



# VC Spotlight

## A Place for Safety Professionals to Meet

August 2020

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### Valley Coastal Website

<https://valleycoastal.assp.org/>

## President's Message

Greetings!

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our homes, families, friends, work environment and everything in between. Despite the challenges it has presented, it has also provided our OSH professionals an opportunity to thrive during these difficult times. The Valley Coastal Chapter's objective is to be a reliable source to stay informed, provide practical solutions and enable us to stay connected. We ask that you join us through this journey and challenge us to be your go-to resource. We wish you to stay connected and partake in our upcoming events.

Vanessa de la Torre, Chapter President

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## Mark Your Calendars! - August 19, 2020

**Topic:** WISE Collaboration Return to Work Matrix for COVID-19

**Presenter:** William (Bill) R. Geddings, SMS, OHST, CHST

**Online Meeting (See Page 2)**

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## August Meeting - WISE Collaboration Return to Work Matrix for COVID-19

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:30 a.m.

### Topic & Class Description:

The Matrix was started on 21 April 2020 as a way for Bill to personally and professionally (at work) be able to keep up with the flood of information that was pouring in from government agencies, various companies, subject matter experts, etc. As he started chatting online with the WISE Facebook group members, he realized that there was an opportunity to collaborate with other safety professionals to create something more than just what suited his needs. He reached out to the administrators to WISE to see if he might be able to use the WISE social media platforms to create a larger community of safety professionals that could possibly contribute. We successfully put together a group of over 50 EHS professionals who over the course of 3 webinars contributed to the project. Many more emails and online messages added to the collection of documents and information that makes up the Matrix today.

**Guest Speaker:** William (Bill) R. Geddings, SMS, OHST, CHST

Bill is a seasoned environmental, health, and safety professional with over 20 years of regulatory and compliance experience in the public and private sectors. Recognized for demonstrating a natural aptitude for partnering with diverse cross-disciplinary teams, as well as for managing complex safety projects, he has a verifiable history of contributing directly to organizational growth and expansion throughout his career.

Currently, he is the Head of Environment, Health and Safety for Wisk Aero in Mountain View, California. Whereas a leader, he collaborates with scientists and engineers in research and development labs as well as with our manufacturing and flight test teams to solve all EHS challenges. Additionally, he liaises with key internal and external stakeholders and cross-functional teams to ensure the organization's safety support structure drives forward with minimal expenditures.

To Register for the Valley Coastal ASSP Chapter August Meeting

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1381438911933200651>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## Valley Coastal ASSP's Website

