ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes

Joint Technical Meeting with ASSP New York City Chapter

December 17, 2020

1 – This Joint Technical Meeting between the ASSP Hudson River Valley and the ASSP New York City Chapters was held virtually on the “Go To Meeting” platform with a start time of 12:00 PM on Thursday December 17, 2020.

2 – The topic of the meeting was “OSHA Update” as presented by Brian Crain, Compliance Assistance Specialist.

3 – Hudson River Valley Chapter members on the call were: Matthew McDonald; Samuel Ng; Tammy Rossomando; Diana Cortez; Ed Musal; Bill Hogan; and Charles Von Dietsch.

4 – The presentation was informative and covered some items that are not usually covered in an Update type presentation. For instance, Brian mentioned that the OSHA field Offices are beginning to experience complaint calls from the public who claim they went on the OSHA web page to get advice or services, and were misled or given bad information. Brian cautioned everyone on this call to be aware of the web site you log into as the site WWW.OSHA.COM is not the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health administration’s web page. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration web page is [**WWW.OSHA.GOV**](http://WWW.OSHA.GOV)!

5 – The web page [**www.OSHA.gov/coronavirus**](http://www.OSHA.gov/coronavirus) has all the current guidelines in place for many various workplaces and what precautions to take to protect the workers.

6 – The statement that PPE is your first choice for worker protection in workplaces is not what OSHA recommends. The proper sequence is that you eliminate the hazards first if you can, or engineering controls, and then the use of PPE, which is the last choice to protect workers.

7 – The use of a respirator requires that you train the wearers on ow to conduct a seal check of the respirator and the proper use and care of the equipment as per the re3spiratory protection standard.

8 – OSHA does not consider a cloth face covering to be a suitable respirator! A suitable respirator for use against the coronavirus is either the N95 respirator, or the KN95 respirator, for use in the workplace.

9 – If employees are voluntarily wearing a respirator when not required, then the employer must follow Appendix “D” of the Respiratory Protection Standard. Facial hair is not an issue for voluntary use of respiratory protection b an employee. Workers compensation issues may come into play in the future.

10 – The “Top Ten” issues cited remained pretty much the same as it has for the last few years.

11 – On the Job fatalities are once again the highest in Construction, the next highest industry is the transportation industry, followed by warehousing according to the latest statistics data available for the 2018 calendar year. Uptick of COVID related complaints in 2020 was 20,000 complaints filed.

12 – Whistle Blower complaints and concerns increased this year with 42 COVID fatalities, and 12 non COVID fatalities (7 reported in Construction; 5 reported in General Industries).

13 – Site Specific Targeting Program will be returning in 2021, as well as these other OSHA Campaigns: Safety Stand Down; Highway Safety Training; Heat Illness; Safe and Sound; Suicide Prevention; Young Worker Protection.

14 – A short break was taken during the presentation from 12:35 – 12:40 PM with a raffle for a Gift Basket. Mr. Mark Drozdov of New York City Chapter conducted the raffle for the gift basket which was won by Hudson River Valley Chapter member Mr. Ed Musal. Congratulations Ed!

15 – The Joint technical Meeting was adjourned at 1:24 P.M. on Thursday, December 17, 2020.