**In This Issue:**

assp northeast florida Chapter Newsletter – september 2019

**Safety**

**Pg. 1 –Human behavior may affect emergency shower usage.**

**Health**

**Pg. 4 - Maintaining healthy Blood pressure may help prevent dementia.**

**Workers’ Compensation**

**Pg. 5 - Workers sue company for toxic mold exposure: Does court allow lawsuit?**

**OSHA News**

**Pg. 6 - Fuyao Glass America Inc. faces $724,380 in federal penalties.**

##### **Miscellaneous**

**Pg. 7 - Job Market Links**

**Pg. 8 – ASSP Chapter Links**

**Pg. 8 - Local Chapter Officers and Chairs**

**Pg. 8 - Local Chapter Information**

**Pg. 8 – Help Wanted**

**Pg. 8 – Local Meeting Schedule**

**Pg. 9 – Apply for a Foundation Scholarship or Grant**

**Pg. 10 – Volunteering for an ASSP leadership Position**

**Human Behavior Impacts Emergency Shower Training & Usage**

Imagine a work setting with all the latest and greatest eye washes and safety showers installed in every area that poses an exposure risk with easy and unobstructed access.

While this scenario appears to depict a facility well-equipped to handle an exposure crisis, the ultimate question is: “Are the employees adequately trained to properly and successfully use the eyewashes and showers in the event of an emergency?”

Employees who lack working knowledge and understanding of safety showers are at a clear disadvantage to use them correctly when faced with exposure. It may seem like a rudimentary reminder, but it’s important to remember the equipment can’t do the job on its own – it must be operated by trained individuals.

**Training benefits**

In short, good training procedures will:

• stop and reduce worker injuries

• speed up emergency medical response

• prevent complacency

• ensure ANSI compliance

• improve overall efficiencies relating to operations and costs

Unfortunately, lack of time is often one of the biggest challenges to training. Workplaces and workers are almost always busy and schedules are tight. However, working with third-party trainers, such as safety consultants and equipment manufacturers provide several benefits; they are able to provide the most up-to-date information and learning activities. Plus they can bring valuable perspectives through training many other employees in the industry. Manufacturers also provide site surveys to ensure proper placement of equipment.

**Recognizing Obstacles to Using Safety Fixtures**

Safety training expert, Julie LaRose, MS, CSP, ARM, CHMM, Soteria Safety, LLC, makes the point that, when faced with a crisis, our primitive instincts can take over. Understanding human behavior in a crisis is an important conversation to have as part of employee training programs. For example:

• “Fight, flight, freeze or faint” response. It’s often difficult for individuals to think clearly and logically in an emergency. “If someone is exposed to a caustic material, for example, it’s natural for the primitive parts of the brain to take over,” LaRose said. “When suddenly forced to deal with the physical pain of chemical burns, a common reaction is to panic and run to a known familiar source of water. This typically involves running to the bathroom to access water from a sink. When every second counts, this instinctual response significantly exacerbates the severity of the injury.

• Making a watery mess. “When safety showers are deployed, a deluge of water is dispensed – for at least 15 minutes – to remove the contaminant. For some workers, the thought of causing a scene by creating a mini-flood at work is enough to discourage the use of the emergency equipment,” LaRose said. “Assure employees that there is a plan in place to address discharged water. Employees should not hesitate to deploy the fixture and remove the contaminant from their body as quickly as possible. The longer the contaminant stays in contact with the skin the greater the extent of injury.”

• Fear of disrobing around others. “Taking off clothing in front of co-workers is the subject of most people’s nightmares,” she notes. “The embarrassment associated with the sudden need to disrobe can be tempered by clearing the area of non-emergency responders and providing the affected individual with as much privacy as possible.” Installing customized shower curtains or keeping blankets near shower equipment can help provide extra privacy when needed.

**Safety Response is a Force of Habit**

Because rapid response to chemical exposure incidents is so critical, hands-on training and drills are key. Repeated experience with using safety showers and eye washes will help emergency response become second nature.

“The more you explain the safety framework, and develop the habit of using the fixtures, the better equipped, and more successful, they’ll be in the event of an emergency,” LaRose said.

For example, LaRose offers some safety shower training suggestions. Reinforce proper safety shower response by:

• Training employees to quickly protect themselves before responding to the exposure.

• Emphasize that maneuvering the person to the source of water and immediately deploying the fixture is vitally important.

• Emphasizing not pulling contaminated clothing across unprotected skin. For example, safety shears can be used to remove a shirt instead of pulling it over the face and head.

• Emphasizing that deploying a safety shower and assisting the exposed worker is a multi-person job. Ensure that there is a system in place so that responders can provide necessary assistance. Make known that emergency signaling systems used with safety equipment may be used to help alert responders.