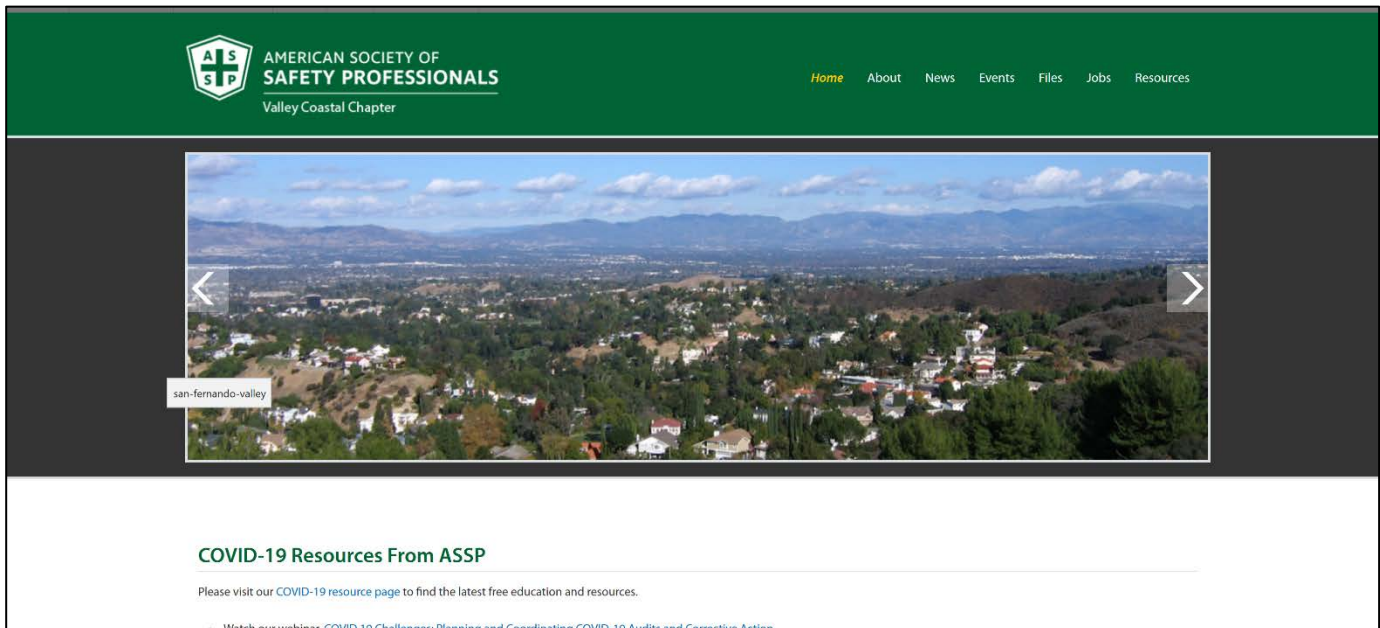
Visit the Valley Coastal ASSP's website and take advantage of all the following opportunities:

**Past Presentations (and other files)** – View previous webinars, newsletters, and meeting minutes.

**News Page** – View current news releases from Valley Coastal as well as National ASSP

**Events Page** – View current events and available webinars from National ASSP

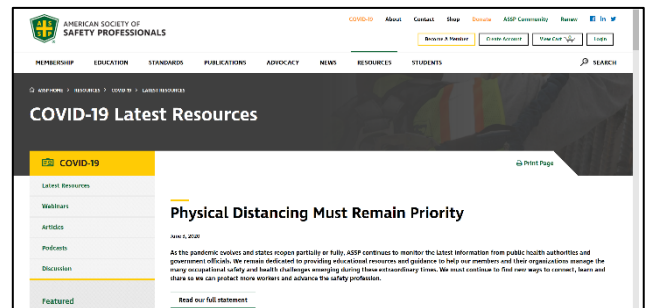
**COVID – 19 Resource** – View Industry relevant COVID – 19 Resources



## ASSP COVID-19 Resources

Visit ASSP National's COVID-19 Resource Page for a wide array of up to date news and learning opportunities.

[CLICK HERE For More Information](#)



## CDC's COVID-19 Toolkit Covers a Wide Range of Settings

CDC's toolkit webpage provides a wide range of resources for communicating about COVID-19 to a variety of audiences.

[CLICK HERE for more information.](#)

## Pandemic Challenges: How to Return to Work Safely

Gain information and review examples of practices OSH professionals can use to help their organization resume operations and safely return people to a traditional work environment.

[CLICK HERE to Register](#)

## COVID-19 Challenges: Using ISO 45001 to Enhance Mental Health and Well Being

In this webinar, expert Kahlilah Guyah discusses how ISO 45001 can help organizations take a holistic approach to safety and health as businesses reopen.

