



Quad Cities Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers

Next Meeting:

Organization Adjustments Due to COVID-19

Presenter: Panelist Discussion w/NE Iowa

ASSP Chapter

When: April 17th @ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Where: From your computer via ZOOM

Update Contact Information

Contact Diana Gilbert @ dlg1127@aol.com to up-date your e-mail address to receive the newsletter by e-mail, and emails from ASSE if you are not currently doing so.

We are always looking for input into the newsletter to better serve our members. Please send newsletter contributions to Diana Gilbert.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



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OSHA Temporary Changes to Respirator Guidance during COVID-19

Washington — OSHA is extending its temporary leniency on annual respirator fit testing to all covered employers, not only those in the health care industry. An April 8 press release the agency is directing its field offices to exercise “enforcement discretion” on fit-testing regulations amid the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). This guidance will remain in effect until further notice.

Employers must still make “good-faith efforts” to comply with OSHA’s respiratory protection regulations, among other steps, including communicating to workers whether annual fit testing is suspended temporarily. The agency also is asking organizations to look at their engineering controls, work practices and administrative controls for any changes that could decrease the need for N95s or other filtering facepiece respirators. Among the suggestions are increasing the use of wet methods, use of portable local exhaust systems, moving work outdoors or suspending non-essential operations.

In response to concerns about a shortage of fit-testing kits and test solutions, OSHA advises employers to reserve fit-testing equipment for workers using respirators for “high-hazard procedures.” [Field offices](#) are asked to perform additional enforcement discretion if an employer switches a worker’s respirator to an equivalent-fitting make/model/style/size N95 or other filtering facepiece respirator without performing an initial fit test.

“In the absence of fit-testing capabilities, if a user’s respirator model is out of stock, employers should consult the manufacturer to see if it recommends a different model that fits similarly to the model used previously by employees,” the release states.

OSHA issued [two memos](#) April 3 to try to help with the N95 shortage. One allowed for the reuse of N95 respirators and the use of expired N95s in certain cases. The other allowed for the use of filtering facepiece respirators and air-purifying elastomeric respirators certified by other countries or jurisdictions.

OSHA advised employers to consider using respirators certified under the following countries’ national standards:

- Australia: AS/NZS 1716:2012
- Brazil: ABNT/NBR 13694:1996; ABNT/NBR 13697:1996; and ABNT/NBR 13698:2011
- People’s Republic of China: GB 2626-2006; and GB 2626-2019
- European Union: EN 140-1999; EN 143-2000; and EN 149-2001
- Japan: JMHLW-2000
- Republic of Korea: KMOEL-2014-46; and KMOEL-2017-64
- Mexico: NOM-116-2009

Healthcare Facility Considerations

The agency suggested healthcare employers reserve some NIOSH- or foreign-certified filtering facepieces or better respirators for use by healthcare workers expected to perform surgical or aerosol-generating procedures on patients infected with, or potentially infected with, SARS-CoV-2.

When such procedures must be performed, OSHA cautioned that:

- Respirators certified exclusively in accordance with standards of the People’s Republic of China and manufactured by companies that are not NIOSH approval holders must not be used unless the only feasible alternative is a face mask or an improvised nose/mouth cover; *and*
- Employers should prioritize the use of N95 respirators by activity type—when healthcare workers perform or are present for aerosol-generating procedures or procedures during which respiratory secretions are likely to be poorly controlled, they should use respirators (including N95; other filtering respirators; nondisposable, elastomeric respirators; and powered, air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)) that are still within their manufacturer’s recommended shelf life, if available, before using respirators that are beyond their manufacturer’s recommended shelf life.