**Safety Shower Training Suggestions**

Use role-play techniques to help employees mentally and physically work through processes when faced with an emergency. To simulate their eyes being impaired, consider blindfolding an employee to reduce visibility and have them access the closest plumbed fixture. Use caution when blindfolding for training purposes, as it is embarrassing for anyone to sustain injuries during safety training.

Involve employees in equipment inspections and activations to help them understand the equipment’s purpose and function. Since worksite materials, machinery, employees, operations and risks can change frequently, inspections help keep safety equipment ready when workers need it. A dated checklist for inspections helps to maintain the equipment in emergency-ready condition.

Be sure to review which safety fixture is appropriate for specific hazards. Safety data sheets provide information on the appropriate fixture to use in case of exposures. Safety consultants and manufacturers offer customized site surveys to help identify placement for different types of fixtures.

They may also provide assistance with hands-on training, reference materials, training guides and much more to help provide the safest workplace possible.

***ISHN Magazine***

Online Edition

August 1, 2019

[ISHN Magazine](https://www.ishn.com/articles/111213-human-behavior-impacts-safety-shower-training-usage)

**Maintaining Healthy Blood Pressure May Help Prevent Dementia**

In a study that spanned two and a half decades and looked at data from more than 4,700 participants, Johns Hopkins researchers have added to evidence that abnormal blood pressure in midlife persisting into late life increases the likelihood of developing dementia. Although not designed to show cause and effect, the study suggests that maintaining a healthy blood pressure throughout life may be one way to help decrease one’s risk of losing brain function.

“Our results suggest that one’s blood pressure during midlife may influence how blood pressure later in life relates to dementia risk,” says Keenan Walker, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “We found that individuals with high blood pressure in midlife may benefit from targeting their blood pressure to normal levels in later life, as having blood pressure that is too high or too low in late life may further increase dementia risk.”

In their study, they found that those people with the high blood pressure condition, hypertension, during middle age and during late life were 49% more likely to develop dementia than those with normal blood pressure at both times. But, interestingly, putting one at even greater risk was having hypertension in middle age and then having low blood pressure in late life, which increased one’s dementia risk by 62%. The findings were published Aug. 13 in [JAMA](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2747672?guestAccessKey=723af16f-400d-48d7-8fda-eac27d487f31&utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_content=tfl&utm_term=081319).

For purposes of the study, high blood pressure was considered any measurement more than 140/90 millimeters of mercury; low blood pressure was defined as less than 90/60 millimeters of mercury. A cognitive exam, caregiver reports, hospitalization discharge codes, and death certificates were used to classify participant brain function and determine cognitive impairment.

High blood pressure can be genetic, but can also be the result of not enough exercise and poor diet. As people age, the top blood pressure number (systolic) oftentimes increases while the bottom number (diastolic) can decrease due to structural changes in the blood vessels. Walker says dementia itself may lead to a lowering of blood pressure, as it may disrupt the brain’s autonomic nervous system. Stiffening of the arteries from disease and physical frailty can also lead to low blood pressure in late life.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 75 million people in the U.S. have high blood pressure, and high blood pressure can raise the risk for heart disease, as well as other health conditions.

***Industrial Safety & Hygiene News***

Online Edition

**August 14, 2019**

[ISHN](https://www.ishn.com/articles/111275-maintaining-a-healthy-blood-pressure-may-help-prevent-dementia?oly_enc_id=1906A4535689D3V)

**Workers sue company for toxic mold exposure: Does court allow lawsuit?**

Two workers sued their employer for mold exposure. Subsequently, the company asked for the lawsuit to be thrown out, arguing that the employees’ sole remedy was workers’ comp. How did a court rule?

Cheri Blackmore and Diane Young were legal assistants at Vaughn & Bowden (V&B) in Mississippi. They sued the law firm, saying their health deteriorated significantly during their employment because of exposure to toxic mold, a chemical used to kill the mold, a gas leak and fumes from raw sewage backups in the women’s restroom.

The employer argued this was a workers’ comp matter. A trial court denied V&B’s motion to have the lawsuit thrown out. V&B took its request to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

As is the case in most states, the intentional harm exception to the workers’ compensation exclusive remedy is a high standard to meet in Mississippi. The state supreme court noted that previously it has held:

“For a willful tort to be outside the exclusivity of the [workers’ comp law], the employer’s action must be done ‘with an actual intent to injure the employee'”

“A mere willful and malicious act is insufficient to give rise to the intentional tort exception,” and

“Reckless or grossly negligent conduct is not enough to remove a claim from the exclusivity of the [workers’ comp law].”

To draw a distinction, the court noted several cases in which it found there was sufficient evidence to prove intentional harm and some in which there wasn’t.

