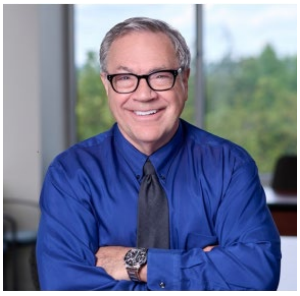

President's Message

As summer arrives, so does the Pittsburgh Section's semi-annual Business Meeting. Reflecting on the discussions and accomplishments highlighted below, I am encouraged by the commitment, expertise, and innovation demonstrated throughout our membership. Through professional development, scholarship support, student outreach, technical education, and networking opportunities, our Section continues to advance the industrial hygiene profession while promoting worker health and well-being.

Advances in Technology Supporting the Profession -The tools available to occupational and environmental health professionals continue to evolve at a remarkable pace. From advances in gas detection and real-time monitoring to emerging applications of artificial intelligence, technology is creating new opportunities to better recognize, evaluate, and control workplace hazards.

At our Summer Business Meeting, MSA Safety provided an excellent presentation highlighting significant advances in fixed toxic and refrigerant gas monitoring, flame detection, and connected safety technologies. These developments demonstrate how industrial hygiene is increasingly intersecting with automation, digitalization, and environmental stewardship, enabling practitioners to make more informed, data-driven decisions while enhancing worker protection.

A Commitment to Continuous Learning - While technology continues to transform our profession, our most important investment remains our people. The Board remains committed to supporting continuing professional development through high-quality educational programming. Over the past year, members have had opportunities to explore both traditional and emerging industrial hygiene topics. More than 400 e-learning certificates were issued through our Section-supported learning platform, and the Board unanimously supported continued investment in this valuable member benefit.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing technically relevant and high-quality educational programming. Potential topics under consideration include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- PFAS
- Heat Stress
- Indoor Air Quality
- Exposure Modeling
- Bayesian Statistics
- Real-Time Monitoring Technologies
- NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluations

These subjects reflect both current workplace challenges and emerging trends that will shape the future of occupational and environmental health practice.

Investing in the Next Generation of Professionals - The Board remains committed to fostering student engagement, scholarship opportunities, and outreach efforts that will strengthen the next generation of industrial hygiene professionals. This commitment is evident through several noteworthy accomplishments and proposals:

- Local scholarship recipient Naydelin Hernandez attended AIHA Connect 2026 and expressed a strong interest in pursuing additional industrial hygiene education.
- Kari Knable, a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, received the prestigious National TSI Arthur Abrams Memorial Scholarship.
- The Section continued engagement with students and faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Slippery Rock University while exploring opportunities to expand relationships with additional institutions, including West Virginia University.
- The Board discussed a proposed bylaw amendment that would encourage every Board member to actively participate in student outreach initiatives.

These efforts help ensure that talented students are introduced to industrial hygiene early in their academic careers and receive the support and mentorship needed to pursue professional practice.

Expanding Partnerships - The meeting also highlighted the strength of our relationships with academic institutions, laboratories, manufacturers, and employers throughout the region. Through sponsorships, active membership, and collaborative programs, organizations such as Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock University, R.J. Lee Group, Intertek, Amazon, FedEx, and MSA Safety and all of our other generous corporate sponsors continue to contribute to the vitality of our Section.

I was particularly pleased to see member interest in our recent tour of the Butler County Community College Public Safety and Industrial Safety Training Academy. The Academy's has been instrumental in the training of more than 10,000 emergency responders and industrial personnel throughout the state and beyond its borders. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about BC3's fire service, hazardous materials, emergency response, and industrial safety training programs. The Academy's realistic training environments and hands-on approach underscore the important role practical training plays in supporting worker safety, emergency preparedness, and regulatory compliance throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Collectively, these partnerships reflect the evolving industrial and economic landscape of Southwestern Pennsylvania and reinforce the important role industrial hygiene professionals play in supporting a healthy, productive workforce.

Financially Strong and Looking Ahead - I am pleased to report that the Pittsburgh Section remains financially strong and well positioned to support its mission. Through prudent stewardship of resources, we continue to invest in scholarships, technical programming, professional development opportunities, and our highly utilized e-learning platform.

At the same time, member engagement remains critical to sustaining these efforts. We encourage colleagues who have not yet renewed their membership to reconnect with the Section and take advantage of the many benefits and opportunities available through our local professional community.