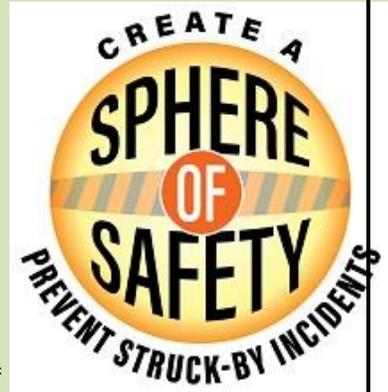
The First National Stand- Down to Prevent Struck –by Incidents in Construction Has Gone Viral

Join Us for a Virtual National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents in Construction - April 20, 2020 Struck-by incidents are a leading cause of death among construction workers,^[1] and since 1992 the leading cause of nonfatal injuries in the construction industry.^[2] According to OSHA, the four most common struck- by hazards are being struck-by a flying, falling, swinging, or rolling object. The NORA Construction Sector Council is undertaking a number of initiatives to increase awareness of struck-by hazards and ways to prevent them, including developing this online resource and launching a National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents. **JOIN US! On April 20th for the first National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents during [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#).**

Following CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), this first National Stand- Down event will be held virtually (online). We invite you to register to join this virtual Stand-Down to ask questions and hear from experts on how to work safely in work zones and prevent struck-by incidents all year long. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar and share your questions.

We encourage you to use creative ways to hold Stand-Down events within your own company that will not put you or your employees at risk of exposure to COVID-19. [Click here](#) to download ideas for holding Stand-Down activities. Click here for [CPWR's guidance document](#) on COVID-19 for the construction industry and related resources.

[Click here to share what you did and receive a certificate of participation.](#) The following are materials developed by the NORA Construction Sector Council to use in support of Stand-Down events, along with other resources such as planning and training programs and research from trusted sources that can be used all year long to help reduce the risks and prevent struck-by incidents.



COVID-19 What Must You Report?

One area of potential concern for employers is OSHA's injury & illness reporting standards. Keep in mind while the "common cold & flu" are exempt from these recording requirements & do not have to be recorded on an employer's OSHA 300 log, circumstances have changed how OSHA views COVID-19. OSHA has exempted certain other illnesses from its cold & flu reporting exemption including "tuberculosis, brucellosis, hepatitis A, or plague," which must be recorded as work-related if the employee is infected at work, note attorneys with the law firm of Ice Miller LLP. OSHA has taken the position COVID-19 should be treated, for recording purposes, like these other illnesses & not like the common cold or flu. OSHA states its position on recordkeeping in a section of its [website](#) called, "OSHA Injury & Illness Recordkeeping & Reporting Requirements." The inevitable question arises: How do you handle a case if it is not obvious whether the precipitating event or exposure occurred in the work environment or away from work? In many work settings this may be difficult, if not impossible, to determine. When the question arises, the Ice Miller attorneys say an employer must evaluate the employee's work duties & environment to decide whether or not one or more events or exposures in the work environment either caused or contributed to the resulting condition or significantly aggravated a pre-existing condition.

According to an OSHA standard interpretation letter from 2016 on an unrelated topic, the employer's duty in such situations is as follows: "The employer has the ultimate responsibility for making good-faith recordkeeping determinations regarding an injury &/or illness. Employers must decide if & how a particular case should be recorded & their decision must not be an arbitrary one." The Ice Miller attorneys observe, "For now, that is probably the clearest guidance we will have on the subject."

How do you make the determination for employees who were traveling when they became ill with the Coronavirus? OSHA's standards say injuries & illnesses that occur while an employee is on travel status are work-related if, at the time of the injury or illness, the employee was engaged in work activities "in the interest of the employer." Examples of such activities include travel to & from customer contacts, conducting job tasks, & entertaining or being entertained to transact, discuss or promote business (work-related entertainment includes only entertainment activities being engaged in at the direction of the employer). However, recording exceptions occur for travelers whose illness or injury occurs when the employee has "checked into a hotel or motel for one or more days," which effectively becomes their residence, or when the employee has taken a side trip for personal reasons. "Again, it will be difficult to determine whether such an exception would apply," the attorneys admit.

A question that has gained greater currency since businesses have been shut down & people are ordered to shelter in place, is recording injuries & illnesses that occur while an employee is working at home, including work in a home office. OSHA holds an injury or illness will be considered work-related if it occurs while the employee is performing work for pay or compensation in the home, & the injury or illness is directly related to the performance of work rather than to the general home environment or setting, the Ice Miller attorneys point out.

