

The summer's end is approaching, The days are getting shorter again. Back to school routines are going to go into effect and the fall festivities are going to begin so I would like to take this time to officially begin our 79th year as a local section of AIHA. We have some interesting meetings and events planned during this year and we look forward to you participating!

A few things that we have upcoming that you should be alert about;

- September 21, 2023, 5:30PM – 9:30PM @ Stage House Tavern in SOMERSET, NJ: **SAVE THE DATE!** This will be our first dinner meeting of the season. Early registrations are eligible to win a door prize before dinner is served.
- November 30, 2023 @ Virtual **SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Professional Development Courses (PDCs) will be virtual again this year.
- December 1, 2023, 7:15AM – 4:30PM @ Hyatt Regency in Princeton NJ: **SAVE THE DATE!** This is the Northeast Industrial Hygiene Conference & Expo hosted by the Metro NY AIHA, we are excited about this lineup. Early Registrations will receive a discounted rate!
- Our Summer course has just concluded, and it was huge success. Stay tuned for detailed summary.

Our dinner meetings have industry professionals present and industry specific presentations, if you know of any young professionals looking for advice or information, please sponsor a student to attend our dinner meetings.

Lastly, I know I started this message talking about the transition to fall but we anticipate some more hot days and we want to remind you that there is still a National Emphasis Program on Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards. When the heat index is 80°F or higher, serious occupational heat-related illnesses and injuries become more frequent, especially in workplaces where unacclimatized workers are performing strenuous work (e.g., intense arm and back/lifting work, carrying, shoveling, manual sawing, pushing and pulling heavy loads, and walking at a fast pace), without easy access to cool water, or cool/shaded areas, when working in direct sunlight or areas where other radiant heat sources are present. Whether you are working in the heat or are responsible for managing people who work in the heat, please remember to be safe by;

- Acclimatize workers starting the first day working in the heat, and after any extended absences
- Provide shade for outdoor work sites
- Schedule work earlier or later in the day
- Use work/rest schedules
- Limit strenuous work (eg., carrying heavy loads)
- Use relief workers when needed

You may feel pressure from timelines and stakeholders to work faster and harder in the heat but none of these pressures will matter if you or a member of your team ends up in a hospital or dead from heat stress or heat related illnesses. This is the reality of heat. Thank you NJAIHA, we look forward to seeing you this year!

Richard A. Lynch
President, NJAIHA
Richard@LynchCIHIAQ.com

NJAIHA Executive Board 2023-2024 Election Results Are In; Appointment Made

The results of the NJAIHA Executive Board 2023-2024 elections are in. And we are very pleased to report that **Bill Pockels** has won election as our incoming NJAIHA President-Elect and **Candice Kowalewski** will be returning to start another three year term as NJAIHA Director of Membership Services. Candice has already served in that position for the past 6 years!

In addition, at our recent August 2023 NJAIHA Executive Board Planning Meeting for the upcoming year, **Eric Shwartsman**, an OSHA industrial hygienist/compliance officer, was appointed with unanimous approval as NJAIHA Outreach Coordinator, replacing Dan Preisler who stepped down from the Outreach Coordinator position at the end of the last program year. We thank Dan again for the service he provided to NJAIHA in this important role of promoting the field of industrial hygiene as a viable career path for high school and college students.

In addition to his taking on the role of Outreach Coordinator for NJAIHA, it should be noted that Eric, also a student in the Graduate Program at the Rutgers School of Public Health, was also the recipient in June 2023 of the *Brian M. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship* (see related article this issue).

Congratulations and best wishes to Bill, Candice, and Eric as they begin and/or continue in their roles with NJAIHA.

The New Jersey Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association



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Obtain Knowledge and CIH Maintenance Points through AIHA "eLearning"

NJAIHA has renewed its subscription for the AIHA eLearning program. If you are a NJAIHA member in good standing, you will have access to the designated AIHA eLearning programs at no charge to you.

NEW! All NJAIHA members in good standing who choose to participate in the eLearning Program have access to the live presentation as well as the recorded session at a later time.

The 2023 package will include 10 contact hours of live webinars or the associated archive recordings and 10 contact hours of selected sessions from the AIHceEXP OnDemand.

