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**Are Safety Leaders Up to the Challenge?**

You might think that if you asked 1,500 EHS professionals a question, you’d get 1,500 different answers, but as it turns out that’s not quite accurate. For instance, when EHS Today conducted the 2019 National Safety Survey, one of the questions we asked was, “What is the biggest challenge facing the industry today?”

Far and away, the most common answer to that question was…well, let me offer a few examples, and see if you can guess:

• “New employees entering the workforce without a sound understanding of risks related to job and work processes.”

• “Older workers set in their ways on how to do their jobs.”

• “Employees who think safety is the responsibility of one person and not everyone.”

• “Developing and delivering effective and engaging training for a generation of employees with very short attention spans. Micro-burst training seems to be the new norm and I’m not convinced it’s adequate.”

• “Young people are not studying industrial hygiene anymore. It’s a dying field.”

• “Getting everybody to buy into the safety culture and put it foremost in their everyday activities.”

• “Everyone is so wrapped up in the next hot topic that the basics are forgotten about, or at least not getting the attention they deserve.”

• “Finding quality employees who are willing and able to work.”

• “Hiring like crazy. Need to train everyone properly.”

• “Getting buy-in to the safety program from senior leaders.”

Certainly, there was a lot of variety in how that “biggest challenge” question was answered, but basically everybody is pointing to the same thing: “employee engagement.” Whether it’s due to young people coming into the industry, older workers who think they know it all, or senior management who consider “safety” as just a cost rather than an avenue to increased profitability, EHS professionals seem uncannily consistent in the way most of them believe that establishing and maintaining a culture of safety at their organizations is their top challenge.

Safety leaders, who make up the majority of our audience, tend to be seasoned professionals. In our survey, we found that nearly two-thirds have more than 10 years of experience, and more than one-third of all respondents have at least 20 years of experience. So while safety leaders may not have seen everything, they have seen a lot.

And one thing they’ve seen a lot of—perhaps too much of—is the transition of the economy away from manufacturing and construction jobs towards service sector jobs, making it harder to attract young people to replace an aging workforce, putting more of a burden on safety leaders to train workers who may be here today, gone tomorrow, but who nevertheless have to be kept safe on the job while not threatening the safety of their co-workers.

As one survey respondent put it, “Engagement and involvement from the younger safety professionals seem to be lacking. In the next 10 years there will be a lot of safety professionals retiring. Will the next generation of safety professionals be ready?”

Another respondent remarked, “As economics force more people to seek part-time employment, the challenge is to help employees shift their focus from their paycheck to their work satisfaction, personal worksite health and safety, and a commitment to learn new skills.”

That’s really what it comes down to, isn’t it?—finding the best ways to engage with workers so that they themselves feel engaged enough in their roles (and in some cases, in their own lives) so that safety becomes a second nature to them.It’s a challenging job you all have, but no job is more important.

***Edited from: EHS Today***

Online Edition

September 24, 2019

[EHS Today](https://www.ehstoday.com/safety-leadership/are-safety-leaders-challenge)

**Men Drown in Sewage**

**Tank After Trying to Rescue Farmer Trapped Inside**

It’s a story that’s still told too often: A confined space emergency turns into a multiple-death tragedy when workers try to rescue a colleague without the proper training or equipment.

Four men died on an Italian farm after falling into a sewage tank while attempting to rescue another employee who was trapped inside, according to [*Newsweek*](https://www.newsweek.com/italy-farm-arena-po-sewage-tank-deaths-brothers-agriculture-workplace-accident-1459178).

Two of the deceased men were brothers and the owners of the farm in Arena Po, a town about 28 miles from Milan. The two others were farm employees.

Investigators say it’s likely the men were overcome by fumes from the sewage, which was to be used as fertilizer.

Relatives of the victims looked for them at lunchtime and saw a body floating in the tank.

They called emergency services, but the rescue was complicated by the high levels of hydrogen sulfide. Authorities used a harness and respiratory protection to retrieve the bodies.

Preliminary findings suggest the men had been trying to save each other before their deaths. Autopsies will be performed.

Teresa Bellanova, Italy’s minister of agriculture, said, “Occupational safety is an essential right, we must make every effort to guarantee it.”

**A message worth repeating**

As a safety pro, you know you must emphasize to workers that if they aren’t trained in rescue, they shouldn’t attempt one. There are too many cases in which one worker’s death led to one or more additional fatalities because the other workers died during a rescue attempt they weren’t trained to handle.

It’s human nature to want to help in these situations. It’s a selfless act. In the moment, workers aren’t thinking of themselves; they’re thinking of the other person.

Here’s one potential way to drive home the point that untrained workers shouldn’t attempt rescues: In that moment, think of the people who depend on you and what would happen if suddenly you weren’t around.

***Safety News Alert***

Online Edition

September 17, 2019

[**Safety News Alert**](http://www.safetynewsalert.com/4-men-drown-in-sewage-tank-after-trying-to-rescue-farmer-trapped-inside/)

**New Opioid Toolkit for Worker Safety**

The National Safety Council (NSC) has unveiled a worker [opioid kit](https://safety.nsc.org/rxemployerkit?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=76997509&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-94rHs4T8Szkee-hXZZ-HVJvVfZqA-B2Nh6RrUiic6TeiHfqyH8J_0gzCUz1IVsC4iPJvdeVBYOXcMhfT6ORi_jjzh5VA&_hsmi=76997509) to help employers and workers cope with the opioid crisis that has gripped the nation.

The toolkit resources address many facets of the opioid epidemic as it appears in the workplace setting.

Surveys have shown that employers are ill-prepared to help their employees with opioid abuse, as drug overdose deaths continue to increase in the United States.

