

Spring 2019 Newsletter



President's Message

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We all have our heroes. If anyone knows me, they know I am a huge fan of the fantastic, the strange, the weird, the future, and of course, the heroes that come with that. One of my heroes, MacGyver, did things that were fantastic, strange, and weird...all with a paper clip, rubber bands, and isopropyl alcohol. I think my career choice allows me to protect the MacGyvers of the world from hurting themselves. Industrial hygienists are the guardians for workplaces. We evaluate, measure and identify the strange and the weird. Who can ask for a cooler job than that?

Even though we have the responsibility to affect change by recognizing, evaluating, and mitigating hazardous workplace conditions, sometimes the subject matter can be dry and tedious. This is why I am extremely excited to bring one of my other heroes to the local AIHA this fall. For six years I have listened to Dr. Robert Emery speak at various conferences. His insights into modern-day industrial hygiene and the overall aspect of health and safety are smart, refreshing, keenly accurate, and entertaining.

After we met last time, there was one message that seemed to come through. Attendees wanted topics that are specific to industrial hygiene. What are the realms of industrial hygiene anymore? With all the changes in the industry, how many of us are only industrial hygienists? We blur the lines daily into safety, environmental, public safety, and engineering just to name a few. I think we achieved our goal this time around. Dr. Emery is going to speak on several industrial hygiene topics. Like our profession, the topics will vary, but will hopefully continue to broaden our knowledge of industrial hygiene. I am proud of our lineup of speakers and the varied topics that will be presented.

I teach new industrial hygienists in the Department of Labor. These new compliance officers spend many weeks in training. I became a part of that system when I sat through the training myself. I provided feedback on the training and was given the opportunity to implement the changes. My ending statement at each one of these mini-courses is that feedback matters. If feedback is not provided, then change does not happen. I implore you to provide your feedback so we can continue to improve this organization and provide you with the educational and professional development that you want and need. We are always looking for excellent speakers and interesting topics. If you think a particular topic or speaker would bring value to our organization, then please let us know.

I looked through 14 years of presidential letters. I will spare you the read but it boils down to the constant changes in our occupation and getting involved with the local section through volunteering. The very existence of this organization is symbiotic. Without you as members, we cannot afford to gather and learn. Similarly, without you as volunteers, members would not have a central location for learning with relevant speakers. If you find value in this organization and what it does, then please volunteer.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and believe in heroes!

Lee McKinney

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Wednesday, September 11th

12:00 pm - PDC Registration Opens

Professional Development Course

PDC Current Topics for the Industrial Hygiene Professional

Dr. Robert Emery, Vice President for Safety, Health, Environmental & Risk Management, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; Professor of Occupational Health, University of Texas School of Public Health

1:00-2:10 pm

PDC Topic: Ethical Decision-Making Tools for enhancing Organizational Safety Culture

2:10-3:20 pm

PDC Topic: Effectively Managing the “Under-Exposed”

3:20-4:30 pm

PDC Topic: The Promise and Peril of “Citizen Science”

Thursday, September 12th

7:30–8:00 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:00 am

PDC: Strategies for Keeping Your Health & Safety Program on Course in a Sea of Constant Change

9:00-10:00 am

PDC: Health & Safety’s Role in Mitigating the “Insider Threat” Security Risk

10:00-11:00 am

PDC Topic: Health & Safety’s Lessons from Other Public Health Professions: Techniques and discoveries we may be missing that could help us protect workers

11:00 am-12:00 pm

PDC Topic: Making Your Safety Message Stick! 35 Years of Powerful Quotes Collected on Sticky Notes

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch (Vendor Display Area)

12:00 pm - Conference Registration Opens

Conference Opening Session

1:00-1:15 pm

President’s Welcome

Lee McKinney, NCDOL

1:15 pm-2:15 pm

The Effective Display of Data to Achieve Desired Decision Making

Dr. Robert Emery

Thursday, September 12th (continued)

2:15-3:15 pm

Leveraging PSM Principles to Prevent Worker Exposures

Tim Hicks, HHS Consulting

3:15-3:30 pm

Vendor Introductions

3:30-4:00 pm

Break (Vendor Display Area)

4:00-5:00 pm

Nanotechnology: An Update on Epidemiological Findings, Exposure Measurements and Worker Awareness

Bruce Lippy, PhD, CIH, CSP FAIHA; Director of Safety Research, CPWR and Gavin West, CPWR

5:00 pm

Past Presidents’ Reception

Friday, September 13th

Conference Sessions (cont’d)

8:00–8:30 am

Continental Breakfast (Vendor Display Area)