[CLICK HERE to Watch the Webinar](#)

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## Newsroom

### Safe and Sound Week – August 10 – 16



**Safe + Sound Week** is a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe. For more information, Click Here: <https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek/>

### Fiscal Year 2020 2021 Federal Budget Proposal

ASSP Federal Representative Adele Abrams provides a high-level review of how the proposed federal government budget for fiscal year 2021 may affect major safety agencies like OSHA, NIOSH and CSB. [Click Here](#) for more Information

### U.S. Department of Labor Approves New Respiratory Fit Testing Protocols

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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. [Click Here](#) for more information

### OSHA Revised National Emphasis Program on Silica

OSHA's revised National Emphasis Program aims to reduce or eliminate worker exposures to respirable crystalline silica in general industry, maritime and construction. [Click Here](#) for more information

For up to date news and industry relevant information, visit ASSP's Newsroom at [www.assp.org/news](http://www.assp.org/news)

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## News Release - U.S. Department of Labor - June 10, 2020

### **U.S. Department of Labor Issues Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About Face Coverings, Surgical Masks and Respirators in the Workplace**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a series of [frequently asked questions and answers](#) regarding the use of masks in the workplace.

“As our economy reopens for business, millions of Americans will be wearing masks in their workplace for the first time,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. “OSHA is ready to help workers and employers understand how to properly use masks so they can stay safe and healthy in the workplace.”

The new guidance outlines the differences between cloth face coverings, surgical masks and respirators. It further reminds employers not to use surgical masks or cloth face coverings when respirators are needed. In addition, the guidance notes the need for social distancing measures, even when workers are wearing cloth face coverings, and recommends following the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance on washing face coverings](#).

These frequently asked questions and answers mark the latest guidance from OSHA addressing protective measures for workplaces during the coronavirus pandemic. Previously, OSHA published numerous guidance documents for workers and employers, available at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>, including [five guidance documents aimed](#) at expanding the availability of respirators.

For further information and resources about the coronavirus disease, please visit OSHA’s [coronavirus webpage](#).

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 [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department’s [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

## U.S. Department of Labor Reminds Employers of Important Protections for Working Safely in Summer Heat

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Throughout much of the U.S., high temperatures and humidity in the summer season can create hot and hazardous working conditions, both outdoors and indoors. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers of their duty to protect employees from the risks and dangers of heat exposure. OSHA reminds employers of the following ways to mitigate heat hazards:

- Water. Rest. Shade. Employers should encourage workers to drink water every 15 minutes, and take frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned areas;
- New and temporary workers are most at risk to the hazards of excessive heat. Monitor new employees and offer them extra protections from elevated heat conditions until they are fully acclimatized. Create a [plan to protect new workers from heat illness](#);
- Strenuous physical exertion increases body heat and workers’ risk of heat-related illness. Evaluate the combination of body heat and environmental heat to determine if heat stress is a potential hazard. OSHA recommends [assessment tools that are based on levels of physical activity and wet bulb globe temperature](#) readings;
- Recognize that serious heat-related illnesses can occur on normal summer days, when temperatures are not extreme. A good rule of thumb is that [workers need additional protective measures whenever the Heat Index is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or above](#);
- Indoor industries, such as kitchens, laundries, and warehouses, can also become dangerously hot. OSHA offers a [list of those industries at high risk](#);
- Increase ventilation, use cooling fans, and whenever possible schedule work at a cooler time of the day. OSHA’s heat page includes a [list of best practices](#);
- Ensure adequate [planning and supervision](#) to keep workers safe in the heat; and
- Train workers on the hazards of heat exposure and how to prevent illness.

[OSHA’s Occupational Heat Exposure page](#) explains the symptoms of heat illness, first aid measures to provide while waiting for help, proactive engineering controls and work practices to reduce workers’ exposure to heat, and training.

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## Interested in Presenting?

Valley Coastal ASSP invites those interested in presenting at one of its Professional Development Meetings to submit a proposal to [Programs@valleycoastal.assp.org](mailto:Programs@valleycoastal.assp.org). Valley Coastal ASSP endeavors to provide a forum for attendees to learn the profession's best practices and to:

- Identify key issues facing SH&E professionals
- Expand their knowledge to improve their professional skills
- Prepare for the challenges in the SH&E fields
- Engage in the discourse concerning the profession
- Identify emerging issues relevant to the profession

