



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Utah Chapter

September 2019 Newsletter

- Message from the Board
- Chapter News
- Upcoming Events
- Career Opportunities

Save the date: October 9 - 11

36th Annual Utah Conference on Safety & Industrial Hygiene
at the University of Utah.

Ed Henkels, Newsletter Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Robert Weston, Chapter Membership Chair

We are now in the beginning of another school year. Kids are out walking the streets in the early hours of the day. This is a time when many accidents happen because sunlight starts to change as we get closer to the semi-annual time changes. Not only do we need to be concerned with the safety of the kids on the streets, we need to focus our efforts on every employee. Early morning, start times means more traffic on the streets. With all the road construction going on, we would like to remind everyone to make sure employees are wearing the correct reflective clothing; proper traffic control is used; and to slow down through the construction zones. Keeping an eye out

for each other is the best way to make sure everyone has the chance to go home at the end of the day. Remember Safety Matters to everyone.

CHAPTER AND REGIONAL NEWS

AUGUST MEETING: SLC Airport

Updating the SLC International Airport is no small undertaking. On 8/15, a large group of our members from the Utah Chapter were treated to an inside look at the construction progress and the many safety and health challenges faced on such a large project. We thank all those who helped make the monthly meeting and site tour a success. For more information about the project visit <https://www.slcairport.com/thenewslc/>

TECHNICAL ARTICLE

Vehicle Operations

Joseph Nickerbocker

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the United States. All workers are at risk of crashes, whether they drive light or heavy vehicles, or whether driving is a main or incidental portion of their job. Unfortunately, Workers are subject to many vehicle hazards even if they never drive as part of their job.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2016 work related injuries and illness claimed the lives of just under 5000 workers. The CDC estimated that 38% of these fatalities are the direct result of motor vehicle incidents. Shining a spotlight on the hazards of driving as well as setting up corporate controls for many of them will go along way in protecting your team members both on and off the job.

Hazards

I find it helpful during the preplanning of any trip to review the potential hazards that could impact myself and others on the road. Listed below are some of the most common causes of serious injury & fatalities associated with vehicle operation:

- Distracted Driving (Cell Phone Use, Daydreaming, Eating, Radio, etc)
- Speeding
- Not Wearing Your Seat Belt
- Reckless Driving/Road Rage
- Changing Road Conditions:
 - Rain, Ice, Snow, Wind, Fog, Litter/ Debris, Standing Water, Road Damage, High Winds, Deadly Curves, Etc.
- Running Red Lights or Stop Signs
- Inexperienced or Untrained Drivers
- Unsafe Lane Changes or Improper Turns
- Tailgating
- Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs Medication
- Drowsy Driving
- Mechanical Failures: Break or Steering Failure, Tire Blowouts, Etc.
- Animals Crossing
- What others can you think of?

HAZARD MITIGATION

Also consider implementing the following policies to help your team members on the job or your family at home avoid the negative impacts of the Hazards on the road.

- Company insured and approved drivers must maintain a current State issued driver license.

- A Commercial Driver License Is Required For both vehicles with a gross total weight rating of 26,001 pounds or a towed unit of 10,001 pounds or more (i.e. tractor-trailer.)
- Offer a Defensive Driving Course at no cost to your employees (many insurance companies have excellent resources on this front and may even lower premiums if all drivers under the policy completed a defensive driving course).
- Monitor Driver's Motor Vehicle Report (MVR)
- Have a written Commitment Form that when signed commits all your drivers to certain level or standard of conduct behind the wheel.
- Avoid Destructions!! With the technology today that is always at our fingertips, this may be the single most effective way to keep out of trouble on the road.
- Seatbelts are to be worn by all in the vehicle 100% of the time the vehicle is in motion.
- Preventative Maintenance (care for your car so it can care for you).
- Drive at Safe Speeds.

And one last tip for you, Drive safe and sleep easy folks... never at the same time.

Joseph Nickerbocker, CSP, CHST
Site Safety Manager
Okland Construction

Thank you Joseph for contributing this article.
Ed Henkels, Newsletter Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Chapter Meeting

September 19, 11:30-1pm, Check website for additional details

<https://utah.assp.org/events/chapter-meeting-sept-2019/>

October Chapter Meeting

October 10, 7am - 8am, University of Utah A. Ray Olpin Building

<https://utah.assp.org/events/chapter-meeting-oct-2019/>

Annual Utah Conference on Safety & Industrial Hygiene

October 9–11, University of Utah

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

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Currently, there are openings for 2 Safety Specialists at Amazon's automated robotics fulfillment center. There is also an opening for Onsite Medical Representatives, which requires an EMT license and 1 year of experience.

We will post the jobs in the Environmental, Health & Safety, and Industrial Hygiene fields to our website at no charge, but the chapter is always accepting donations to our scholarship fund.

<https://utah.assp.org/current-openings/>



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