Rd, Saint Peters, Missouri 63376



Chris Archer, Attorney at Law - Archer & Lassa, LLC.
Monthly Meeting - July 10th, 2023 - 11:00 am to 1 pm
"Is this compensable?" Test your knowledge and judgement on real fact patterns decided recently by the courts.



AB Tour!!! - No Meeting! - August 10th, 2023 - 3 PM to 5 PM
Happy Hour w/Food & Beer - 5 PM to 7 PM
Must Register - \$20.00/person (non-refundable)



Stacie Zellin, Community Education Coordinator
Prevent+Ed
Monthly Meeting - September 11th, 2023 - 11:00 am to 1 pm
"Navigating Conversations around Substance Use"



In honor of Fire Prevention Month the City of St. Louis Fire Department will be here
Monthly Meeting - October 9th, 2023 - 11:00 am to 1 pm
"Fire prevention at work and at home"



Mike Toledo, Electrical Services Specialist
Guarantee Electric
Monthly Meeting - November 13th, 2023 - 11:00 am to 1 pm
"Electrical Safety is not just for Electricians"



Maryanne Heuer Martin, CSP. Compliance Assistance Specialist (L)
Bill McDonald, Area Director, OSHA - St. Louis Area Office (R)
Monthly Meeting - December 11th, 2023 - 11:00 am to 1 pm
Annual OSHA Update



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



Always find the latest events at <https://stl.assp.org/>

The Mid Missouri section provides networking and training opportunities for the professionals working in and around Jefferson City and Columbia.

Mid-Mo is taking a break over the summer and will begin meetings again in September:

- 09/20/23 is on **Cave and Mining Safety** with David Attebery at D. Rowes
- 10/18/2023 is on **Fall Prevention** at Columbia Safety and Supply.

If you are interested in participating in these meetings or joining the Mid-MO mailing list, please reach out to [Paul Krewson](mailto:Paul.Krewson@midmo.org) or opt-in here: <https://mailchi.mp/b33f8ed3f931/assp-midmo>

Driving Safely Around Pedestrians

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

We often hear about the perils of auto accidents, but rarely does anyone mention the number of pedestrians hit by motor vehicles. This article is dedicated to my dear father, the legendary “Pops”, who was an excellent driving instructor. Pops put a lot of emphasis on teaching his kids to anticipate what was coming up next. Watching for any sign of pedestrians was at the top of his list. To this day, I slow down when passing cars parked along the street because a kid might run out without looking both ways as they’re taught.

Having a rebellious soul, Pops never buckled his mandatory seat belt or, when on his motorcycle, never strapped his mandatory helmet. He had 65 fractures to show for his recklessness, more than twice my personal score. However, to Pops’ credit, in all his years and all his crashes, he never hit another vehicle or pedestrian. Whatever risks Pops may have taken on, he took on for himself alone. He watched out for the other guy diligently while driving 40,000 to 60,000 miles a year. Too bad for the cars he totaled, of course, but that’s why he had insurance. Pedestrians were at the top of his list of concerns.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines a pedestrian as “any person on foot, walking, running, jogging, hiking, sitting or lying down who is involved in a motor vehicle collision.” Crashes on private property, including parking lots and driveways, are excluded.

The NHTSA says in 2021, a pedestrian was killed every 71 minutes in the USA. We racked up 7,388 pedestrian deaths – a 13% increase from 2020’s 6,516 pedestrian fatalities, which was a 3.9% percent increase over 2019. It is getting increasingly dangerous to be a pedestrian.

Alcohol was a factor in about half the pedestrian deaths. Not surprisingly, about 80% of these deaths happened in urban areas as opposed to rural roads, and a higher percentage involved only one vehicle. About a fourth of the drivers chose to flee the scene of the accident rather than stop to aid the person they hit or to face the consequences.

Pedestrians who died in single-vehicle crashes involving passenger vehicles (passenger cars, light trucks, vans and the like) were more likely to be struck by the fronts of these vehicles. Pedestrians who died in single-vehicle crashes involving large trucks and buses had the highest percentage of right side impacts and rear impacts. This statistic makes sense due to the large blind spots on the right sides and rears of large trucks and buses.

When I was at OSHA, we investigated a fatality where a dump truck backed over an individual in the middle of an empty road, surrounded by flat, open fields. You could see for miles in any direction out there, unless you were in the cab of a heavy dump truck with blind spots all around it. The driver said he couldn’t see the pedestrian behind his truck and didn’t think anyone would walk behind a truck which was obviously in reverse with a loud backup alarm beeping. We concluded the pedestrian thought the driver must have seen him and would never back over someone walking across the road. It was a fatal misunderstanding. As usual with workplace fatalities, nobody had imagined it could even happen, until it did.

