



Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

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Useful & Helpful Links

<http://www.assp.org>

Link to the National ASSP webpage for information on great topics in EH&S. Go look things up.

<http://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org>

Link to the Hudson River Valley Chapter web page. Information on the Local items and events as well as good information. Try it, you'll like it!

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Link to the Center for Disease Control. Great current information on health items to help protect us all through illness controlling and prevention. Lots of good items!

Hotlinks in articles are in **Red Red font.**

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National Safety Stand-Down 2019 Coming Soon.

If you have not heard, the 2019 OSHA National Safety Stand-Down is coming on May 6 through May 10, 2019. Now is the time to plan this event in your company, if you have not already made your plans to participate. Yes, I am aware that this was covered in the January 2019 issue of this newsletter, but the reason behind this reminder and the event itself is so important that it cannot be stated enough. This will be the sixth annual **National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction**. I am stressing this event and the goal of reducing the risk of and actual falls in construction. The worst day of my professional life as a Safety manager was the Saturday afternoon I had to meet with the family of an installation technician in the waiting room of a hospital emergency room and ask inane questions on a company check list while the 28 year old father of a 2 year old girl, was in another room dying from massive head trauma suffered in a fall from a five story roof top. I will spare you the rest of those details and leave you with the wish that I hope you never have to do that and then turn and walk away as everyone else sits there crying and screaming. The technician I spoke with only two days before sadly became a construction industry statistic that fateful day. Could this have been prevented? Perhaps it could have, perhaps not. It was not an equipment failure upon examination of the harness he had on.

Could a few hours of repetitive training made all the difference in this and thousands of other cases in construction? Isn't it worth a try? Plan your tool box talks, or a full blown safety presentation on Fall Prevention or how to inspect the equipment before each use. It can save hundreds of hours spent in doubt and that horrible feeling of "if I only"! This is not a joke, if your employees or co-workers face a danger of a fall from heights while performing their job, I urge you to take part in this planned event and try to make that difference between a worker coming home to be with their family, and a terrible empty memory of them not being there. The link that I provided in this article will give you pointers, topics, and resources to present a meaningful presentation. I recall that terrible day all the time, I will never forget it. With tears in my eyes I ask you to use those resources so you do not have to remember a terrible day.

New Smoke Detector Law Effective April 1, 2019.

Did you know that on April 1, 2019 in New York State all smoke detectors sold or installed must comply with the new law that goes into effect? On that date all smoke detecting devices with a removable or replaceable battery will be banned from sale or installation. This new law states that as of April 1st, any new or replacement smoke detectors within New York State have to be powered by a non-removable battery that lasts for at least 10 years, or it MUST be hardwired to the home's electrical system. These new smoke detectors will have a sealed lithium battery that people cannot take out of the unit. Upgraded detector units will cost more than the units you may now have in your home, but because you will not be replacing batteries, it will hopefully make them less expensive to maintain in the long run.

This legislation was originally passed with a January 1, 2017 effective date but it was amended to be in force on April 1, 2019. Note that this new law does not require smoke detectors that are already in use to be in compliance. It just covers units that are being newly installed or as replacement devices for ones that have reached their expected life cycle.

The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs said all smoke detectors that are more than 10 years old should be replaced, even if you think they are working properly. Also it is recommended that testing of the units be done on a regular basis, along with cleaning them to remove any dust, cobwebs, pet fur or other airborne substances that may have made their way into the detector unit. Cleaning can be as simple as blowing air at the smoke alarm for a few minutes using a hair dryer to get rid of any debris.

If you are concerned about the cost of these units, or have financial distress and cannot obtain them by the deadline if you need to, the American Red Cross is giving away some of the new units for free as part of a program called "Sound the Alarm". According to a Red Cross spokeswoman, May 11, 2019 Yonkers, NY in Westchester County will have what is being called a Mega-Install day for these new units.

To have a smoke detector installed as part of this program, people can call 845-673-1198 to schedule an appointment. Or you can visit www.soundthealarm.org/mnyn for more information and to request a smoke detector and installation by filling out the online form. Good idea to have a Carbon Monoxide detector also! Help "Sound the Alarm", the American Red Cross is seeking 30,000 volunteers across the country to install 100,000 free smoke alarms during a two-week push of Sound the Alarm home fire safety events in 100 at-risk communities. Register at SoundTheAlarm.org to volunteer for smoke alarm installation events from April 27 to May 12, and help raise lifesaving donations.

2019 National Society Elections are Coming, Slate Announced.

The ASSP National Elections are coming in March. The slate of candidates is being finalized at this time. The National Elections will be held beginning March 1, through March 31 2019. The ballots for this election will be sent electronically to members eligible to vote in this election cycle. Please update your email address under the "My Account" section of the New ASSP Web site. Just F.Y.I. – you may experience some difficulty in logging in, some browsers are having a problem signing in. In this area of the web site, you will find your personal information and you can edit your email address on file right on this page.

The succession of candidates from Senior Vice President to President-Elect and President-Elect to President is automatic. Therefore, Diana Stegall and Deborah Roy will not appear on your actual ballot.