Updates for the NJAIHA roster are made quarterly. If NJAIHA members are not receiving correspondence from AIHA regarding eLearning offerings, please contact Ronnie Tutty (rtutty@ptd.net) to verify that your correct email address and current membership status are in place. If you are not able to participate in a live webinar, the recordings will be made available online within a few days after the live webinar.

Go to <https://www.aiha.org/education/elearning>, and click "View Online Classroom" to get started.

Upcoming Live Webinars & Recordings

Please note that participation in live webinars is optional. Recordings from these live webinars will be made available in the online classroom 1-2 days after the event, and remain active for participants until the end of the program year.

AIHA “eLearning” (cont’d)

Available webinars (as of 3/14/2023, access expires on 01/01/2024);

- AIHA University Webinar: **AIHA and the IH/OEHS Community: Your Role in Consensus Standards** - Recording Available Now!
- AIHA University Webinar: **Workplace Violence Primer and Update for the IH** - Recording Available Now!
- AIHA University Webinar: **Research Laboratory Safety in the 21st Century** - Recording Available Now!
- AIHA University Webinar: **An IH and a Data Scientist Swap Perspectives on Big Data** (Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 1:00-2:00 PM ET)
- AIHA University Webinar: **Strategies for Effective Risk Communication** (Tuesday, April 25, 2023, from 1:00-3:00 PM ET)
- AIHA University Webinar: **Beat the Heat! Considerations for Your Heat Stress Management Plan** (Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 1:00-2:00 PM ET)

OnDemand Offerings

- **Perspectives and Challenges of IH Professionals Within the Circular Economy** (AIHce EXP 2022 OnDemand)
- **Research Roundup: Epidemiology** (AIHce EXP 2022 OnDemand)
- **Research Roundup: Hazard Recognition** (AIHce EXP 2022 OnDemand)
- **Why Don't We See the Things That Can Hurt Us?** (AIHce EXP 2022 OnDemand)

Complimentary Course

- AIHA University Course: **Making Accurate Exposure Risk Decisions (9 Contact Hours)**



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The New Jersey Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association



Protecting New Jersey Worker Health

Dual Concentration in Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) Environmental and Occupational Health and Justice (EOHJ) Department, including Occupational Safety and Health MPH

The MPH concentration in occupational safety and health at Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) has been approved. This is now one of two concentrations within the Department. Please note you can go online and see details at:

<http://sph.rutgers.edu/concentrations/Environmental-Occupational-Health/index.html>

A formal application to the program is done through SOPHAS.

<http://sph.rutgers.edu/admissions/index.html>

Please select “occupational health” (and not “environmental health”) among choices under Rutgers SPH, listed at: <https://programfinder.aspph.org/>

Admissions requirements, and deadlines for application submission, are posted at SOPHAS and on main Rutgers SPH website. Contacts: Dr. Derek Shendell (shendedg@sph.rutgers.edu) and Dr. Koshy Koshy (koshyko@sph.rutgers.edu)

OUTREACH UPDATE

We are working hard to continue to build momentum in our Outreach Program and we need your help. We have developed materials, both written and visual, that can be used at conferences, job fairs, presentations at high schools and colleges, etc. and we are looking for NJAIHA members to share your passion and story as to why you became an industrial hygienist. If you weren't already planning to attend our monthly meeting this month, please come and join us so we can gather your testimony and a picture (with your approval of course).

Attracting students and young professionals to become industrial hygienists or pursue other disciplines in the environmental, health and safety field is a need recognized by national AIHA and your Executive Committee has taken this challenge on here in New Jersey. For this to be most successful, these students and young professionals will benefit immensely by being able to connect with you who are actively protecting the health of our workforce.

Please plan on joining us!

Please address comments or questions to info@njaiha.org.

OUR LOCAL SECTION OFFICERS

2023-2024

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<i>Outreach Coordinator</i>	Eric Schwartzman		eshwartzman1@gmail.com

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Contact: Brian Feury, CIH | President, NJAIHA
Senior Project Manager, Langan | 201.417.2666 | bfeury@langan.com

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NJAIHA - WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Member	Date Joined
Thomas Abbott	6/2023
Ci Hui	8/2023
Suzanne Custons	9/2023

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Publications Director's Note

This issue sees OSHA fine a car wash operator for electric shock and control of hazardous energy hazards – sort of an obvious concern but apparently overlooked.

