



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Great Plains Chapter

Fall Newsletter 2019

### President's Letter:

Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to our new Chapter Year. We have had our Chapter meeting in September, and we co-sponsored our October meeting/PDC with AIHA sections.

Before I go into more about our upcoming chapter plans for the year, I need to inform you that Brenda Finter reluctantly had to step down as President in September. I want to thank her for all her work on the Board for the past few years. With Brenda having to step down, as per Bylaws I have taken over the President position. This means we have a vacancy in the position of Vice President that we need to fill. As it is early in the Chapter Year, we are required to have a special election for the Vice President position. If anyone is interested in running for the position, please contact a board member as soon as possible. It is important that we have a full board in order to support the Chapter.

The Board encourages all members to be active in the Chapter and the Society, whether it is serving on a board, being active by attending Chapter meetings or being engaged on our Yahoo group or helping in other ways. Encourage other safety and health professionals to join the Chapter. Use chapter meetings to network. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Chapter with members willing to provide help, guidance and support to others.

Part of our responsibility as a Chapter is outreach. We will have a booth at the Nebraska Safety Council Conference and Trade Show October 16<sup>th</sup> in York, NE. We will also have a booth at the Safety and Health Summit and Expo November 6<sup>th</sup> in Omaha NE. I encourage you to stop by the booth if you are at either event. We are always looking for volunteers to help work the booth.

The Board has put together a great program schedule. Please join us:

- November 15- Henry Doorly Zoo
- December 13 – Holiday Party
- January 2020- UNO Biomechanics Lab tour

Sincerely,

Jim Nelson, CSP, President, Great Plains Chapter, ASSP



### Chapter Communications:

- Chapter Website <https://greatplains.assp.org/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ASSPGreatPlainsChapter/?nr>
- **Yahoo groups:** to join go to: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/assegp/info>  
Click on the “+ Join Group” Button.
- New! Newsletter Chair is Ray Batchelder. Please provide articles and announcements for our Chapter newsletter; email to: [ray.batchelder@bd.com](mailto:ray.batchelder@bd.com)

### Quick EHS Bullets:

- 9/7/2020 is the deadline to have a documented **Dust Hazard Analysis** for existing process/facility with combustible dust per NFPA 652 The Fundamentals of Combustible Dust.
- OSHA Respiratory protection standard is updated with additional fit test options; call you quantitative fit test instrument provider to see if they have updated software needed to use the new methods. See [federalregister 2019-20686](https://www.federalregister.gov/2019/07/02/2019-13086)
- OSHA no longer considers Feral cats vermin. See [federalregister 2019-07902](https://www.federalregister.gov/2019/07/02/2019-13086)

### Scholarship Fund Update:

Scholarship facts:

- The scholarship for 2020 will be \$1,500.
- Application deadline is **December 1, 2019** at 11:59pm CST
- The ASSP Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee determines the winners
- Apply at: <https://foundation.assp.org/faq.php>. Only one application is needed for all eligible ASSP scholarships!
- You can help in a few ways:
  - Please consider donating to the ASSP Foundation, earmark a donation for the “Great Plains Chapter Scholarship Fund”
  - Participate in our raffle
  - Attend the Awards and Honors banquet

Beth Fye, CSP, SPHR, Great Plains Chapter Foundation and Scholarship Chair



## Technical Article:

ISO14001 is an international standard which will help you implement a “Plan Do Check Act” Environmental Management System (EMS). This article is a practical outline of what was done recently to implement the standard. Yahoo Groups may be a good place for more discussion.

### Context of the Organization

- What do you do
- Where located, neighbors
- Who is interested in your ops
- What are the internal and external issues that could affect your EMS

### Leadership

- Establish environmental policy
- Determine leadership responsibilities
- Determine how to integrate EMS

### Planning

- Score “aspects-impacts and risks”
- Determine significant environment aspects
- Determine objectives
- Risk score life cycle considerations
- Management of change process
- Determine compliance obligations

### Support

- Establish environmental communication methods
- Control contractors with environmental policy/agreement
- Provide expectations to suppliers
- Maintain controlled documents for EMS process
- Provide EMS training to management and employees

### Operation

- Set operation controls such as permits, operational limits etc.
- Implement environmental emergency procedures

### Performance Evaluation

- Self-Check/Inspection
- Management review- review
- Internal audit

### Improvements

- Track progress on objectives
- Non-conformities must be solved with root cause analysis and effectiveness checks



### Government Affairs Update:

Update from 2019 Nebraska session (sorry no Iowa update currently):

- Lawmakers approved a bill (LB418) meant to assist individuals facing collection of certain Workers compensation medical debts.
  - LB418 prohibits collection of a debt incurred for treatment of a work-related injury while the matter is pending in the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court.
  - The state attorney general is authorized to investigate collection agencies that do not comply with the bill's provisions.
  - The measure includes provisions of LB360, originally sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen. These allow the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court to appoint a power of attorney for a claim, settlement or disbursement of money for nonresident alien dependents if the court believes the dependents are better served by someone other than the consular officer of their resident country, or if no consular officer exists.
- LB19, introduced by Albion Sen. Tom Briese, would withhold from the public record first reports of injury to the Workers' Compensation Court with certain exceptions. The bill remains in committee.

Doris A. Burns MPH, CSP, EurOSHM, Great Plains Chapter Gov't Affairs Chair

### PDC Report:

Over 55 Safety and IH professionals from a variety of industries were in attendance of the [Health Effects of Welding](#) PDC presented on October 11, 2019. This was a joint meeting of Iowa-Illinois, Nebraska-Western Iowa AIHA Sections and the Great Plains Chapter of ASSP. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified welding fumes and UV radiation from welding as Group 1 carcinogens, see <http://publications.iarc.fr/569> . Safety and IH professionals will need to start addressing this topic now and not wait as the driving force may come from entities other than the regulatory bodies.



## PDC Report (continued)



Some of the PDC takeaways:

1. Weld fume is complicated. The type of metal used, type of welding and other variables impacts the amount and makeup of the fume
2. There are questions on how to regulate, individual metals or total fume. Currently OSHA focuses on the individual metals such as Nickel or Hexavalent Chromium. Total weld fume is considered a “nuisance dust”.
3. ACGIH has added weld fume to the “Under Study” list
4. Research and testing have shown that iron may be a more significant hazard
5. Hexavalent chromium has been found in Aluminum weld fume and may reach levels approaching the OSHA AL or the PEL.
6. How samples are taken is extremely important for accurate exposure monitoring and testing; Weld fume IH sampling can be improved by placing sampling train on bandanna rather than on welding mask.