8:30-9:00 am

Business Meeting

Lee McKinney, NCDOL

9:00-9:15 am

OSHA Update

Sharon D. Dumit, CPM, South Carolina OSHA

9:15-10:15 am

Preventing Amputations: Special Emphasis Programs, Controlling Hazardous Energy, and Machine Guarding

Ted Hendrix, CSP; Health Compliance Officer, NCDOL

10:15-10:45 am

Break/Vendor Presentations (Vendor Display Area)

10:45-11:45 am

The NIOSH Occupational Exposure Control Banding Strategy – A Practical Chemical Risk Assessment and Management Process*

Thomas Lentz, Ph.D., MPH; NIOSH/CDC

11:45 am-12:00 pm

Professional Involvement and Outreach

Rene Vanek, Outreach Coordinator, AIHA Carolinas

Closing Comments

PDC – Professional Development Course

Current Topics for the Industrial Hygiene Professional

Dr. Robert Emery is Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Professor of Occupational Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Bob has over 35 years of experience in health & safety and possesses master's degrees in health physics and environmental sciences, and a doctorate in occupational health. Bob holds the unique distinction of being the only person to hold national board certification in all of the seven main areas of health & safety;

- health physics [Certified Health Physicist, CHP],
- occupational safety [Certified Safety Professional, CSP],
- biological safety [Certified Biological Safety Professional, CBSP],
- industrial hygiene [Certified Industrial Hygienist, CIH],
- hazardous materials management [Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, CHMM],
- security management [Certified Protection Professional, CPP]
- and risk management [Associate in Risk Management, ARM].

Wednesday Afternoon Topics:

Ethical Decision-Making Tools for Enhancing Organizational Safety Culture

Recent investigations of several tragic events have repeatedly identified the absence of a culture of safety as a common contributing factor. An organization's safety culture is a collective reflection of individual decisions made by its workforce, each carrying with them ethical implications. Safety culture, good or bad, is the sum product of many individual ethical decisions, yet the notion of ethical safety decision-making is not often discussed. This presentation will describe ethical dilemmas safety professionals can encounter, and how the decisions that are made can impact an organization's overall safety culture. A set of ethical decision-making tools will be presented, along with a suggested path forward for actually improving safety culture within an organization.

Effectively Managing the "Under-Exposed"

Consider this: of all the personnel monitoring you have ever been involved with in your career, how many results exceeded the regulatory or recommended exposure limit? Based on the responses to this question from literally hundreds of health & safety professionals from across the country, the consensus answer appears to be in the range of 2 to 5%. This anecdotal feedback suggests that 95 to 98% of the individuals monitored may have received some amount of exposure, but at levels below any recommended or established limit. So, while this implies that most of the exposure situations we monitor are not in excess of any accepted limits, experience tells us that a subpopulation of these individuals can still harbor concerns and apprehensions their exposures. If such concerns are mismanaged or ignored, the situation can result in huge losses in terms of decreased productivity, frivolous complaints, regulatory inspections, and possible lawsuits. Hence, the proper management of the "under-exposed" is an essential health & safety job function, yet these skills are rarely addressed in our academic preparation. In this presentation, the variables associated with typical "under-exposed" situations will be discussed, and then the recognized tenets of effective risk communications will be applied to describe ways in which the situations might be managed so that worker concerns can be addressed and impacts on productivity are kept to a minimum. Ample time will be provided for participant questions, comments, and discussion.

The Promise and Peril of "Citizen Science" – and Why This Matters to Health & Safety

The proliferation of personal electronic devices has resulted in an exponential expansion in the ability to rapidly gather and disseminate information – some accurate, some not so accurate, and some downright wrong. With virtually every member of the workforce and community now equipped with this technology, the notion of "citizen science" has expanded, wherein citizens and employees can collect and instantly transmit data and information about exposures and situations. While this technique holds great promise as a "force multiplier" to address various concerns, the technique is largely unfiltered and can result in the dissemination of misinformation, apprehension, and confusion. This presentation will discuss the evolution of "citizen science" and how it has changed with recent technological developments and then will provide a series of suggested steps for health and safety programs to take to proactively address the challenge.

PDC – Professional Development Course (continued)

Thursday Morning Topics:

Strategies for Keeping Your Health & Safety Program on Course in a Sea of Constant Change

The University of Texas School of Public Health recently conducted a straw poll of approximately fifty very experienced health & safety professionals and the results were astonishing: 80% had reported to the person they currently report to for a period of less than 5 years, and 25% for a period of less than 1 year! These striking results underscore the old adage that “change is constant,” but adapting to change is not something that is traditionally addressed in academic health & safety programs. Interestingly, although change, is indeed constant, the underlying data that drives health & safety programs does not change. What does change is the framing of this important information to ensure continued program support. This presentation will discuss the dilemma of constant change and provide some tips on the personal management of change and will present options to consider for communicating essential information to the ever-changing environment.