NATIONWIDE AUTO SERVICES PROVIDER EXPOSED WORKERS TO POTENTIALLY DEADLY ELECTRICAL HAZARDS AT BEACHWOOD TAKE 5 CAR WASH, FEDERAL INSPECTORS FIND

Driven Brands subsidiary faces \$256K in penalties for 13 safety, health violations

BEACHWOOD, OH – While the potential deadly risks of mixing electricity and water are well known, Take 5 Car Wash, a Beachwood company operated by a subsidiary of one of the nation's largest automotive services companies, ignored reports of employees suffering electrical shocks for more than 14 months, a U.S. Department of Labor investigation has found.

In response to a complaint of unsafe working conditions, the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration opened an inspection of the car wash in March 2023 and learned that employees were assigned to clean the walls of the facility with high-pressure water near electrical equipment, including a 480-volt electrical panel not rated for wet or damp locations and showing signs of deterioration.

"Our investigation found that Take 5 Car Wash's management knew that live electrical hazards existed throughout the facility, and that employees suffered electrical shocks repeatedly, yet allowed them to continue working in these conditions and took several weeks to make repairs after a worker suffered electrical shock," said OSHA Area Director Howard Eberts in Cleveland. "It is unsettling that a company with such vast resources would expose employees to the potentially deadly risks of electrical shock."

Inspectors also found rusted electrical boxes with live wires, improper use of flexible cords, and restrooms without properly grounded outlets, all of which exposed workers to potential shocks. Additionally, inspectors found multiple energized electrical cabinets and boxes were not guarded to prevent contact with live parts.

In addition, OSHA inspectors found Take 5 Car Wash failed to:

- Use lockout procedures to control potentially hazardous energy sources for those working in the car wash tunnel, amid automatically controlled equipment, highly pressurized water and heated blowers.
- Remove lockout/tagout kits from boxes.
- Train employees on energy control procedures and applying lockout on track and tunnel equipment.
- Conduct required periodic inspections of machine safety procedures.
- Ensure adequate working space was provided around electrical equipment.
- Train unqualified persons on safety-related electrical work practices and provide them with appropriate personal protective equipment.

Following the March 2023 inspection, OSHA cited Driven Brands Shared Services LLC for one willful and 12 serious safety and health violations. The agency proposed \$256,707 in penalties.

The operator, which acquired the Beachwood location in October 2020, is a subsidiary of the North Carolina-based Driven Brands Inc. The publicly traded parent company provides consumer and

commercial automotive services, including paint, collision, glass, vehicle repair, oil change, maintenance and car wash through its Take 5 Oil Change, Take 5 Car Wash, Meineke Car Care Centers, Maaco, 1-800-Radiator & A/C, Auto Glass Now and CARSTAR brands.

Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Driven Brands Inc. provides automotive services at more than 4,800 locations in 15 countries and services 70 million vehicles annually.

Learn more about OSHA's recommendations for addressing potential electrical hazards.

We Need You!

NJAIHA Members are encouraged to submit items for publication in "The Examiner". Interesting items related to Industrial Hygiene, outreach activities, (non-proprietary) things from your work in the field, papers, presentations, and posters from conferences, everyday examples of the importance and power of a healthy environment, or anything you're passionate about in our field that might be of interest to our members. Make it good, make it uplifting, make it valuable, and make my job easier!

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Coordinator

Eric Schwartzman



September Dinner Meeting

DATE: September 21, 2023

PLACE: The Stage House Tavern, SOMERSET

1719 Amwell Road, Somerset, NJ 08873

Registration Fee: \$45

(Please note this event is **NOT** at the Stage House Tavern in Mountainside, NJ where we were having the 2022 dinner meetings.)



AGENDA:

5:00 p.m. Registration/Networking/Cash Bar

5:30 p.m. Before-Dinner Speaker Session;

5:45 p.m. Before Dinner Session:

Topic: Active Mold Growth in an Indoor Space

Speaker: Robert J. DeMalo, M.Sc.

