



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

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## In This Issue

- *Hudson River Valley Chapter 2021 PDC Reminder*
- *Caffeine Not A Kick Starter*
- *New NYC Construction Fence Law*
- *New York State HERO ACT*
- *Flood Cleanup Safety*
- *Non-conforming N95 Respirators*
- *Governmental Affairs Update*
- *Chapter Chatter*

## 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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## Hudson River Valley PDC 2021- Reminder!

The ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter's PDC is scheduled to be held on October 1, 2021 at The Rockland County Fire Training Center, located at 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY 10970.

The date has been negotiated with and agreed to by the venue for our Chapter PDC or a duration of one (1) Day with registration, or signing in, at 7:00 A.M., with an 8:00 A.M. start time for the opening remarks. Updates will be provided as the event programs are developed and confirmed and you will be kept informed of all developments for this event going forward by Newsletter articles, in meeting minutes, or in special email messages. If you would like to volunteer to help us set up this great event please let us know by contacting the Chapter Secretary or the PDC Committee Members as listed on our web page at:

**<https://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org/chapter-officers/>**

## Caffeine Not a Kick-Start as It's imagined?

The findings of a recent study from researchers at Michigan State University may give you a jolt if you rely on caffeine after a poor night of sleep for a brain boost. MSU's Sleep and Learning Lab asked 276 people to complete tasks one evening. One task involved just paying attention; the other required completing steps in a specific order. Participants were randomly assigned to stay up all night at the sleep lab or return home to sleep. The next morning, all participants met at the sleep lab and were either given a 200 milligram capsule of caffeine or a placebo. Each was asked to complete the tasks again. The Lead Researcher stated that although the caffeine assisted in the attention-based task, it had little effect on the place keeping task. Consuming caffeine after sleep deprivation "doesn't do much to prevent the sort of procedural errors" that can trigger medical mistakes and vehicle crashes. "Caffeine increases energy, reduces sleepiness and can even improve mood, but it absolutely does not replace a full night of sleep, although people may feel as if they can combat sleep deprivation with caffeine, their performance on higher-level tasks will likely still be impaired. This is one of the reasons that sleep deprivation can be so dangerous."

## New York City Stalled Construction Site Fence Law.

On June 28, 2021 the New York City Council enacted Local Law 74. This law mandates the replacement of those green wooden construction fences with chain link fences after two continuous years of stalled construction. Local Law 74 was conceived because wooden fences at stalled sites are often found in various conditions of disrepair and vandalism. The Law will go into effect on Friday, December 24, 2021. This is 180 days after enactment on June 28, 2021. It carries with it a fine of \$25,000.00 for non-compliance, plus the revocation of certain licenses and certificates, and /or an order to repair damage caused. These punishments will not occur without a hearing, and the charged individual will be given five calendar days prior written notice of a hearing.

Concerned citizens testified at the Council meeting that the chain link fences are easier to climb and thus allow people to get in easier than the wooden fences. Council members addressed this by stating that chain link fences with smaller holes can be obtained giving less of a foot hold making it harder to climb. It was also brought up that this law will make it easier to address squatting, illicit drug activity, rodents and vermin, graffiti, improve safety, and help reduce the occurrence of derelict zombie homes by increasing public visibility of the sites.

*It must be noted that this law will only affect construction sites where work has been stalled or discontinued for two continuous years after the effective date of this law which is December 24, 2021.*

## New York Health and Essential Rights Act (NYS HERO ACT).

Governor Andrew Cuomo on May 5, 2021 signed into law the New York State Health and Essential Rights Act (A.K.A. NY HERO ACT). The law mandates extensive new workplace health and safety protections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the NY HERO ACT is to protect employees against exposure and disease during a future airborne infectious disease outbreak.

Under this new law, the New York State Department of Labor, in consultation with NYS Department of Health, has developed a new Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard, a model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan, and various industry-specific model plans for the prevention of airborne infectious disease. Employers can choose to adopt the applicable policy template/plan provided by NYS DOL or establish an alternative plan that meets or exceeds the standard's minimum requirements.

The airborne infectious disease exposure prevention plans must go into effect when an airborne infectious disease is designated by the New York State Commissioner of Health as a highly contagious communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health.

The standard and model plans are available in English and will be available in Spanish in the coming days. Employers are required to provide a copy of the adopted airborne infectious disease exposure prevention plan and post the same in a visible and prominent location within each worksite. Templates and resources are available as shown below.

NYS DOL will be sharing more details about this law in the near future, so for updates, please check this website: <https://dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act>

View the Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard in English, [click here](#).

To view the Spanish Airborne Infectious Disease Standard, [click here](#).

To view Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan in English, [please click here](#).

The Spanish version will be available very soon.

**Please note that currently, while employers must adopt plans as required by the law, as of the date of this writing no designation has been made and plans are not required to be in effect.**

## Keep Workers Safe During Flood Cleanups.

Workers who respond to a flooding cleanup maybe exposed to serious hazards that could include electrical, fallen trees and debris, mold, and carbon monoxide. OSHA reminds employers that worker safety is a priority, and the agency has resources available to protect workers from hazards associated with flood response operations.