Example: An employee was injured twice by the same machine. The first time, he was left without a right hand or use of his right arm. The second time, the machine claimed three fingers on his left hand. The Mississippi Supreme Court said this was, at most, a case of gross negligence. But that’s not enough to prove intentional harm. This wasn’t an exception to workers’ comp exclusivity.

Another lawsuit had the opposite outcome. Management specifically instructed other employees to keep all information regarding an adhesive away from line workers and to remove safety data sheets. Several line workers were hospitalized, some with spinal-related injuries that resulted in numbness in their lower extremities. The court said this case demonstrated outrageous action on the part of the employer which exhibited a “profit-motivated disregard for its employees’ safety” as well as an actual intent to injure. The lawsuit was allowed to go forward.

**Intentionally exposed to mold?**

The two employees alleged in their lawsuit against V&B that they were exposed intentionally to toxic mold, to a toxic chemical designed to get rid of the mold and to poisonous fumes from a sewage leak.

Although the workers claim they were injured when V&B failed to remediate the mold, the claim didn’t assert V&B acted with actual intent to injure them.

“It is not possible that the defendants were allowing the mold to exist with the intent of injuring the plaintiffs while at the same time attempting to destroy the mold … the application of the mold killer spray clearly was not done with any ‘actual intent’ to injure the plaintiffs,” the court wrote.

The two employees further argued that V&B didn’t post material safety data sheets for the mold killer spray. The court said, while the application of the spray may have been grossly negligent, it didn’t rise to the level of “actual intent.”

“The plaintiffs in this case have failed to state a claim for which relief can be granted. The complaint cannot support the argument that the defendants acted with the actual intent to injure the plaintiffs,” the court wrote.

For that reason, the sole avenue of relief for these two employees was in a workers’ compensation claim. Their intentional harm lawsuit was dismissed.

***Safety News Alert***

Online Edition

September 9, 2013

[**Safety News Alert**](http://www.safetynewsalert.com/workers-sue-company-for-toxic-mold-exposure-does-court-allow-lawsuit/)

**Fuyao Glass America Inc. Faces $724,380 in Federal Penalties After U.S. Department of Labor Finds Multiple Hazards at Ohio Plant**

**If you have watched the first documentary produced by Barack and Michelle Obama on Netflix, or the one shown on HBO, this article may be of interest to you.**

**The Netflix film is entitled *American Factory* and thoroughly documents the resurrection of the shuttered Moraine, Ohio General Motors truck and SUV assembly plant. On the flip side of things, the HBO film, entitled** *The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant,* **documents the shut down of that plant in December of 2008. For more on the OSHA penalties related to this Ohio plant, please read on.**

**MORAINE, OH ‒ The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Fuyao Glass America Inc. for exposing employees to multiple safety and health hazards at its Moraine, Ohio, production plant. The company faces $724,380 in penalties.**

**OSHA initiated an inspection of the automotive glass manufacturer under the Agency’s Site-Specific Targeting program, which directs enforcement resources to workplaces where the highest rate of injuries and illnesses have occurred. OSHA cited Fuyao Glass America for nine repeated and 13 serious violations, including exposing employees to electrical safety violations; and failing to evaluate the workplace to determine permit-required confined spaces; train employees on lockout/tag out and entering confined spaces; install machine guarding; provide hearing protection; provide personal protective equipment, and require the use of fall protection. OSHA has inspected the Fuyao plant 12 times in the past four years.**

**“This company’s repeated failure to implement and enforce safety and health programs at the workplace is unacceptable,” said Acting Regional Administrator Bill Donovan, in Chicago, Illinois. “Employers must continually evaluate their facilities for hazards, and train employees and managers to use proper safety controls and equipment to keep their worksites safe and healthful.”**

**OSHA offers compliance assistance resources on permit required confined space hazards, occupational noise exposure, machine guarding, fall protection, control of hazardous energy, and electrical safety work practices.**

**The company has 15 business days from receipt of the safety and health 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.**

**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 help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit** <https://www.osha.gov>**.**

**U.S. Department of Labor**

**July 29, 2019**

[OSHA News](https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/region5/07292019)

**Job Market Links**

**General Employment Links**

[ASSP](https://jobs.assp.org/)

[BCSP General Safety Jobs](http://jobs.bcsp.org/c-Safety-jobs.html)

[BCSP Construction Safety Jobs](http://jobs.bcsp.org/c-Construction-Safety-jobs.html)

[BCSP Industrial Hygiene Jobs](http://jobs.bcsp.org/c-Industrial-Hygiene-jobs.html)

[EHS Careers](http://www.ehscareers.com/)

**ASSP Chapter Links**

Find us on the web at:

[ASSP NFL](http://nfl.asse.org/)

Find us on Facebook at: [ASSP NFL](https://www.facebook.com/ASSENFL)

**Local Chapter Officers and Chairs**

**Elected Officers**

* President - Bob Dooley
* President Elect - Eric Gray
* Secretary - Steve Wilson
* Treasurer - Ravyn Tyler
* Delegate - Yaniv Zigagi

**Appointed Chairs**

* Membership Chair - Mark Gibson
* Newsletter Chair – Allen Davis
* Nominations Chair – Steve Brown
* Past President - Steve Brown
* Program Chair - Dan Hempsall
* Social Chair – Open
* Social Media Chair - Vernon Adams
* SPY Awards Chair – Open

**Local Chapter Information**

The North Florida Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals, formerly the American Society of Safety Engineers, was chartered in 1952 and currently has more than 165 members.