Rob DeMalo is currently the Vice President and Partner of Indoor Environmental Concepts, LLC (IEC), headquartered in Runnemede, NJ. IEC is a full-service industrial hygiene consulting firm serving New Jersey, the Greater Philadelphia, and the Metro NY regions. Rob has over 32 years of experience in the industrial hygiene and environmental health and safety industries. Prior to IEC, Rob spent 25 years at EMSL Analytical, Inc., most recently as their Sr. Vice President of

Laboratory Services and Business Development. Rob is a member of EIA, AIHA and ASTM and has provided numerous technical presentations at local and national conferences. Rob also provides asbestos litigation support and expert testimony. Rob previously served on the EIA Board of Directors as Secretary from 2014 to 2017 and as Director from 2017 to 2020. Rob holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook as well as a Master of Science degree from the City University of New York at Hunter College in Environmental and Occupational Health Science

AGENDA (cont'd)

6:30 p.m. - Buffet Dinner

7:15 p.m. After-Dinner Speaker Session:

Topic: Respond to and Mitigate the Unthinkable

Speaker: Steve Yeretzian

Steve Yeretzian is a graduate of Temple University with a Bachelor of Business Administration where he met his wife. 32 years later, they have three daughters aged 25, 23, and 21. His Primary career focus was previously in property management and quality assurance but was encouraged to shift to biohazard in December of 2017 through the influence of the owner of AZ Bio in Phoenix. Together they established the BioHelpers brand in New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania. They view the business as a mission-based endeavor in that they serve families who may have lost a loved one. Their aim is to serve through compassion and excellence. Steve is Certified by The National Institute of Decontamination Specialists in the area of biohazard remediation, Certified by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification (IICRC) in the areas of Applied Microbial Remediation, Applied Structural Drying, Water Restoration, Fire and Smoke Restoration, and Xactimate Estimating, and a Member of the American Bio Recovery Association.

8:15 pm – 9 pm – After session discussion, wrap- up, and conclusion.

Please register by Friday, September 15th, by emailing Ronnie Tutty at njaiha@ptd.net, or register online at: http://www.njaiha.org/event/sept-2023-dinner-meeting/?instance_id=761

The New Jersey Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association



NJAIHA Members in the News

Recent NJAIHA Activities in Pictures

Tim Rice, NJAIHA Historian



New Jersey Section AIHA - June 2023 Year-End Dinner Meeting

On Thursday, **June 15, 2023**, our annual year-end Dinner Meeting was held at the **Stage House Tavern** in Somerset, NJ. Section members and guests convened for the last meeting of the 2022-2023 season during which an outgoing officer was recognized, the year in review was presented, our annual student scholarships were once again bestowed, technical presentations were given, and members got one last chance to network before Section meetings begin again in the Fall. On the next few pages are some highlights from the evening in pictures.



Marc Vargas, NJAIHA President, discusses the highlights and accomplishments of the past year during his 2022-2023 NJAIHA Year-end Report.



Barbara Woodhull, NJAIHA Treasurer, begins her presentation of the NJAIHA Financial Report for the 2022-2023 Operating Year. Our Section continues to maintain itself on fiscally sound ground.



NJAIHA members and guests take in the evening's proceedings.

New Jersey Section AIHA - June 2023 Year-End Dinner Meeting (cont.)

A traditional event which usually takes place during our annual year-end June dinner meeting is the presentation of scholarships to deserving and qualifying students who have demonstrated scholastic excellence in the study and promotion of environmental health and safety/industrial hygiene at the collegiate undergraduate or graduate levels. And, for the past four years, our scholarship program has been open to high school senior year level students with some experience in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)-oriented educational curriculum, and who have expressed an interest in pursuing a STEM-based curriculum, or preferably an IH/occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS)-based curriculum at the collegiate level.

Though we did not have any high school level scholarship applicants this year, the NJAIHA Executive Committee was very pleased to be able to approve the awarding of scholarships to five deserving college students to the total of **\$5,500!**

With **Candice Kowalewski**, NJAIHA Director of Membership Services, presiding (right), five students were awarded scholarships as follows:

- The *Raymond Manganelli Scholarship* to **George Hseeh**, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (photos below)
- The *Brian M. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship* to **Eric Shwartsman**, Rutgers School of Public Health (photo next page)
- A *President's Scholarship* to **Elizabeth Fookson**, Syracuse University (photo next page)
- A *President's Scholarship* to **Leena Fookson**, Rutgers University
- A *President's Scholarship* to **James Bruno**, William Paterson University (photo next page)



Congratulations to George, Eric, Elizabeth, Leena and James from everyone at NJAIHA!



