



# 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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## Hudson River Valley PDC 2021!

The ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter's PDC count down is on! We are racing to the October 1, 2021 date! All arrangements are being finalized, and The Rockland County Fire Training Center, located at 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY 10970 is working with us to be ready.

The educational track schedules are being finalized and the rooms for each are being assigned. The presenters have confirmed contents of their sessions and the amount of time needed. We have applied for CEU values for the sessions and awaiting the final results to be assigned to the training sessions for you to earn. We are trying our best to present to you the best PDC we can in the short amount of time we had to plan and coordinate this event. The only thing missing at this point is you!!

Registration and attendance information is on our web site. You may have already seen the flyer distributed by a special emailing to all chapter members, friends, and most welcomed guests. Our Chapter PDC duration is of one (1) Day. Walk-in registrations and sign in are at 7:00 AM, with an 8:00 AM start time for the opening remarks. Box Lunches will be available. Try It – You'll Like It! More information can be found at:

<https://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org/events/assp-hudson-valley-chapter-pdc/>

## National Whistleblower Day was July 30, 2021.

Did you know that the first whistleblower law was passed by the continental congress on July 30, 1778 during the American revolution? That date, July 30<sup>th</sup> is now National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. In recognition of that day, the U.S. Department of Labor created a **new web page** which consolidates all the anti-retaliation protection laws administrated by DOL in one place. An employer cannot retaliate against an employee for exercising their rights under these Department of Labor whistleblower protection laws. Use the following link to learn all the protections and rights you have to resolve a genuine issue. View the activities for **Whistleblower Day program here.**

## 'Death Zone': What To Know About Passing Stopped School Buses.

Forgetting the rules regarding passing school buses could carry stiff penalties for motorists or, even worse, cause a serious accident. In the next few weeks the new school year will begin in and around New York State. With the last almost two years with the pandemic, many drivers need to remember to follow the rules of the road that people around the State haven't had to think about for a while regarding passing stopped school busses and minding the speed limits in school zones. Forgetting those rules and getting caught doing so, could carry stiff penalties for motorists or, even worse, cause a serious accident.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) reports that in New York State, 2.3 million children are transported by more than 50,000 school buses annually. It is estimated that 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass New York State school buses every day, according to data gathered by New York State. The greatest risk to children is when they are approaching or leaving a school bus, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Here's what you need to know – and what you should do – when you see a bus stopped with its flashing lights and extended stop-sign arm or when you are driving by a school.

### **Passing a Stopped School Bus:**

In New York, it is **mandatory** for motorists to stop for school buses that have their red warning lights activated, whether they are approaching or following a school bus. If the bus has its yellow lights flashing, it means it is preparing to stop. By law, a driver approaching a school bus from either direction when encountering a school bus in the process of loading or unloading students: On a public highway; On multiple lane roads; On opposite sides of divided highways; On a public street; On a private road; In a parking lot; On school property. The fine when you pass a stopped school bus and get caught ranges from \$250.00 for a first violation to a maximum of \$1,000.00 for three violations in three years. If you are convicted of three of these violations in three years, your driver's license will be revoked for a minimum of six months. A law was passed in 2019 authorizing school districts and municipalities to use stop-arm cameras on school buses to impose penalties on the owners of vehicles that pass a school bus while the school bus is stopped for the purpose of dropping off or picking up passengers and red lights on the school bus are flashing.

### **Speeding in a school Zone:**

Speed limits in and around schools are usually 15 to 20 mph, during posted hours or when the speed limit signs are flashing. Penalties can be severe, according to most law firms. If a driver is travelling up to 10 miles above the posted speed limit, they can be fined from \$90.00 to \$300.00. The fine increases to up to \$600.00 for going 11 to 30 mph over the limit and up to \$1,200 for travelling more than 31 mph over.

### **Safety Tips for Motorists:**

The State of New York has tips for driving while sharing the road with school buses: Watch carefully for children near school buildings, in areas where school buses are travelling or where there are signs for school zones or bus stops; When school is opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon, the area around the school is very busy and crowded. There will be many children using the cross walk. Car drivers, bikers and in-line skaters must stop to allow people in the crosswalk to cross the street; Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the area; Be alert - Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

### **Safety Tips for Students:**

The State of New York provides these tips for students going to school: Look carefully to the left, right, and left again if you have to cross the street. When the school is opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon it can be very busy and crowded; When you are waiting for the school bus, you should wait at the bus stop and stand back from the curb; When you get off the bus – Look to the rear of the bus before you step off the bottom step, more stopped busses are being passed on the right hand side, or curb side, where the door is;

Take five giant steps straight out the bus door to get out of the danger zone - the area where the driver can't see you; Make sure you make eye contact with the driver before you cross in front of the bus; Never go back for anything you left on the bus: Never bend down near or under the bus if you drop anything; Your safety is the drivers main concern, so listen for any special instructions in an emergency during your bus ride.