Interestingly, although half of motor vehicle accidents happen at intersections, only about 15% of pedestrian fatalities are at intersections. Also, only 10% of pedestrian fatalities occur at locations such as parking lots and roadsides/shoulders. You may be as surprised as me that 75% of pedestrian fatalities occur in roadways away from intersections. Walking across retail store parking lots may feel like playing the classic video game, “Frogger” but apparently there are worse places than the Target parking lot for a frog to hop across the pavement.

long with its generous helping of doom and gloom, the NHTSA provides some advice for drivers. It's public domain so anyone may legally copy and paste it, a blessing for the lazy.

8 Safety Tips for Drivers

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, always.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

The NHTSA also has a list of tips for pedestrians. That's a nice touch. Inevitably with an article like this someone will ask me why I didn't tell pedestrians they have some responsibility, too, and preventing collisions with pedestrians is partially on them, not just the drivers.

Walking Safety Tips

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation - get up, get out and get moving.

This last pedestrian-safety bullet point is perhaps a waste of time. Why bother telling people to “embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation” immediately after convincing them walking is a great way to get run down by a car?

Pops would have been proud to see us all following these tips, because they mirror his good fatherly advice: Drive with caution around areas where pedestrians may be, whether you see them or not, and anticipate what might happen on the road ahead. Some of his other advice, such as showing me how to spin doughnuts inside our garage on a motorcycle, or how to wash grease of my hands with gasoline – with a lit cigarette in his mouth – was not so good. Don't do that, ever.

~Bill

Gateway Regional EHS Conference & Expo

Sign up today for the Gateway Regional Safety Conference. Pricing goes up from \$175 to \$185 after July 4th. Find the the conference agenda, exhibitor details, and registration instructions

here: <https://sites.google.com/slu.edu/ehsce/home>



ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 @ SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

GATEWAY REGIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

"Building relationships and driving safety in the workplace"

REGISTER TODAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2023 @ BUSCH STUDENT CENTER (SLU)

"Conference will include workshops and sessions across a range of EHS-related topics with an emphasis on practical application, targeted improvement, small businesses, and networking."

PRESENTED BY:



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- Listed on web page
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- (3) attendees included for conference



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NETWORKING SOCIAL HOUR POST-CONFERENCE	→	\$7,500	LANYARDS → \$1,000

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LOGO LISTED IN PROGRAM AND APP	YES - Logo	YES - Logo	YES - Logo	YES - Name
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES INCLUDED	4	3	2	0

Greater St. Louis Safety and Health Conference - Oct 11th

Save the date for the 20th annual GSL Safety and Health Conference in its new home at The Crossing at Chesterfield. Exhibitor registration and sponsorship opportunity details can be found at <https://www.stlsafety.org/conference2023>

The 20th Annual Greater St. Louis Safety and Health Conference

October 11, 2023

The Crossing At Chesterfield

114 Eatherton Rd. | Chesterfield, MO 63005

Keynote Speaker:

Shawn Spiwak

The Power of Communication

In 2008, as an employee of Kansas City Power and Light, Shawn and his crew responded to a power outage in a neighborhood just north of Worlds of Fun in Kansas City. During the restoration, Shawn came in full contact with an electric line that was still energized. The electricity traveled a path from his right elbow to his right knee, down the pole. The fifth-degree burns left his bones with irreparable damage.

Shawn made an amazing recovery with a willpower that was stronger than the 7,200 volts of electricity that traveled through his body that day. He eventually returned to Kansas City Power and Light (now Evergy) where he is now a trainer and now travels to share with companies, first responders, and schools, the power of electricity.

Through his experience, Shawn will share the importance of communication in any role and situation. And how one misstep in communication could save (or cost) a life.

Please Join Our Sponsors



<https://www.stlsafety.org/conference2023>

St. Louis Chapter Executive Board Contacts

President - Dennis Pivin - summersetdennis@gmail.com
Vice President - Nate Richardson - nate.richardson.safety@gmail.com
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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 – summersetdennis@gmail.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 – Emily Felton – emilyfelton101@gmail.com

Maintains online social 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 [click here](#)
to unsubscribe from ASSP St. Louis Chapter messages.

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