



# 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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## ASSP Has First U.S. Standard for Wind Turbines.

Our New Society has Published the first U.S. standard approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for the construction and demolition of land based wind turbines to generate electrical power. This standard is numbered **ANSI/ASSP A10.21-2018**, and officially titled "Safety Requirements for Safe Construction and Demolition of Wind Generation/Turbine Facilities". It sets the minimum requirements for protecting the workers involved in the construction and demolition of land based utility scale wind turbines in facilities called 'wind farms'. It encompasses things that did not adequately fit in the existing standards such as protecting workers from large unprotected moving parts, electrical hazards, and even establishes qualifications for the crane operators needed to place some of the turbine equipment. You can read More information about this standard by following the bold red highlighted link inserted in the text in the first few lines above. This link will take you to the very brief overview page for potential purchase.

## ASSP Has A New Executive Director.

Jennifer McNelly will become the Executive Director of ASSP effective August 23, 2018. She has 30 years of association, government, regulatory and business experience that included leadership positions with 180 Skills LLC, the Manufacturing Institute, and the U.S. Department of Labor Business Relations Group and Office of Regional Innovation and Transformation. Jennifer is a strong fit for ASSP and will help continue our growth. Her breadth of experience and proven success will be a key asset as we highlight the value of the profession, strengthen the Society's position as a leading voice, and foster a collaborative culture of member engagement, stated ASSP President Rixio Medina. Ms. McNelly stated she looks forward to working with ASSP's volunteer membership, exceptional staff, and dedicated Board of Directors to make a real difference for our members around the globe. McNelly replaces Dennis Hudson who is retiring after a distinguished career that includes two years as ASSP Executive Director and 11 years at the Society overall.

## Virtual Reality Training Tool for Fall Protection.

What?!! Yes, ASSP now has a virtual reality training tool for fall protection. When working at heights, everyone involved in that operation must understand the hazards involved in working at heights. This new training tool app provides an immersive experience that pits the user trainee in a virtual reality environment to learn how to operate safely when their work area is at height. Fall protection was the most frequently cited OSHA violation in Fiscal Year 2017. Falls accounted for 38% of all construction deaths in 2016.

Preventing the types of incidents reflected in those statistics requires helping employees identify hazards and verify that they have the proper equipment. ASP's new VR fall Protection Experience app aims to do just that. This app was developed based on the [ANSI/ASSP Z359 Fall Protection and Fall Restraint standards](#), provides an immersive experience in which users enter a virtual environment to learn how to operate safely when working at height.

The app consists of two elements – hazard identification and building a fall protection system. As users begin their experience, they are tasked with identifying the fall hazards present on a two story building. When navigating the rooftop, users will find common and not-so-common fall hazards. A piece of mechanical equipment near the edge of a roof to a rooftop fan that has been removed from its base, to a skylight, the app challenges users to identify hazards that they could encounter on the job.

Once users have identified fall hazards, they move on to building a fall protection system for a coworker to use while performing a task on the rooftop. This involves selecting an anchorage point, harness and lanyard. When building the system, users choose between four different anchorages, three harnesses and three lanyards. The key is to select the equipment that will provide the safest level of fall protection for the particular work situation. In the selection process, the user must inspect the harness for any damage, verify the leg straps fit and check the back dee-ring. After building the fall protection system, the user then gets to see it in action on their coworker, so that they can see the anchorage strength, fall clearance and overall level of fall protection that the system provides. Depending on the system an employee selects, the experience will have different outcomes. For example, some systems restrict users from going through a fall, others allow users to go through a fall and cut the lanyard, some allow the users to be suspended and self-rescue, while still others allow users to freefall so much that they can't self-rescue and have to call for assistance. After the 3 – 5 minute exercise, users can go through it again making different choices in terms of the equipment in order to see the outcomes of their decision.

Use this link to learn more about [ASSP's VR Fall Protection Experience](#)

## U.S. Department of Labor Fines West Virginia Roofing Contractor.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Design Roofing LLC for exposing employees to fall and other safety hazards at residential construction sites in two different locations in West Virginia. The company faces proposed penalties of \$101,988.00. Inspections were conducted by OSHA after receiving complaints of employees working without proper fall protection. The agency issued willful violations for the fall hazards, serious violations for allowing employees to work within close proximity of an energized electrical conductor, and improper use of an extension ladder.

Falls are the leading cause of fatalities in construction, but they can be prevented if employers comply with fall protection requirements. This employer's disregard of required safety procedures leave employees vulnerable to hazards that can cause serious or fatal injuries. Under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#), employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, use the link provided <http://www.osha.gov>. The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#).

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## Check Out The New Web Sites.

Speaking of Web sites, have you checked out the new National ASSP web page, or our own new Chapter web page? They have changed since the last time you have used them. You may need to use them again.

To view the NEW National Society Web Page, use this link; (You will have to sign-in of course.)

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

To view the New Chapter web page, use this link;

<https://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org/>

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## Call for Suggested Topics.

In a few previous Newsletters I asked if anyone had a topic they felt would be useful and interesting to the general membership to be presented at our meetings, or to be summarized in a Newsletter item. If you do have a topic, please send it to me, Charles Von Dietsch, on email address: [cvondietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:cvondietsch@yahoo.com). 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 membership chapter newsletter. Nothing political, inflammatory, or insulting to any other person – member of this chapter, the Society – or not 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 and assistance.

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## Our Scheduled Next Chapter Meeting.

The next Chapter meeting is scheduled to take place in September as the Chapter usually takes the month of August off for planned rests, vacations, and some rest and relaxation.

Our next scheduled meeting will be in the month of September 2018, and it is usually a Board Meeting for planning purposes. The exact date and location is at this time unknown. A meeting schedule will be published in the September Newsletter. Try to attend a meeting, yes it may take some of your time, but it may be well worth it. The business sections of the meetings generally start at 6:00 P.M., and they end at approximately 7:30 P.M., depending on the amount of discussion and items on the agenda. A light meal and refreshments are usually served at 5:30 PM. Since this is your Chapter, please feel free to drop by and participate in the functions of the Chapter. Who knows, you might just like it and decide to become involved in setting the direction and operation of the Hudson River Valley Chapter. We would really love to see you at a Chapter Meeting.

Very soon we will begin a survey campaign in an effort to hear from you the members on why you do not attend the meetings, or participant and lend a hand with arrangements or suggesting things to present. This may include and mail out type survey if you have a corrected address on file with the National Society, as we get our member contact information from them.