George Hseeh, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, receives the *Raymond Manganelli Scholarship* from Candice Kowalewski, NJAIHA Director of Membership Services. George is a repeat recipient of the *Raymond Manganelli Scholarship*. Congratulations, George!



(left to right) Irina Fookson, mother of *President Scholarship* recipients Elizabeth and Leena Fookson, and George Hseeh, *Raymond Manganelli Scholarship* recipient, gather for a photo with Candice Kowalewski.

(Note: Eric Shwartsman, Elizabeth Fookson, Leena Fookson and James Bruno were unable to be with us in person for the evening's activities.)

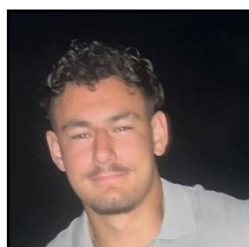
New Jersey Section AIHA - June 2023 Year-End Dinner Meeting (cont.)



Eric Shwartsman,
Rutgers School of
Public Health



Elizabeth Fookson,
Syracuse University



James Bruno,
William Paterson
University



Brian Feury, (right) NJAIHA Past-President, presents outgoing NJAIHA President Marc Vargas with a personalized plaque in recognition of his past year of active and meritorious service to the NJ Section. Thank you, Marc, for your service!



Note: Our scheduled after-dinner technical speaker was unable to make the June dinner meeting due to a last minute personal issue. We are so thankful that NJAIHA President-Elect Richard Lynch and NJAIHA President Marc Vargas were able fill in with technical presentations they had on hand on their computers. Thank you so much, Rich and Marc!

(Above left) Richard A. Lynch, CIH, CIEC, MBA, Founder/CEO, Lynch CIH & IAQ Consultants, LLC; NJAIHA President-Elect

Presentation:

"Increasing OEHS' Impact Radius"

(Above right) Marc Vargas, CIH, MPH, Industrial Hygienist, NJAIHA President

Presentation:

"Briefcase Study on Silica"; "Furfuryl Alcohol Can Polymerize"

April 2023 NJAIHA Dinner Meeting - Past Presidents' Night
4/20/23 at the Stage House Tavern, Mountainside, NJ

The New Jersey Section AIHA (NjaiHA) held their annual Past Presidents' Night on April 20, 2023, this year at the Stage House Tavern in Mountainside, NJ. Among the NJAIHA members and guests joining in the festivities that night were **seven** Section Past Presidents whose terms dated as far back as 1989-90. Another great night for the NJAIHA!



NjaiHA Past Presidents' Night - April 20, 2023
Stage House Tavern, Mountainside, NJ

Left to right (period in office): Tim Rice (1989-90), Jack Glass (2001-02), Pat Mulrooney (2002-03), Sheldon Cooper (1999-2000), Mike Mancini (2007-08), Joe Kapp (2008-09). Inset: Brian Feury (2021-22)

April 2023 NJAIHA Dinner Meeting - Past Presidents' Night (cont.)

(below) NJAIHA Past Presidents and members register, catch up, and network prior to the evening's before-dinner technical presentation.



(left) **Marc Vargas**, NJAIHA President, opens the dinner meeting with a welcoming message and a few announcements prior to introducing our Past Presidents and our before-dinner speaker.

(below) NJAIHA Past Presidents and members take in the before-dinner technical presentation.



April 2023 NJAIHA Dinner Meeting - Past Presidents' Night (cont.)



Before-dinner Technical Speaker:

Patrick Mulrooney, CIH, CSP, CHMM, Senior Staff Industrial Hygienist, Lockheed Martin Corporate Environment, Safety, Health and Sustainability Department; NJAIHA President 2002-2003

Presentation:

"Fatigue Management Biomathematical Models & Tools"

Patrick, thank you sharing with us this excellent presentation reviewing biomathematical models used to assess and mitigate the occupational hazard of fatigue related impairment.



After-dinner Technical Speaker:

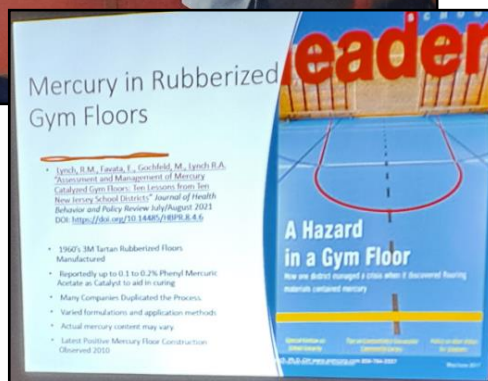
Richard M. Lynch, Ph.D., CIH, President, Environmental Safety Management Corporation; NJAIHA Summer IH Review Course Instructor

Presentation:

"Mercury in Rubberized Gym Floors - 10 Lessons from 10 Floors in 10 School Districts"

Dr. Lynch, thank you for sharing with NJAIHA members and guest your experiences and research with the assessment and management of mercury in rubberized gym floors. Most enlightening.