## Construction Industry Designates Suicide Prevention Week.

In 2020 a mission riven group of volunteers from across the Construction Industry came together with the goal of saving lives. They collaborated to launch the inaugural Suicide Prevention Week for the construction industry. A week dedicated to raising awareness about the higher-than-average number of suicides in the construction industry, and to providing resources to help prevent those deaths.

Every year, during September – which is National Suicide Prevention Month – the construction industry will dedicate a week to raising awareness about the unique challenges workers face in construction that lead to suicide and what we can do to prevent it. Together, we can save lives. The week is September 6 – 10, 2021.

Use the resources provided on their web page to plan activities and raise awareness with your workers during Suicide Prevention Week, and let the Organization know how you participated. Participating companies will receive an OSHA recognized, industry endorsed certificate of participation and a badge you can display on your web site and social media pages.

When it comes to preventing suicide, the idea of where to start can be overwhelming. We've compiled a library of resources to help get you started – from videos to websites to toolbox talks and much more.

We have what you need to put together a program together for your workplace that could save lives. For your resources and more information and how to get this valuable program started use this link;

<https://constructionsuicideprevention.com/>.

## Intertex Recalls Blower Fans for Fire Hazard.

The manufacturer Intertex has received five reports of the capacitor overheating in the blower fans and causing fire-related property damage totaling approximately \$75,000.00. No personnel injuries have been reported to date. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued this recall. This recall involves approximately 29,500 units in the U.S., and another 5,000 sold in Canada.

The specific model blower fans are the B – Air VP – 33 Blower Fans which are intended primarily for commercial use for remediation projects. The recalled blowers were manufactured before January 1, 2018. The recalled air mover has a 1/3 horsepower rating and were sold in blue, red or green in a neon yellow-colored box. The B-Air logo is on the vent and on the product label.

Purchasers should immediately stop using the recalled blower fans and contact the manufacturing firm for a free repair kit including the S-3 capacitor and installation instructions.

These units were sold at Home Depot and Menard's nationwide and online at Amazon.com and Home Depot.com from February 2013 through December 2017 at a cost of about \$200.00 a unit. The units were manufactured in China by Intertex LLC, of West Chester, PA. The manufacturer – Intertex can be reached by phone on 1-800-465-7300 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Friday. They can be emailed about this recall at the following email address:

[VP33recall@b-air.com](mailto:VP33recall@b-air.com), or online at [www.b-air.com/VP33recall](http://www.b-air.com/VP33recall), or at [www.b-air.com](http://www.b-air.com) and click on the VP-33 recall banner for more information. This recall is CPSC number 21-182.



Recalled B-Air VP-33 Blower Fans

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

For our readers, we are including any regulatory updates that may apply to you and your business. This notice was posted in the Federal Register on August 10, 2021. A number of our members/readers deal with hazardous materials and transportation. This is a technically detailed rule, but there might be some interest and implementation in the chapter for this proposed rule. You can read and or review this proposed rule at your leisure by clicking on this link for the 55 page document.

### **Hazardous Materials: Harmonization With International Standards; Proposed Rule;**

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## Chapter Chatter.

Our last scheduled Hudson River Valley Chapter meeting was an Executive Board Meeting 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 to the Chapter 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 all by using the link provided for the files page by clicking [here](#).

There was no scheduled Chapter Meeting for August as it is traditionally the month for vacations. Our next scheduled Meeting has been scheduled for September with no specific date selected yet for the September 2021 meeting. It will all depend on the PDC planning and coordinating of speakers and vendors, and the on-site review of the facilities. As of this writing, the PDC is a reality that is going to be held as planned.

The ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter invites you to participate in our October 1, 2021 Professional Development Conference (PDC) at the Rockland County Fire Training Center, 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY, 10970. Registration is available on our web page by clicking [here](#).

Coronavirus is still with us and still impacting our lives with new strains developing, and reported cases on the rise once again. These cases now appear to be affecting children and unvaccinated adults. Children under the age of twelve are the most vulnerable right now. Please follow the recommended guidelines to protect yourself and your families. As the effectiveness of the vaccines is being questioned in many corners, the facts at this time still indicate that your chances of becoming infected are a lot less, as testing is proving that the vaccines will work against most of the new strains also. I sure that we have not heard the last discussion on this topic and there will be more controversy and discussion on this topic to come.

### Thought Of The Day:

“Always remember that striving and struggle precede success, even in the dictionary” –  
Sarah Ban Breathnach (American author, philanthropist, and public speaker)

Stay safe, and stay healthy. Hopefully we will meet face to face at the PDC coming very 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)