Professional meetings are held nine times per year in the Jacksonville area. Meeting notices are distributed and RSVP’s are returned by email. If you are a member of ASSP and are not receiving notices by email, please email the

[Chapter Secretary](mailto:steven_wilson1@me.com).

**Help Wanted – We Need Leadership Volunteers**

If you are interested and able to devote time to the local chapter, please contact [Steve Brown](mailto:Stephen.Brown@RingPower.Com), Nominations Chair, for details.

We believe that you will enjoy the experience and comradery and we most-certainly appreciate your help.

**Local Chapter Meeting Schedule**

**September 18, 2019**

**NEFSC (Northeast FL Safety Council) to present their staff members and capabilities that are available to its members. This will be followed by networking.**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**October 17, 2017**

**Worker's Compensation**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**November 20, 2017**

**JEA Laboratory Services Tour**

Location: JEA

1002 N Main Street

Jacksonville, FL 32206

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting and Tour

**December 2019**

**Winter Social**

Details TBA

**January 15, 2020**

**Alternative Confined Space Entry Processes - Maritime**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**February 19, 2020**

**Active Shooter/Workplace Violence**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**March 18, 2020**

**Annual OSHA Update**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**April 15, 2020**

**Ergonomics**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**April 24, 2020**

**Worker’s Memorial**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**May 20, 2020**

TBA

For all meetings, please RSVP to Steve Wilson at [steven\_wilson1@me.com](mailto:steven_wilson1@me.com).

Cost:  Members: $15

 Non-Members: $20

**Apply for a Foundation Scholarship or Grant**

Applications for [ASSP Foundation scholarships](https://foundation.assp.org/" \t "_blank) are now being accepted. Since 1990, ASSP Foundation has awarded scholarships and professional education grants to students and professionals who are starting or continuing their OSH education. In 2019, the ASSP Foundation awarded a record $407,873 to students who are seeking to continue their education and advance their careers.

ASSP Foundation offers nearly 150 awards each year ranging from $500 to $15,000 each. More than 1,300 safety students and professionals have advanced their careers thanks to the generosity of the safety community.

[Applications](https://asspscholars.communityforce.com/Funds/Search.aspx" \l "4371597136646D517975544F5976596D4E73384E69673D3D" \t "_blank" \o "Opens in a new window) are accepted online through Dec. 1, 2019. Only one application need be filled out to be eligible for all available awards. Awards will be announced April 15, 2020.

[LEARN MORE](http://defang.bcbsfl.com/defang.php?url=http://send.assp.org/link.cfm?r=rYOLNL-LDHkxmR9FFSVp2Q~~&pe=mPRVQMOZGKK3Y2Nj6KewtESTAyu7eYALXtdLlLGnDejOJmXVM9Vf3SzmYw4jw6reCiHro9HuDZcR9FigaVqmzA~~&t=TDdEcUC65Hc4osfikSqIGQ~~" \t "_blank)



**Reminder: Leadership Nominations Due September 17**

Volunteering for an ASSP leadership position is a great way to develop key business skills, enhance your career and advance in the OSH profession. Various volunteer roles are available to fit a range of interests, skills and experience levels, including opportunities with the board of directors, councils, regions, practice specialties and common interest groups. For a complete list of open positions, visit our [2020 elections page](https://www.assp.org/membership/elections).

Nominations are due September 17, 2019.

Contact us at

[elections@assp.org](mailto:mailto:elections@assp.org).

Show oldest on top Show newest on top

Leave a comment

Load more comments

Thank you for the comment! Your comment must be approved first

You've already submitted a review for this item

Thank you! Your review has been submitted successfully

[LEARN MORE](http://defang.bcbsfl.com/defang.php?url=http://send.assp.org/link.cfm?r=rYOLNL-LDHkxmR9FFSVp2Q~~&pe=hcyU5DM_V27c6OV9h3TgR5Fv05M7cFlR2rnB80BU-FzqKgi5vJDn_D9BWGj8ZqSX101Qeiofr7KoeylwKWFPXw~~&t=TDdEcUC65Hc4osfikSqIGQ~~" \t "_blank)