From 1999 to 2017, more than 702,000 people have died from a drug overdose. In 2017, more than 70,000 people died from drug overdoses, making it a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Of those deaths, almost 68% involved a prescription or illicit opioid.

Data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that opioid overdose deaths increased from 2016 to 2017.

The NSC sees this toolkit as an immediate workplace necessity.

The purpose of the kit is to:

* Understand opioids and how they impact the workplace;
* Learn about opioid misuse and opioid use disorder;
* Recognize signs of impairment;
* Educate employees on the risks of opioid use;
* Incorporate the right elements into drug-related HR policies and procedures; and
* Support employees who are struggling with opioid misuse or opioid use disorder.

The NSC has partnered with Stericycle to fund and design the kit, and the focus is on safety, information, and resources for four groups found in a typical workplace setting: supervisors, human resource (HR) professionals, safety professionals, and employees.

***SUNNEWS***

Online Edition

**September 23, 2019**

[**Safety Unlimited News-Service**](https://sunnewsreport.com/new-opioid-toolkit-for-worker-safety/)

**Employee struck by train, injured at work; did he suffer psychological injuries, too?**

An employee suffered serious injuries at work, which were covered under workers’ comp. But one question remained: Did he suffer compensable psychological injuries, too?

Brett Sullivan suffered a workplace injury in October 2011 when, as an employee of West Central Cooperative in Iowa, the wheel loader he was driving was struck by a train.

Sullivan spent a long time in the hospital and had a number of surgeries. West Central paid Sullivan for lost time, permanent partial disability and medical bills.

However, Sullivan also claimed he had a mental-health condition caused by the crash. The company disputed that claim.

A deputy commissioner of the Iowa Workers’ Compensation Commission found Sullivan didn’t have a mental condition as a result of his work injury.

Specifically, the deputy commissioner wrote:

“In this case, the old adage, ‘actions speak louder than words’ applies. For more than two years after the work injury, claimant attended numerous medical appointments. He returned to work and performed his duties, even though he had faced several surgeries, physical therapy sessions, and had to use such assistive devices as wheelchairs and walkers to perform his duties. Throughout that timeframe, Sullivan did not report to any of his medical providers or to his supervisors he was having depression, anxiety or PTSD. Sullivan did not request treatment or drug therapy for any mental health issues. His numerous treating physicians did not observe symptoms consistent with any mental condition.”

Four doctors weighed in on the issue. Two experts said he had a mental health issue, two said he didn’t. One went as far as to say Sullivan was malingering.

The deputy commissioner noted the evidence seemed more in line with the opinions of the doctors who said he didn’t have a mental health issue.

A commissioner, the full Commission and an Iowa district court all adopted the deputy’s opinion.

Recently, the Court of Appeals of Iowa weighed in. It, too, affirmed the original opinion, quoting the doctor who said Sullivan was malingering:

“It seems if we accepted at face value the severity of this patient’s cognitive difficulties, to report these symptoms after such a long period of time is a little peculiar.”

The appeals court found nothing wrong with the previous rulings. Sullivan was denied additional benefits for a mental health injury.

(Brett V. Sullivan v. West Central Cooperative, Court of Appeals of Iowa, No. 18-1811, 8/21/19)

***Safety News Alert***

Online Edition

August 28, 2019

[Safety News Alert](http://www.safetynewsalert.com/employee-struck-by-train-injured-at-work-did-he-suffer-psychological-injuries-too/)

**Ohio Roofing Contractor Sentenced to 3 Years in Prison for Ignoring Safety Hazards**

Ohio contractor Jim Coon was sentenced to prison last week after his 39-year-old employee had a fatal fall from a three-story building in November of 2017. Coon is sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and reportedly failing to install fall protection systems.

An OSHA investigation found that Coon, owner of Coon Construction, ignored safety hazards for his employees, did not provide workers’ compensation coverage, and even committed workers’ compensation fraud. Now, after his employee fell and later lost his life, Coon is faced with both incarceration and a penalty of $303,152 in restitution to the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation.

In the construction industry, falls continue to be the leading cause of fatalities, which makes fall protection absolutely essential, explains Loren Sweatt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. “Jim Coon willfully disregarded OSHA fall protection regulations that could have prevented this tragedy. This case should serve as a reminder to all employers to comply with their legal obligation to provide required safety equipment and protect employees on job sites.”

OSHA offers compliance assistance resources on how to prevent falls from ladders, scaffolds and roofs on the Fall Protection webpage at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection>.

***OH&S***

Online Edition

**Sept 26, 2019**

[OH&S Online](https://ohsonline.com/articles/2019/09/25/ohio-roofing-contractor-to-3-years-in-prison-for-ignoring-safety-hazards.aspx)

**Job Market Links**

**General Employment Links**

Golder Associates Inc. is currently seeking a mid-level CSP for the Jacksonville, FL office. This individual will provide construction safety support on a variety of construction projects locally and throughout the United States - [Golder Associates Inc](https://golder.taleo.net/careersection/globalcareersection/jobdetail.ftl?job=19002256&tz=GMT-04:00&tzname=)

[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/)

**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 Officers and Chairs**

**Elected Officers**

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

**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 approximately 200 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).

**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 Meeting Schedule**

**October 16, 2019**

**Assisting Injured Employees for an Expeditious Return to Work. Speakers from:**

**Concentra and The Doctors Center**

Location: NEFSC

1725 Art Museum Drive

Building B, Classroom D

Jacksonville, FL 32207

11:30 Lunch & Networking

12 Noon Meeting

**November 20, 2019**

**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/) 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#4371597136646D517975544F5976596D4E73384E69673D3D) 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~~)