



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
Great Plains Chapter

2022—1st Quarter Newsletter

Dear Great Plains Chapter Members,

I hope this letter finds you well as we are hopefully moving towards a better place with regards to the pandemic. I know the pandemic has continued to impact all of us in Health and Safety, including the surge in the first 2 months of this year. Thank you for all you have done to help keep your employees and/or the public safe.

The chapter year is quickly coming to a close. This means you hopefully voted in the Regional/National elections for ASSP and that you participate in the upcoming voting for Chapter Officers for the next Society year. In addition there continues to be opportunities to volunteer to help in other ways, whether it is volunteering to host a chapter meeting/tour, helping with meeting ideas/planning, contributing an article to the Chapter Newsletter or volunteering in some other way.

Speaking of Chapter Meetings, we will be trying to transition to having at least some meetings in person. Currently the Chapter does not have the ability to effectively host hybrid meetings so they will continue to be either web based or in-person. Upcoming meetings include Heat Illness on March 25th, via Zoom and plan to include information on the status of OSHA's proposed standard. The working group met on February 25th. If OSHA moves forward with the plan for a National or Regional Emphasis Program on Heat, we will cover that as well. We are also still planning for our Awards Banquet for later this Spring and working a joint meeting with the Iowa chapters on May 13th that will include in person and web options.

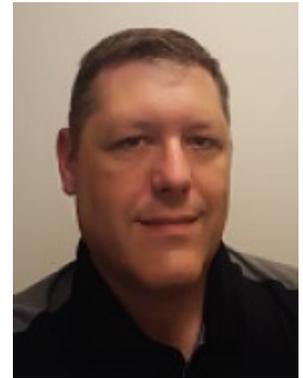
Also, as a reminder we have the Chapter Website <https://greatplains.assp.org/>, where we list upcoming meetings as well as job openings. If you have an EHS job opening that you want posted, please let us know.

Yours in Safety,

Jim Nelson

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ASSP Great Plains Chapter President



Slips, Trips & Falls



As the melt begins and outdoor construction really gets going the snow and ice create an additional hazard on almost every jobsite. The risk of slipping, tripping and falling on the same level increases with mud and its accumulation on walking surfaces or when melting ice refreezes overnight. Slips, trips, and falls cause nearly 700 fatalities per year and many more injuries in the workplace according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2018 27% of the 900,380 nonfatal work injuries resulting in days away from work were due to slips, trips, and falls.

By understanding what can cause slips, trips and falls we can develop ways to prevent and eventually eliminate these unnecessary injuries. Prevention takes a bit of time but that is way less time consuming than a trip to the ER.

Slips are a loss of balance cause by too little friction between your feet and the surface you walk or work on, which include ladders, scissor lifts, scaffolds and even stairs to name a few. Slips can be caused by wet surfaces, spills, or weather hazards like ice or snow. Slips are more likely to occur when you hurry or run, wear the wrong kind of shoes, or don't pay attention to where you're walking. By keeping surfaces as clean as reasonable, the risk of a slip is greatly reduced.

Trips on the other hand are a result of your foot hitting an object and you are moving with enough momentum to be thrown off balance. The dirtier a jobsite, the higher the chance of someone tripping and getting hurt. Not being able to see the walking surface is a major factor in trips. Make sure you can see the surface you are walking on. Don't carry loads that you cannot see over. Keeping scrap picked up and in proper trash containers will greatly reduce tripping hazards.

Falls are the leading killer of construction workers for the past several years.

Most construction workers think about falls from an upper level which account for the majority of fall deaths. Then again, falls on the same level led to many preventable injuries on the jobsite. According to the National Safety Council, 146 workers died and 153,140 were injured due to falls in 2019. Falls occurring on the same level is the second leading preventable workplace injury event resulting in cases with days away from work. Prevention is the key.

Do not let complacency creep in when dealing with hazards that can cause slipping, tripping and falls on the same level hazards. Do not underestimate how far simple measures such as good housekeeping practices can go in preventing injuries. Good housekeeping and keeping cords out of the way can prevent individuals walking through the area from tripping on them. Evaluate your work area today for the hazards and environmental conditions mentioned in this Safety Thoughts.



