



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 **Bold Red font.**

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US EPA Issues Consumer Paint Remover Ban.

On March 15, 2019 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), issued a final rule to prohibit the manufacture, importing, processing, and distribution of Methylene chloride in ALL paint removers for consumer use. These prohibitions become effective 180 days after the effective date of this rule is published. This is intended to allow retail sales outlets, and distribution centers with consumer sales to come into compliance with this rule, which by the way also covers e-commerce sales of these products.

EPA Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety Alexandra Dunn stated, "this rule answers calls from many affected families to effectively remove these products providing protection for the American public."

This rule does not affect commercial uses of the same product however. The EPA found that the risks to consumers are unreasonable. Acute exposures (short-time) to methylene chloride fumes can rapidly cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, and death due to nervous system depression. People have died after being incapacitated during paint and coating removal with methylene chloride. A variety of effective, less harmful substitutes are readily available for paint removal. Both EPA and CDC expect that retailers will implement this product ban sooner than the effective date of the rule.

Once published, the final rule and supporting documents will be available in the Federal Register docket at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/> search for EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0231. The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention is also calling this product "extremely Hazardous", and urging consumers not to use it at all.

California has tracked at least five deaths since 2014 among people overcome by the fumes of this product.

To learn more about Methylene Chloride, go to this link:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-methylene-chloride>.

ASSP Publishes Active Shooter Technical Report.

Did you know that our Society has Taken a new step to help curb the risk of workplace incidents involving active shooters and armed assailants by publishing the consensus-based technical report, “[How to Develop and Implement an Active Shooter/Armed Assailant Plan](#).” The report provides recommendations from safety experts on how a business in any industry can better protect itself in advance of such an incident.

“When you can’t go too long in a calendar year before you see one of these incidents occur, it is a time when there is a need for guidance like this,” says Brian Hammer, Chair of the ASSP TR-Z950.5 Committee that authored the report, during an [interview with Professional Safety Magazine](#).

The report covers topics such as performing site risk assessments, which can be crucial because it is the time to identify any vulnerabilities at the site. “We would encourage employers to strongly look at key control, badge control and camera control of their facility because they’re simply good safe practices securing the facility from vandalism and theft to make sure we can account for employees during emergencies,” said Brian Hammer.

Additional topics covered in the [report](#) include:

- training staff through exercises and drills;
- hardening the site environments such as lobbies, entryways, perimeters, surveillance systems and lockdowns;
- post incident planning;
- performing a security plan audit.

You can listen to Brian Hammer discuss how employers and workers can prepare for an active shooter situation in a new episode of the Standards and Tech Pubs [podcast](#), the first and second installments of a three part series about the technical report. There is also a 5 part video series available free for your use as a member of ASSP on this link: <https://www.assp.org/standards/standards-topics/active-shooter-technical-report/video-series>. You may have to log into the ASSP National site to view the videos.

Get Ready For Safe + Sound 2019.

Safe and Sound, OSHA’s year round campaign to encourage every workplace to have a Safety and Health Program includes both employers and workers. You will participate in quarterly events on building an effective safety and health program in your workplace. You will learn about best practices during webinars and put them into action during the 30-day challenges. These events also focus on management leadership, worker participation, and finding and fixing hazards. Share your successes during Safe + Sound Week, August 12-18, 2019. You can sign up on the [Safe + Sound website](#), and get more information on the [Safe + Sound Week](#) web page. This event is sponsored by: AIHA; ASSP; VPP; OSHA; National Safety Council; The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR).

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, (latest statistical year figures). 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. *Why is this published again you ask? Because the topic is important to reduce injuries and fatalities, as well as insurance costs.* 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, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604.

Discussions are being held to determine if we can present an OSHA 10 Hour Construction Safety Course, along with our other training track sessions, lectures, and demonstrations to PDC attendees as well as the Vendor Networking sessions as in our past PDC offerings. Please mark your calendars now, and watch for updates as we get closer to the dates. More information will be coming to you as we get closer to finalizing the PDC plans.

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 making it easier for you, the members, to get to and participate in the meetings. This is being done in order to attract more of our members to the 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](#) as we will try to keep that as up-to-date as we can, as well as here in the monthly newsletter. The March meeting was held as announced in the Yonkers location of the Hyatt Place, in the Cross County Center. The intent is to move the meetings to allow the membership more opportunity to attend meetings and be more active in our chapter. The April meeting is an Executive Board meeting to be held in the 4 West Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY location.

Did You Know?

Does your company work in or with silos in the grain industry of New York State, or do you know someone who does? Now you may be able to help save an employee, or employer, from a fatal incident or serious injury. OSHA now has resources available to keep workers in the [grain handling industry](#) safe from hazards including [engulfment](#), [combustible dust](#), and [falls](#). Click on the links provided here in bold red font and you can read or at least review these important safety resources. The links will take you to the OSHA fact sheet or the applicable reference synopsis on that topic. Grain handling facilities are facilities that may receive, handle, store, process, and ship bulk raw agricultural commodities such as (but not limited to) corn, wheat, oats, barley, sunflower seeds, and soybeans. Grain handling facilities include grain elevators, feed mills, flour mills, rice mills, dust pelletizing plants, dry corn mills, facilities with soybean flaking operations, and facilities with dry grinding operations of soycake. In 2010, 51 workers were engulfed by stored grain in bins, 26 of which died as a result. Grain dust explosions killed more than 180 workers, and injured more than 675 workers in over 500 grain handling explosions across the country. Falls can cause deaths by engulfment, as well as walking on or under moving grain, which can act like "quicksand", and can bury a worker in seconds. Workers also face amputation hazards due to moving equipment in the storage bins such as augers used to move the grain to the elevator surfaces during loading operations.

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.

Hudson River Valley Chapter Election Process Begins.

With this newsletter, the Chapter election process begins. If you are interested in becoming an officer of the chapter, please contact me as soon as possible so we can initiate the formal process. My contact email information is, and will continue, to be on the front page of this newsletter for your use. New candidates for positions on the board will go through a vetting process and be announced to the rest of the chapter in accordance with our chapter by laws, and the national Society process of elections. If no one announces their candidacy, the existing Board can assume the next higher office if interested, and the secession of officers will take place also as per the by-laws. Please express your interest to the existing Board quickly if you want to become more involved in the operations of the Chapter.

Our Next Scheduled Chapter Meeting for April is in West Harrison, NY.

The next Scheduled Chapter meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2019, and it will be our Chapter Executive Board Meeting.

The meeting discussion topics will be planning for the PDC, and the upcoming Chapter election process, along with various chapter business items that need to be addressed to keep the chapter functioning to serve you the membership. The rumor is that once again Hudson River Valley Chapter has been awarded Platinum status as a functioning chapter of ASSP. Platinum is the highest level of achievement of a chapter in the Society.

The location of the meeting is; 4 West Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY, on the 3rd Floor. You can use any GPS device, or mapping program app to get directions from your location to the meeting facility. You will be making a right hand turn onto West Red Oak Lane from Westchester Avenue. Proceed straight up the hill to the second building. Parking is in front of the building. Take the elevator in the lobby to the third floor, exit the elevator, and go left and straight ahead into the office suite of D & B Engineers and Architects. Please call 646 281 9367 if the front doors are locked upon your arrival. This meeting will start at 5:30 P.M., and end at approximately 7:30 P.M., depending on the amount of discussion generated by the presentation. Light meal and refreshments will be available. See you there!