Inset: Slide from Dr. Lynch's presentation



NJAIHA Summer IH Review Course Wrap-Up – Tom Burgess, Coordinator

The 2023 NJAIHA Summer Review Courses had a successful completion at the end of August. The on-line format was well received, and we had over 40 participants this year including many from outside New Jersey. We are fortunate to have a distinguished list of instructors who bring a lot of experience and insight into the courses, and we look forward to continued success in 2024.

For participants in the courses, verification of attendance letters will be sent out confirming attendance and contact hours.

Job Postings and Website Links

There are many job postings on our web site. If you are looking or just curious check them out.

<http://www.njaiha.org/resources/job-postings/>

There are several job postings on these other organization web sites as well:

Visit NJAIHA On-line

NJAIHA is continuously posting relevant information on industrial hygiene principles and practice on these webpages. Feel free to find out current events which may affect your business or industry and continue the conversation on a regional, national, and international level.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/njaiha/>.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3675325>

<http://nj.assp.org/current-openings/>

<http://www.philaaiha.com/Employment.htm>

AIHA Legislative Connection

Interested in what's going on in the Federal and State Governments? Follow the link below:

[Government Relations & Advocacy](#)

State & Federal Government Relations Update: September 2023

Federal:

July 27, 2023

Department of Labor announces hazard alert, steps up enforcement as extreme heat endangers workers across the nation

Federal law requires employers to provide safe, healthy working conditions

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued [a heat hazard alert](#) to remind employers of their obligation to protect workers against heat illness or injury in outdoor and indoor workplaces.

The department also announced that OSHA will intensify its enforcement where workers are exposed to heat hazards, with increased inspections in high-risk industries like construction and agriculture. These actions will fully implement the agency's National Emphasis Program on heat, announced in April 2022, to focus enforcement efforts in geographic areas and industries with the most vulnerable workers.

The action comes as President Biden [announced new actions today to protect workers from extreme heat and new investments to protect communities](#), as historically high temperatures break records and expose millions of people to the serious dangers of heat in the workplace.

"Historically high temperatures impact everyone and put our nation's workers at high risk," said Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su. "A workplace heat standard has long been a top priority for the Department of Labor, but rulemaking takes time and working people need help now. Today, at the President's request, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a heat hazard alert to make sure employers follow current standards and that workers across the country know their rights. This action, combined with OSHA's increased heat-safety enforcement efforts, shows that we are determined to protect the safety and health of millions of people whose jobs become more hazardous in harsh weather."

Since 2011, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 436 people have died due to workplace heat exposure, with an annual average of 38 deaths between 2011 to 2019. In addition, an average of 2,700 cases involving heat illnesses lead to days lost at work, putting an additional economic burden on workers and employers. Statistics show that people who work in conditions without adequate climate-control face higher risks of hazardous heat exposure and that these situations disproportionately expose people of color to hazardous heat.

In October 2021, OSHA began the rulemaking process to consider a heat-specific workplace standard by publishing an [Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings](#) in the Federal Register.

"As the Occupational Safety and Health Administration works toward proposing a rule to protect workers from heat illness, we are taking several measures today to better protect workers in extreme heat," said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. "Employers have a duty to protect workers by reducing and eliminating hazards that expose workers to heat illness or injury."

OSHA uses hazard alerts to provide specific information on safety and health hazards to employers, workers and other stakeholders. An alert describes the hazard and offers

recommendations on how hazardous exposures can be eliminated or reduced and what actions employers should take to protect employees. The alert issued today does the following:

- Highlights what employers can and should be doing now to protect employees.
- Ensures employees are aware of their rights, including protections against retaliation.
- Highlights steps OSHA is currently taking to protect workers.
- Directs employers, employees and the public to crucial OSHA resources, including guidance and fact sheets on heat.

