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President's Message:

Kelsey Forde, CIH, CSP, CHMM
ASSP/NM Chapter President 2019-2020

This is truly a unique and unprecedented time...we are saturated with media coverage and unanswered questions of what comes next. As Safety Professionals, we are more familiar than many of neighbors and community members with thinking about and planning for the unknown and unexpected.

Now that we have worked through some of the initial and immediate challenges, we are able to shift our focus from social isolation to socializing on a Virtual platform. As such, we are hosting our May Technical Meeting virtually and are posting opportunities for CEU points on our website.

You as members are our most valuable resources. Stay healthy, safe, and happy!



Housekeeping – How to Make It Stick!

During a recent safety walk-through in office spaces, the effects of poor housekeeping and hoarding was observed. Two offices were observed that had uninterrupted wall-to-wall shelving containing historical reports, files, papers, binders, etc. The offices were so crowded that remaining workspace was confining. My gut response was that these conditions appeared unsafe and unacceptable. The office residents, on the other hand, seemed content with this arrangement and unwilling to part with their treasures. Beyond the aesthetic impact, safety questions arose. For example:

- With the weight burden, was structural integrity of walls and shelving ample?
- Was combustible loading excessive?

- Could a slight tremor or vibration initiate a landslide of materials, injuring a worker while seated at their desks?

I began reviewing "housekeeping" regulations that I could leverage to prompt improvement action within these spaces. Using the keyword "housekeeping" in OSHA, NFPA, DOE, and other standards and regulations, as well as numerous industrial articles, I found hundreds of hits. What I tried to find, but came up short with, was definitions for terms such as clean, orderly, or sanitary. I wanted a clinch-pin rule that I could leverage to force housekeeping improvements, especially in those aforementioned offices. This lack of a profound and detailed standard left me with no teeth to enforce my will.

I asked approximately a dozen colleagues about their workplace

housekeeping observations. Some indicated failures, others indicated that their areas were quite good. At the end of my interviews, the sentiment was that housekeeping seemed fairly good with occasional outliers.

As safety professionals, we look for low hanging fruit to preventing injuries. Poor housekeeping is easy to see and often easy to correct. Most employees are quick to help with solutions and understand our rationale. When making improvements and behavioral changes in our workspaces and when hard and fast regulations do not apply, our power of influence is likely our best weapon. Perhaps I should work on mine!

Chuck Atwood, CSP
ASSP/NM Chapter Delegate

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

for job postings and more!

Recorded Education Sessions Free for a Limited Time

For a limited time, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) is providing free online access to 330 recorded education sessions on many issues connected to workplace safety and health. The offer allows industry professionals to engage in on-demand learning from wherever they are located to gain knowledge from the experts who presented at Safety 2019 in New Orleans.

ASSP has stood for safety for more than 100 years and knows that continuing education plays a large role in helping safety professionals support their workers and organizations in today's challenging times. Safety professionals should visit store.assp.org and use code LEARNFREE to get started.

The recorded sessions cover fall protection, fleet safety, health and wellness, personal protective equipment, risk assessment and management, and several other key topics. Safety professionals earn 0.1 continuing education units (CEUs) for each session.

"Occupational safety and health professionals are dealing with significant challenges right now in an environment that is changing rapidly," said ASSP President Diana Stegall, CSP, CFPS, ARM, SMS, CPCU. "We are simplifying access to safety education so more risk assessments and best practices can be implemented."

In addition, ASSP has posted another free webinar to further help safety professionals

through this unprecedented time. "COVID 19: The Role of the Risk Management Process and Its Impact on Pandemics" addresses how uncertainty can cause business interruption, overload the healthcare system, create supply shortages and increase psychological stress. It features Bruce Lyon, P.E., CSP, SMS, vice president at Hays Companies, and Georgi Popov, Ph.D., CSP, QEP, a professor at the University of Central Missouri. They share a risk assessment spreadsheet for COVID-19, and their slides are available for download.

Safety and health professionals can stay informed of all the ASSP resources to combat the coronavirus pandemic by visiting the COVID-19 tab on the Society's website.

2020 Technical Meeting Schedule

As we enter this new year and decade, we will continue to offer a rotating technical meeting schedule to help accommodate our members' dynamic and changing schedule needs.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming technical meeting dates & locations.

- May 14, 2020 @ 11am – Virtual Lunch Meeting "Think Inside the Box".
*Registration details provided on ASSP NM Events Page

- June 11, 2020 – Virtual Happy Hour
- July 2020 Officer Induction Meeting –TBD; virtual platform pending

Stay tuned for more information on technical speakers & virtual Technical Meeting offerings.

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