

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - September 2017

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Thank You For Attending Safety+

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended the Safety+ symposium in New Orleans, LA! You can view the photos from the event [here](#).

In addition, our thoughts and prayers are with all of the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. At the end of Safety+, we asked for attendees to donate their extra toiletries and other personal items, as well as for our exhibitors to offer any PPE products, to the victims of the hurricane. The response was overwhelming. However, there is still so much needed. We urge everyone to donate if they can. Here are just a few sites taking donations:

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Save the Children: www.savethechildren.org

The Humane Society of the United States: www.humanesociety.org

Thanks again to everyone for attending, speaking and exhibiting at Safety+! We look forward to seeing everyone in Nashville next year.

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Electrical Safety After a Storm

Hurricane after hurricane have been hitting during this year's Atlantic hurricane season. While these storms are extremely dangerous, many additional concerns arrive even after the storm has come and gone. Dangers can hide where we least expect them while we clean up after these devastating storms. A few key electrical safety tips include:

- Stay away from downed power lines and be aware that tree limbs and other debris can hide an electrical hazard.
- Lines do not have to be sparking to be live, be sure to stay away and contact the electric utility company to assess the line.
- Never step into a flooded area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords.
- Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water. Also, never turn your break box off if you must stand in water to do so.
- Do not use electric yard tools to clean up if it is raining, the ground is wet or you are standing in water.
- Have a professional verify the safety of any water-damaged electronics or appliances.
- Stay away from downed power lines while driving and do not drive over them.

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September is National Preparedness Month

Did you know September was National Preparedness Month? This year's theme is "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." How do you plan ahead at home and in the workplace? You can find out more [here](#) about National Preparedness Month and how you can implement these useful tools at home or on the job - any day of the year. This week focuses on building a plan and practicing it by:

- Completing an [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#)
- Maintaining emergency savings for use in case of an emergency
- Participating in an emergency drill
- Knowing how to access community resources (shelters, food banks)

Share with us how you stay prepared on social media!

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OSHA News: Alliance with American Chemistry Council

Earlier this month, OSHA and the American Chemistry Council (ACC) established a two-year alliance to raise awareness for workers' safety and health. The alliance promotes safe practices for workers exposed to diisocyanates and their use in the polyurethane industry. Jobs such as painting, foam-blowing and manufacturing polyurethane products (insulation, car seats, furniture, foam mattresses, etc.) are at risk for isocyanate exposure. According to OSHA, "Health effects of isocyanate exposure include irritation of skin and mucous membranes, chest tightness, and difficult breathing. Isocyanates include compounds classified as potential human carcinogens and known to cause cancer in animals. The main effects of hazardous exposures are occupational asthma and other lung problems, as well as irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin." The alliance will create a web-based training program on the safe use of chemicals and the potential routes of exposure to users, as well as establishing other best practices seminars and educational resources.

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Want to Write for VPPPA or Share Your Site's News?

The VPPPA Blog

Have you checked out the VPPPA [blog](#)? We are always looking for new content. Articles can focus on any aspect of safety and health (PPE, leadership, training, safety programs, etc.)

and we update every other Thursday.

The Leader Magazine

The next magazine issue will focus on women in safety and health. If you are interested in contributing an article on this topic, or know someone who might be, please reach out.

In addition, if you have news or pictures from your site to share (an award, a VPP approval, a member who went above and beyond, etc.) please share it with us! We would love to add your updates to the next *On The Level* newsletter.

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!

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