"State laws that attempt to limit workers' access to basic heat-illness prevention measures send a dangerous message that employers are not responsible for providing employees with a safe work environment. In fact, that is simply not the case. Regardless of their job or where in the nation they work, workers have the right to a safe and healthy workplace. OSHA will use every tool and mechanism at our disposal to enforce those rights and make sure that every employee ends their workday safe and healthy," Parker added.

As the rulemaking process for a proposed heat-specific workplace standard continues, OSHA has moved to protect workers from excess heat in the workplace by taking the following actions:

- Developing [an enforcement initiative](#) on heat-related hazards.
- Launching of a [National Emphasis Program](#) on heat inspections.
- Creating the [National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health's](#) Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Work Group to understand challenges and share best practices to protect workers.
- Launching a [Heat Illness Prevention campaign](#) to educate employers and workers on the dangers of working in the heat.

[Learn more about OSHA](#) and [how to protect workers from heat illness](#).

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Department of Labor announces proposed rule to clarify personal protective equipment standard, ensure safety of construction industry workers

Action seeks to align construction, general industry, maritime standards

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a [notice of proposed rulemaking to clarify the personal protective equipment standard](#) for the construction industry.

The current standard does not state clearly that PPE must fit each affected employee properly, which the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's general industry and maritime standards do. The proposed change would clarify that PPE must fit each employee properly to protect them from occupational hazards.

The failure of standard-sized PPE to protect physically smaller construction workers properly, as well as problems with access to properly fitting PPE, have long been safety and health concerns in the construction industry, especially for some women. The proposed rule clarifies [the existing requirement](#), and OSHA does not expect the change will increase employers' costs or compliance burdens. The proposed revision would align the language in OSHA's PPE standard for construction with standards for general industry and maritime.

"If personal protective equipment does not fit properly, an employee may be unprotected or dangerously exposed to hazards and face tragic consequences," explained Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. "We look forward to hearing from stakeholders on this important issue as we work together to ensure that construction workers of all genders and sizes are fitted properly with safety gear."

[Submit comments and hearing requests online](#) using the Federal eRulemaking Portal and reference Docket No. OSHA-2019-0003. [Read the Federal Register notice](#) for details. Comments and hearing requests must be submitted by Sept. 18, 2023.

PPE must fit properly to provide adequate protection to employees. Improperly fitting PPE may fail to provide any protection to an employee, present additional hazards, or discourage employees from using such equipment in the workplace.

[Learn more about personal protective equipment in construction.](#)

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Influence Government by Joining AIHA's New Grassroots Advocacy Center

NOTE: This is a repeat from the last issue, this is a really well-done program and we should all use it to place important issues in front of legislators.

You know that the actions of legislators and government agencies impact your job, industry, community, and nation. The challenge is staying on top of the more than 140,000 bills, regulations, and other government actions proposed each year. Now, AIHA has a new solution for you—a tool that will make it easier for you to connect with your state and federal government officials: AIHA's new Grassroots Advocacy Center.

In addition to connecting with federal and state officials, the Grassroots Advocacy Center enables you to easily research federal or state legislation, either by bill number or keyword.

However, you don't have to do this on your own. When you sign up for alerts, you'll receive messages containing custom opportunities to connect with policymakers on high-value issues affecting workplace and community health and safety. Our messages to you will say "Action Alert" in the subject line, so keep an eye out for those keywords.

While we can't tell you exactly when each Action Alert will be sent to you, we can tell you that they'll be timed to maximize your influence with policymakers, so it's important that you respond as soon as possible when you see each alert.

Of course, you don't have to wait for an Action Alert. You can take action right now. Here are three steps I recommend for increasing your influence with policymakers:

Visit AIHA's Grassroots Advocacy Center.

Enter your preferred email address and ZIP code into the boxes under "Sign Up for Alerts" on the right-hand side of the page, then click the arrow button and enter your information on the following page.

State & Federal Government Relations Update (cont'd)

Send a message to your policymakers. First, you need to refresh the page. You will have two options: either take action on an Action Alert we have set up or enter your ZIP code in the box under "Find Officials," click the arrow button, and select the officials you'd like to contact.

(Clicking on their names brings up a window with useful information about each official.) The "Compose Message" button allows you to write an email to your official. You can select the subject and message that's right for you.

Mark Ames
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Thanks to Volunteers