Board Positions, Council Positions, Region Positions, Practice Specialty Positions, Common Interest Group Positions and Area Positions are included in this election cycle. Exercise your rights and privileges as a member of ASSP and vote for the candidates of your choice. For more specific information on the ASSP Elections, candidates and the positions to be filled in this election use this link:

<https://www.assp.org/membership/elections>.

Estimated Compensation Costs In The Private Sector For 2017.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employers in the United States paid an estimated staggering cost of \$1 BILLION PER WEEK for direct workers compensation costs in the private sector for 2017. This cost was for the 2.3 million recordable non-fatal injuries and illnesses. To insure the safety of your fellow workers and avoid costly injuries, it is imperative that you not only know how to identify health and safety hazards, but that you take the necessary steps to eliminate them immediately. Every workplace and/or industry will have different hazards to be mindful of; every business will benefit from tips provided in a free info graphic that you can fill out the request form, and then get the download at this link:

https://interactive.blr.com/2019-Eliminating-Safety-Hazards_ASSP.

Hudson River Valley Chapter PDC 2019 Is In Planning Stages Now.

That's right! Hudson River Valley Chapter PDC 2019, the biggest and best PDC in the Hudson Valley is being planned as you read this. The dates already designated are October 24 & 25, 2019. The location will be Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

We will be offering a seminar to present to the PDC attendees who sign up the OSHA 10 Hour Construction Safety Course along with other training track sessions, lectures, and demonstrations, and including Vendor Networking as in our past PDC offerings. Please mark your calendars now, and watch for updates as we get closer to the dates.

If you would like to assist with setting up the spaces, or logistic planning or suggesting Vendors, please contact us via email using my e-mail address as listed on the first page of this newsletter and I will pass it on to the PDC Committee. This is a great way to get involved in the Chapter, meet other chapter members or Chapter Executive Board members. Think about it, and volunteer if you would like become involved.

Chapter Executive Board Has Implemented New Procedures.

Our chapter's Executive Board has made and implemented some planning changes to the meeting structure of this chapter. Those new procedures involve more technical meetings and attempting to move the meeting location to different areas of the chapter footprint. This is being done in order to attract more members to attend meetings if they are closer to the meeting locations. These meetings will be announced and posted on the Chapter Web Page, and here in this newsletter, as soon as arrangements are made in order to give you advance notice of the meeting locations as soon as we can. Please keep checking for announcements on our [web page](#). The March meeting announcement is below, and on the Web Page, as well as the announcement already sent to you for the meeting in the Yonkers, NY location.

Carbon Monoxide Exposure Prevention Urged for Workers by OSHA.

OSHA is reminding employers to take necessary precautions to protect workers from potentially fatal effects of carbon monoxide exposure. Every year, workers die from carbon monoxide poisoning, usually while using fuel-burning equipment, tools, compressors and pumps, gas-powered forklifts, and other devices in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation. To reduce the risk of exposure, employers should install an effective ventilation system, use carbon monoxide detectors, and take other precautions as described in OSHA's [Carbon Monoxide Fact Sheet](#). Other OSHA resources include [video's \(in English and Spanish\)](#), Quick Cards (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), and a fact sheet on [portable generator safety](#).

Call For Topics You Want To See Here.

In previous newsletters I asked if you the readers had a topic they felt would be useful and interesting to the general membership, to be summarized in a Newsletter item, or to be presented at one of our chapter meetings. If you do have a topic, please send it to me, Charles Von Dietsch, my email address is on the front page of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about the Chapter or with Technical or General Meeting topics you would like to see presented. I will bring them to the rest of the Chapter Executive Committee to discuss the possible use of your idea as a meeting topic presentation. I will also provide you with feedback concerning the decision to use your suggested topic or not. Just about any safety related item is welcomed, either an on-the-job topic, or one for family safety at home or on vacation, a near miss incident, local regulation, or federal regulation update will be welcome. There are a few guidelines that we follow which were outlined way back in June of 2016 when we published the first new chapter membership newsletter. Nothing political, inflammatory, or insulting to any other person – member of this chapter, or the Society – or non-member will be put in this newsletter. Items that describe a serious violation of safety standards are encouraged and will be allowed in the newsletter, or as a live topic. Specifics that might be identifiable to a person will be removed unless the suggested item is supplied to us with the required written permissions to use some personalized details for accuracy of the incident or experience. This is an easy way for you to become more involved in the chapter, so give it a try. Remember, this is YOUR Chapter and we need and look forward to your support, assistance, and participation.

Our Next Scheduled Chapter Meeting for March in a New Location.

The next Scheduled Chapter meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2019, and will be our chapter WISE Meeting.

The meeting topic is “Ergonomics, Biomechanics and OSHA in the work place, and what you need to know” and will be presented by Ms. Tammy Rossomando a recognized Biomechanical Consultant.

The location of the meeting is; 7000 Mall Walk, Yonkers, NY. You can use any GPS device, or mapping program app on your smartphone to get directions from your location to the meeting facility. You can ask the desk personnel which conference room we will be in. Ample parking is available at this facility.

Networking and refreshments will be served at 5:00 PM. The presentation of this meeting will start at 5:30 P.M., and end at approximately 7:00 P.M., depending on the amount of discussion items generated by the presentation. See you there!