Health & Safety’s Role in Mitigating the “Insider Threat” Security Risk

While organizations maintain many layers of controls to prevent outsiders from gaining unauthorized access to cause loss or harm, persons who have been granted legitimate access can become an “insider threat”, and because they are very difficult to detect, cause over \$100 billion in losses annually. Although the typical insider targets assets or data, in some cases their actions can also have significant impacts on workplace and environmental health and safety. Because much of an organization’s safety program activities are carried out with the workers in their workplace, this represents a unique opportunity to assist in the possible detection of insider threats. This presentation will discuss the threats represented by insiders and will detail their recognized traits so that health & safety professionals can enhance their situational awareness and report suspicions to the appropriate person.

Health & Safety Lessons from Other Public Health Professions: *Techniques and discoveries we may be missing that could help us protect workers*

Few practicing health & safety (H&S) professionals routinely identify themselves as part of the “public health workforce” but H&S is actually a subset of a very diverse professional community that collectively exists to prevent illness, injury, or death within populations. If H&S professionals would only pause to consider the techniques and discoveries derived from other public health fields, lessons could be gleaned that could help us better manage risks. This presentation is specifically intended to get H&S professionals “out of their box” by providing an overview of the broader field of public health from a historical perspective and then examine three examples from public health endeavors that potentially hold powerful lessons for the H&S profession. The presentation will also expose individuals to other possible career tracks within the broader field of public health. Ample time will be allotted for questions and discussion.

“Making Your Safety Message Stick! 35 Years of Powerful Quotes Collected on Sticky Notes”

Successful health and safety programs function largely in the realm of prevention, so on a good day “nothing happens”. But the value of “making nothing happen” can be a very difficult message to convey, and often becomes an impediment to our ability to tell this important story to key program stakeholders. After 35 years of practice, I have learned that the right quote, used at the right time, can be very strategic with regard to desired decision making. These quotes, captured on hundreds of disorganized sticky notes have adorned my office bulletin board for three decades, and now for the first time, I have been compiled them into a “top ten” list that will be shared during this presentation.

*Supplemental Information

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is pleased to announce the release of its new Technical Report – [The NIOSH Occupational Exposure Banding Process for Chemical Management](#). The document describes a voluntary chemical management strategy for assessing and assigning a chemical to a category (occupational exposure band, or OEB) based on its toxicity and any negative health outcomes associated with exposure to that chemical. The occupational exposure banding process is not meant to replace quantitative occupational exposure limits (OELs); rather, it is a voluntary approach that provides a starting point to inform risk management decisions for controlling chemical substances that do not have OELs.

To facilitate the occupational exposure banding process, the Technical Report is accompanied by [an E-tool](#) that serves as a supplementary online application that provides users with an automated means to band chemical substances.

The long-awaited resource can serve as the foundation for making exposure-control decisions. Public health agencies, practicing occupational health and safety professionals, employers, trade associations, labor organizations, and state-level programs can use this process to protect workers from occupational exposures to chemicals. NIOSH recognizes and acknowledges the efforts and support of multiple individuals and organizations who have encouraged the development of the occupational exposure banding process. To access additional information about occupational exposure banding and the NIOSH resources on this topic, [please visit this site](#).



Register Now!

Hotel room will only be available at the reduced rate until August 10th

Carolinas Section - AIHA
Spring PDC and Conference
September 11th – September 13th, 2019

Conference Registration (September 12th-13th)

Circle one

Member \$220
Nonmember \$240

PDC-Registration (September 11th -12th)

Circle One

Member \$220
Nonmember \$255
(add \$20 after August 28th)

Vendor
Exhibit Space (each table) \$400

Carolinas Section Annual Dues

Member \$35 Student \$10

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cbacon@mindspring.com

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Carolinas AIHA appreciates the support of our Vendors!



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Thank You!

Member News

Results of Board Member Elections from Spring Conference 2019

President - Lee McKinney (progressive Position);

Vice – President - Leaton Jones (1-year term with the option to progress into other roles);

SC Board Member - Anna Deal (2-year term with option to progress to other roles);

NC Board Member - Vince Maisto (2-year term with option to progress to other roles).

Welcome new board members and many thanks to current Board members for their volunteer service to Carolinas AIHA!

eLearning

The Carolinas-AIHA is pleased to announce that we have continued the eLearning Subscription series for our members and purchased the subscription for 2019! Check out the eLearning Subscriber's webpage for more information. This web page will list all upcoming webinars and house links to the recordings, handout materials, and evaluations. <https://www.aiha.org/education/eLearning/Pages/2019-eLearning-Subscription-Members.aspx>

View the following presentation for information regarding eLearning access and credit.

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