Circumstances vary, for example, if an employee drops a box of work documents & injures his or her foot, the case is considered work-related. If an employee's fingernail is punctured by a needle from a sewing machine used to perform garment work at home, becomes infected & requires medical treatment, the injury is considered work-related. However, if the employee is injured because he or she trips on the family dog while rushing to answer a work phone call, the case is not considered work-related. If an employee working at home is electrocuted because of faulty home wiring, the injury is not considered work-related. "Unless the illness resulted from some exposure by a work-related vector, such as contaminated work documents or materials, as opposed to exposure to an ill family member, it would not be recordable," the attorneys explain. "Again, in all of these circumstances, determining when & where the employee contracted the illness may be difficult, but it is a determination the employer must consider when an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19."

HELP WANTED

To view the job listing please place cursor on the job title and then control + click.

[SR HSE Engineer, Rockford IL](#)

[Safety Intern, Rockford IL](#)

[EHS Manager, Rockford IL](#)

[Quality Safety Coordinator, Rockford IL](#)

[Safety & Training Manager, DeKalb IL](#)

[Safety Engineer, Cordova IL](#)

[EHS Professional, Peoria IL](#)

[SHE Co-Op, Morton IL](#)

[EHS Technician – part time, Hopedale IL](#)

[Sr EHS Manager, Amana IA](#)

[HSE Technician, Williamsburg IA](#)

[Safety Manager, Dubuque IA](#)

[Facilities Project/EHS Coordinator, Dubuque IA](#)

[Safety & Compliance Director, Dubuque IA](#)

[Safety Manager, Burlington IA](#)

[Quality Food Safety Manager, Keokuk IA](#)

[HSE Director, West Branch IA](#)

[Safety Coordinator, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[Safety Manager, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[Safety & Risk Manager, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[Safety Specialist, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[In Plant Safety Manager, West Liberty IA](#)

[Safety II Manager, Davenport IA](#)

[HSE Specialist, Davenport IA](#)

[HSE Intern, Davenport IA](#)

[Director of Safety, Packwood IA](#)

[EHS Coordinator, Maquoketa IA](#)

[EHS Technician, Manchester IA](#)

[Health & Safety Manager Summer Intern, Eastern IA & Western IL](#)

[Health & Safety Manager, Eastern IA & Western IL](#)

See more job listings like these on the members' only page located at <http://members.asse.org> or <http://qc.asse.org/jobs/>

Recorded Education Sessions Free for Limited Time

For a limited time, ASSP is providing free online access to 330 recorded education sessions on many issues connected to workplace safety and health. Industry professionals can engage in on-demand learning from wherever they are located to gain knowledge from the experts who presented at Safety 2019 in New Orleans.

<https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2020/03/31/recorded-education-sessions-free-for-limited-time>

Webinar: Legal Issues during COVID-19

Expert Adele Abrams, Esq., CMSP, reviews how OSHA and MSHA are addressing worker safety issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also shares insight on legal issues that employers may encounter as the situation evolves, and explains OSHA's guidance on respirator fit-testing and recordkeeping. <https://www.assp.org/resources/covid-19/webinars/covid-19-legal-issues-for-safety-professionals>

Working Together for Safety: Cloth Face Coverings

In the first episode of our "Working Together for Safety" weekly video series, ASSP President Diana Stegall highlights CDC's latest guidance on cloth face coverings. <https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2020/04/08/working-together-for-safety-cloth-face-coverings>

10 Free Resources to Help You Better Manage Stress

Stress can overwhelm anyone at any time, but there are ways to manage it. Here are 10 free resources that could help you stay calm and refocus your energy. <https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2020/04/06/10-free-resources-to-help-you-better-manage-stress>

ASSP Foundation Celebrates 30 Years of Education, Leadership and Research

As it celebrates its 30th Anniversary, the ASSP Foundation continues its mission of providing scholarships, career guidance and professional development to help build a stronger workforce.

<https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2020/03/02/assp-foundation-celebrates-30-years-of-education-leadership-and-research>

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 activities.**

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