- **Generators** – Use gas and diesel-powered generators outdoors to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide – a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- **Electrical** - Keep a safe distance from downed or damaged power lines. Repairs must be performed by trained electrical utility workers.
- **Downed Trees** – Wear protective gloves, and foot, eye, hearing, head, and fall protection when suing chainsaws and chippers to clear downed trees.
- **Chemical/Biological Hazards** – Wash hands with soap and clean water, and wear protective clothing, goggles, gloves, and boots to avoid contamination.

For more information on common hazards after a flood, visit OSHA's Flood Preparedness and Response page. Employers can also take advantage of OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program, which offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small and medium sized businesses. Consultation services are separate from enforcement, and do not result in penalties or citations. You can contact your local OSHA area office for assistance.

## CDC and ALG Health Respirator User Notice.

On July 15, 2021, ALG Health (Axis LED Group, LLC) of Defiance, Ohio issued a notification concerning its PT-N95F-01S respirators, under NIOSH approval number TC-84A-9288. Respirators produced within the following lots used materials and processes that do not conform to the NIOSH approval issued for those respirators and should not be used where NIOSH approved respirators are required. Those production lots were made from the last week of February 2021 through March 2021 are:

PT-N95F-01S-204-2021  
PT-N95F-01S-301-2021  
PT-N95F-01S-302-2021  
PT-N95F-01S-303-2021  
PT-N95F-01S-304-2021

ALG Health has announced plans to issue a temporary Stop sale order on all NIOSH products until the NIOSH non-conformance investigation is completed. This Stop Sale order is planned to be effective on August 16, 2021. ALG will release more information on this as it becomes available from CDC/NIOSH.

Please check your site's PPE inventory for ALG Health respirators in the specified lot numbers. Please contact the Customer Service department for any remediation activities. ALG Health can be reached at; www.alg-health.com; info@alg-health.com; Voice line: 419-990-6275; or Fax: 877-793-4877.

ALG Health's Notification Letter can be viewed here. The planned Temporary Stop Sale notice can be viewed here.

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## Governmental Affairs Update. By Linda DiGasper, Government Affairs Liaison Officer.

For our readers, we are including any regulatory updates that may apply to you and your business.

OSHA published a notice requesting comments on mechanical presses at the end of July. Here is a link and some excerpts: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-07-28/pdf/2021-15995.pdf>

OSHA requests information and comment on issues related to the mechanical power presses standard. The standard was issued in 1971 based upon the 1971 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) industry consensus standard for mechanical power presses. This ANSI standard has been updated a number of times since 1971. OSHA is seeking information regarding whether it should update the mechanical power presses standard and, if so, how closely the standard should follow the current ANSI standard for mechanical power presses. It is also seeking information on the types of presses that should be covered, the use and certification of equipment, and other topics such as presence-sensing device initiation (PSDI) systems, and requirements for press modifications, training, and injury reporting. OSHA will use the information received in response to this RFI to determine what action, if any, it may take to reduce regulatory burdens while maintaining worker safety.

“...train personnel, as required by assigned functions, in the safe working procedures for lockout/tagout of hazardous energy sources in accordance with ANSI Z244.1. ANSI also requires a trained designated supervisor to continually supervise the press production system operation to ensure that the proper point-of-operation safeguarding is installed, activated, and operational for each job set-up and prior to release for production by the operator. The designated supervisor must also ensure that operators follow the correct operating procedures and use the press production system as intended within the rated capacities of the press and associated system components...”

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## Chapter Chatter.

Our last scheduled Hudson River Valley Chapter meeting was a virtual Executive Board Meeting on June 29, 2021 @ 12:00 PM. That concluded at 12:51 P.M. This meeting was to close out the Chapter Business for the Operating year ending on June 30, 2021. The slate of new chapter officer candidates was installed in their respective offices as noted previously in this newsletter. Copies of the meeting minutes were sent to you as well as posted on the [Chapter Files web page](#).

Our next scheduled Board Meeting is to be held on July 28, 2021 at Cosimo's Restaurant beginning at 5:30 P.M. The purpose of this meeting is for planning the upcoming PDC, and to thank our recent Chapter Past President Mr. Matthew McDonald for his dedication and services for the past several years. Copies of the meeting minutes will be sent as soon as they are available. The Chapter is planning to continue Joint Meetings with other ASSP Chapters and with other Safety Organizations in our area. These meetings may be a combination of in-person and some virtual meetings. All chapter meeting minutes, newsletters, and many presentations from our Technical Meetings are posted on our chapter webpage. You can view them using the link provided above for the files page.

The Coronavirus is still with us and impacting our lives. New strains show up and the effectiveness of the vaccines is being questioned, but facts at this time indicate that it will work against those new strains too.

### Thought Of The Day:

“A well developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.” – William A. Ward (American motivational writer.)

Stay safe, and stay healthy. Hopefully we can meet face to face soon. Should you have an item you would like to see published in this newsletter please submit it to me, or for any questions you may have about the chapter activities, my email address is: [cvondietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:cvondietsch@yahoo.com)