

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - December 2018



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The VPPPA wishes everyone a happy & safe holiday season!

Safety+ Workshop Proposals Accepted Soon

It's hard to believe, but the next Safety+ Symposium will be here sooner than we can imagine! To kick things off, workshop proposals will start being accepted on **January 7**. Please consider sharing your safety and health expertise with our attendees. If you have any questions please reach out to conference@vpppa.org or call the National Office at **(703) 761-1146**.

Proposal Timeline

- Accepting proposals starting January 7, 2019
- Deadline: Friday, March 22, 2019
- Notification of Acceptance April 19, 2019
- Deadline for Accepting Speaking Role: May 24, 2019

Important Speaker Notes

- Proposals are for 1-hour workshops.
- Proposals that focus on promoting a commercial product will not be considered.
- Proposals will be reviewed and selected based on several criteria to include topic relevance, quality of proposal and creativity.
 - Tip: We are always excited to see creative, interactive and fun workshops in our selection process. Teach attendees through games like jeopardy or bingo, group work, or use props. Have fun and be creative!



- **You must choose a level for your workshop in correlation with the attendees experience with the topic:**
 - Beginner (0-5 years of experience)
 - Intermediate (6-10 years of experience)
 - Advanced (10+ years of experience)
- **Topic examples:**
 - Worksite Analysis, Hazard Prevention and Control, Training, Ergonomics, Management Commitment, DOE/EPA/OSHA, Health and Medical, Challenge, Behavior Based, Safety Management Systems, Employee Involvement, S.H.A.R.P., and Other

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December is National Safe Toys & Gifts Month

December is the biggest month for gift giving and receiving. However, we rarely think about the safety aspect of giving away some toys as presents. December is National Safety Toys and Gifts Month - and you can spread the word by using the hashtag #SafeToysAndGiftsMonth on social media.

A few ways to be sure the items you are giving are safe include:

1. Make sure to inspect the toys before you buy them. Try to avoid toys with sharp edges, lots of little parts, or parts that can be easily pulled off. (Especially if it's for a baby or toddler.)
2. Make sure the age and skill level marked on the toy matches the age and skill level of the child you're buying for.
3. Label check! Toys should have a label for ATSM (American Society for Testing and Materials) that proves it's up to standard. ATSM testing is more important than many people realize.
4. Do not give toys with ropes, cords, or that can heat up, and avoid crayons and markers unless they are labeled nontoxic.

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How to Be a Safety Ninja: Safety Training Webinar

We have a wide variety of webinars scheduled throughout 2019. Our session for January, "How to Be a Safety Ninja: Safety Training Webinar" will take place on **January 29 at 1:00 PM EST**. It will be presented by Regina McMichael from The Learning Factory. More details will be shared in the near future, so be sure to mark your calendars in advance. You will be able to register [here](#) very soon...stay tuned.

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Lawmaker Seeks OSHA Standard on Preventing Workplace Violence

Last month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released data showing that employers reported 2.8 million work-related injuries in 2017. In addition, it is very likely that this number of injuries was under-reported, and it is actually two or three times as high. The rate of violence against health care workers is exceptionally high - up to 12 times higher than the overall workforce, according to a 2016 Government Accountability Office Study. In 2016, 70 percent of nonfatal workplace assaults occurred in the health care or social assistance sectors. In an attempt to reduce this risk to our health care and social services workers, Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) has proposed legislation that would direct OSHA to issue a standard requiring employers in those industries to develop and implement workplace violence prevention plans. The bill (H.R. 7141) was introduced in the House on November 16.

"We expect health care and social services employees to care for us in our times for need," Courtney said in a press release, "but we know that each year these men and women are faced with rising rates of violence, often from patients and their families. This legislation compels OSHA to ... create an enforceable standard to ensure that employers are taking these risks seriously, and creating safe workplaces that their employees deserve."

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U.S. DOL Proposes to Revise Beryllium Standard for General Industry

OSHA has issued a proposed rule to revise the beryllium standard for general industry. The proposed changes are designed to clarify the standard, and to simplify or improve compliance with the standard. The proposed rule would amend selected paragraphs of the standard, including "Definitions," "Methods of Compliance," "Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment," "Hygiene Areas and Practices," "Housekeeping," "Medical Surveillance," "Hazard Communication," and "Recordkeeping." It would also remove the existing Appendix A, which lists suggested controls, and replace it with a new Appendix A, Operations for Establishing Beryllium Work Areas.

The proposal satisfies a settlement agreement with stakeholders that had concerns about some of the provisions in the 2017 beryllium final rule. The proposed rule would affect approximately 50,500 workers employed in general industry, and is estimated to yield minor net cost savings to employers. OSHA expects the proposed changes would provide employees with equivalent safety and health protections to the current standard.

As a follow-up, OSHA published the proposed rule to revise the beryllium general industry standard in the Federal Register on Dec. 11, 2018. In addition, OSHA has issued a memorandum with updated interim enforcement guidance for enforcing the beryllium standards. This memorandum continues previous interim guidance for those provisions of the beryllium standards (general industry, construction, and shipyard) that OSHA began enforcing on May 11, 2018, and adds interim guidance for certain provisions of the general industry standard with a compliance date of December 12, 2018.

The above was originally published by OSHA [here](#). You can find even more information about these standards on EHS Daily Advisor [here](#).

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Association Announcements

Write for a VPPPA Publication

Have you checked out the [VPPPA Blog?](#) Send us an article regarding any safety or health topic, and we will consider adding it to our blog schedule.

If you would like to write for a VPPPA publication, or know of someone who is

interested, please email communications@vpppa.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Membership News

If you have any news or pictures from your site that you would like to share (an award, a VPP approval, a member who went above and beyond, etc.), please send it to communications@vpppa.org. We would love to add your updates to the next On The Level newsletter or post it on our social media pages.

Member of the Month

Have you checked out the [Member of the Month](#) section on our website? If you would like to nominate someone as the VPPPA Member of the Month, please email membership@vpppa.org.

The December Member of the Month is John Dyer. You can read about him [here](#).

Congratulations, John!



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Stay Connected



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VPPPA, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, promotes advances in worker safety and health excellence through best practices and cooperative efforts among workers, employers, the government and communities.

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