

# ON THE LEVEL

— ◦ BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS ◦ —

## On The Level - October 2019



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**October is National Substance Abuse Month**

Did you know that October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month? It was first declared in 2011, and since then, October has been a time to highlight the vital role of substance abuse prevention in both individual and community health and to remember those who have lost their lives to substance abuse, to acknowledge those in recovery, as well as children, parents, family and friends supporting them.

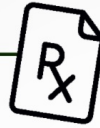
You can read even more about substance abuse and its impact on workplace safety in our 2018 Autumn issue of the *Leader* magazine, [here](#).

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According to the CDC, an average of **115 Americans die every day** from an opioid overdose.



**30 states** and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes.



A survey by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence showed that



**24 percent of workers** surveyed reported drinking during the work day.

In 2016, there were more than **20,000** overdose deaths from Fentanyl.



The opioid epidemic has cost the U.S. more than

**a trillion dollars** since 2001.



**75 percent**

of adults ages 18 to 64 with substance misuse disorders are in the workforce.



Fentanyl is anywhere from **50 to 100** times as powerful as heroin.



## Congratulations to the #VPPPAAnimals Contest Winner



Congratulations to Casper the cat, and owner, Sara Smith, for winning the #VPPPAAnimals Contest!

Casper will be featured in the next issue of the *Leader* magazine and Sara won a gift card. Thank you to everyone who entered. We loved seeing all of your adorable pets!

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## Free Safety & Health Webinars

EHS Today is currently offering a variety of free webinars for safety and health professionals. Check out a few of the opportunities below:

### [Protect Your Staff and Your Workplace with Optoelectronic Devices](#)

Tuesday, October 29 at 2:00PM Eastern

### [Managing Common Hearing Conservation Concerns](#)

Available now

### [Taking Care of My Flame Resistant/Arc Rated Clothing - Can I Mess it Up?](#)

Available now

In addition, all of the VPPPA webinars are available in our webinar library for free to members. **You can find all of our webinars [here](#).**

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## U.S. Department of Labor Approves New Respirator Fit Testing Protocols to Protect Workers from Airborne Contaminants

OSHA recently issued a final rule that provides employers with two new fit testing protocols for ensuring that employees' respirators fit properly. The new protocols are the modified ambient aerosol condensation nuclei counter (CNC) quantitative fit testing protocol for full-facepiece and half-mask elastomeric respirators, and the modified ambient aerosol CNC quantitative fit testing protocol for filtering facepiece respirators. Both protocols are variations of the original OSHA-approved ambient aerosol CNC protocol, but have fewer test exercises, shorter exercise duration, and a more streamlined sampling sequence.

These two quantitative methods add to the four existing in Appendix A of OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard, which contains mandatory respirator fit-testing protocols that employers must choose from to protect employees from hazardous airborne contaminants. The rule does not require employers in general industries, shipyard employment, and construction to update or replace their current fit testing methods, and does not impose additional costs.

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## Eugene Scalia Confirmed as Secretary of Labor

The Senate voted 53-44 on Thursday, September 26, to approve Eugene Scalia for Labor secretary. The son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Eugene Scalia is a partner at the Washington law firm Gibson Dunn. He previously served one year in the United States Department of Labor during the administration of George W. Bush.

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## 2020 Leader Magazine Themes Released

It is only October, but the year 2020 is right around the corner. VPPPA's quarterly magazine, the *Leader*, focuses on the latest safety and health topics and reaches over 8,000 people per issue. We love including articles from our membership, so if you (or a colleague) are a subject matter expert regarding one of the below topics, or if you'd like more information, please reach out to [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org).

### 2020 Editorial Schedule

- **Winter - Mental Health** (feature articles due November 26, 2019)
- **Spring - Profiles in Safety** (this issue will also include a special women in safety section & feature articles due March 13)
- **Summer - Personal Protective Equipment** (feature articles due June 12)
- **Autumn - Ergonomics** (feature articles due September 16)

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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](mailto:communications@vpppa.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

In case you didn't hear, the *Leader* magazine is now offered in Spanish. We are always looking for people to help us translate. If you are interested, please email [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org).

### **Instagram**

In case you haven't heard, VPPPA has an Instagram! Follow us @VPPPA\_Inc for fun updates.

### **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](mailto: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**

Make sure you visit 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](mailto:membership@vpppa.org).

**The October Member of the Month is Mark Rauenzahn. You can read about Mark [here](#).**



Congratulations, Mark!

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