Donald Davids, CSP

Test Your Skills

Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER)

- 1.) Factors affecting Response to chemical exposure include:
 - (a) Toxicity
 - (b) Route of Exposure
 - (c) Chemical Dose
 - (d) All of the above
- 2.) Chemicals in combination can produce different biological responses than the responses seen when exposure is to one chemical alone?
 - True
 - False
- 3.) Ceiling refers to which of the following?
 - (a) The level where exposures should not exceed a period of 20 minutes
 - (b) The level where personal a protective equipment plan must be implemented
 - (c) A time weighted average concentration for a normal 8-hour day/40-hour work week where nearly all workers can be repeatedly exposed without adverse effect
 - (d) The level that can never be exceeded during any part of the work exposure without protective actions
- 4.) What method of toxic chemical entry is the least commonly found at the workplace?
 - (a) Injection
 - (b) Dermal Contact
 - (c) Inhalation
 - (d) Ingestion
- 5.) _____ refers to the specific amount of a particular material resulting in a death in a sample group of lab animals?
 - (a) Constant number of deaths
 - (b) Share of deaths
 - (c) Lethal dose
 - (d) Majority of deaths

Check your answers on the bottom of [Page 8](#).

Heat injury and illness prevention

OSHA currently has no standard to address heat stress. On September 1, 2021 OSHA implemented a national enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards and is developing a National Emphasis Program for heat-related inspections. OSHA is requesting stakeholder input as it moves toward creating a rule to protect workers from extreme heat exposure in indoor and outdoor settings.

As of March, 2022 OSHA is reviewing comments on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) published in the October 27 *Federal Register*. During the February 25 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health's work group on heat injury and illness prevention. Doug Parker said OSHA is planning a spring release of a National Emphasis Program on heat inspections.



OSHA's plans for the 2022 heat season include:

- ◆ Producing a heat awareness video
- ◆ Improving the heat campaign website
- ◆ Co-programming with the Safe + Sound campaign
- ◆ Developing targeted materials for employer responsibility and acclimatization
- ◆ Evaluating dated resources and materials to prioritize for updates
- ◆ Creating a heat e-newsletter
- ◆ Facebook Live programming

SOURCES:

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/21900-osh-a-begins-work-on-rule-to-protect-workers-from-dangerous-heat>

https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/22342-heat-injury-and-illness-prevention-oshas-parker-gives-update-during-work-group-meeting?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mbrnewsalertmar11&utm_content

Society Updates

In case you have not seen the following important Items coming out of the ASSP

1. The House of Delegates, in a nearly unanimous vote, approved the proposal to sell the Headquarters Building in Park Ridge, Illinois. ASSP had received an unsolicited offer to purchase the building that made financial sense given the changes brought about by Covid and will allow ASSP to find a new space that will better fit the needs of the Society going forward. The Board of Directors had already agreed the sale was in the best interest of the Society, but needed the House of Delegates approval. Eric Schermerhorn, the Great Plains Chapter Delegate voted for the Sale, based on Chapter Member feedback last fall and Chapter Board review.
2. The House of Delegates is going away. In a second vote that was significantly closer than the sale vote, the House of Delegates voted to accept the Governance Changes proposed by the ASSP Board of Directors. The Governance Changes were developed by a Society Working Group and approved by the Board of Directors. There were some changes from the original proposal based upon feedback from Chapter and Members. Thank you to those who provided feedback whether by the survey last fall or directly to the GPC Chapter Board. All feedback from the Chapter was forwarded to the Region V VP and to the ASSP Board of Directors. With the Change in Governance Structure, the House of Delegates will be dissolved. It will be replaced with an Advisory Group. More information on this Advisory Group will be made available in the coming months. The Chapter Delegate will become a member of this new Advisory Group. Based on all the feedback by Chapter Members and review by the Great Plains Chapter Board, Eric Schermerhorn, the Great Plains Chapter Delegate voted against the final version of the Governance Changes.

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting Schedule and Topic Planner 2022

Month	Date	Time	Topic	Facilitator / Speaker
April 2022			Getting ready for elections & award	
May 2022			Elections, Professional Development	
June 2022			Awards Banquet	
July 2022			Combustible Dust	
August 2022				

Test Your Skills—Answers:

- 1.) (d) All the above,
- 2.) True;
- 3.) (d) The level that can never be exceeded during any part of the work exposure without protective actions;
- 4.) (a) Injection;
- 5.) (c) Lethal dose



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