In closing, the discussions at our Summer Business Meeting reinforced that the strength of the AIHA Pittsburgh Section lies in its people. Our membership possesses the technical expertise, leadership, curiosity, and shared commitment necessary to meet both current and emerging occupational and environmental health challenges. As our profession continues to evolve alongside changing industries and advancing technologies, I am confident that the Pittsburgh Section will continue to serve as a trusted resource, a learning community, and a catalyst for professional growth.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and working together to advance occupational and environmental health throughout our region.

Zane Frund, Jr., PhD, MPH, MBA, CIH - President, AIHA Pittsburgh Section

Meeting Review – Presentation and Tour of Butler County Community College Public Safety and Industrial Safety Training Academy

The Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section was invited on Thursday, May 21st, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to the Butler County Community College (BC3) Public Safety and Industrial Safety Training Academy to learn more about the services they offer. The event started with a presentation by Coordinator of Public Safety Kevin Smith. Mr. Smith also serves as the Commander of the Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Deputy Fire Chief with the Bulter Township Volunteer Fire District. Through his role at BC3, Mr. Smith supports the training of 10,000 first responders and other professionals each year.

Mr. Smith's counterpart is Maria Chvala, who is the Coordinator of Industrial Safety Training; however, she was unable to attend the event, which led to Mr. Smith discussing both topics during his presentation. The presentation covered the numerous training courses currently being offered by BC3, including Fire, Hazmat, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and First Aid topics as well as OSHA Training topics. From Industrial Fire Brigade to Confined Space Rescue to HAZWOPER to Hazard Communication Training, BC3 offers many courses to a diverse audience. During the presentation, these offerings were discussed and how BC3 incorporates a hands-on element into them.

Following the presentation, Mr. Smith gave a tour of the Public Safety Training Facility. The unique training structures and props include a rescue tower, three-story burn building, flash over simulator, tanker truck, rail tank car, helicopter imitation, confined space simulators, and mock industrial settings for both fire and hazmat emergencies. He also showed the attendees a lot of the different equipment, including a fire truck that is utilized to conduct this hands-on training using the aforementioned training structures and props. The tour really depicted the great training being offered by BC3.

The presentation and tour were enjoyed by all the attendees. Mr. Smith indicated they are always interested in recruiting new instructors, so any AIHA Member who is interested and qualified to provide a training topic offered by BC3 should reach out to Mr. Smith or Ms. Chvala. Overall, the Pittsburgh AIHA would like to extend a big thanks to Mr. Smith for being our presenter and tour guide.

Finally, we would like to thank the following members/guests who attended the event:

- Darrick Bertig, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Barbara Cummings, AM Health and Safety
- Zane Frund, MSA Safety
- Betty Goodman-Klein, DOCS HEALTH
- Josh Maskrey, Insight Exposure & Risk Sciences
- Dane Mitcheson, FedEx
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA Tator
- Zachary Rengers, Covestro
- Sarmed Shareef, Community College of Allegheny County
- Matt Zock, Amazon
- Alex Zupanovich, Covestro

Thanks to Dane Mitcheson, AIHA Pgh. Secretary, for providing this summary.

Summer Business Meeting Review - Thurs. July 9, 2026

The Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh AIHA held the Summer local section business meeting at MSA Product Development Laboratory in Cranberry, PA on Thursday, July 9, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Full meeting minutes are available on the website. Members in attendance included:

- Zane Frund, MSA Safety - incoming President
- Darrick Bertig, IUP - outgoing President
- Josh Maskrey, Insight Exposure & Risk Sciences Group - incoming President-Elect
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA-Tator, Inc. - Treasurer
- Matt Zock, Amazon - incoming Director
- Dane Mitcheson, FedEx - Secretary
- Barbara Cummings, AM Health & Safety

Member News

New Professional Members

Welcome to the following new Professional Members:

- Will England, Amazon
- Julian Chimelewski, AM Health & Safety
- Matthew Moorhouse, Amentum
- Sara Galley, Applied Geology and Environmental Science
- Hayley White, Covestro
- Michael Siwiec, EQT

New Student Members - IUP Safety Sciences

Join us in welcoming several new Pittsburgh AIHA members and IUP students. Pictured below are eight of the ten IUP Safety, Health, and Environmental Applied Sciences students who joined our local section during the Spring 2026 semester. New members include: Rashed Elamin, Elizabeth Fordham (President of IUP Student AIHA), MacKenzie Keiper, Connor Sheirer, Rudy Shetler, Logan Shovel, Elijah Sorchilla, Mason Steed, Tagg Walker, Nathan Wood.

In Memoriam: Raffaele “Raffie” Sessa

The Pittsburgh AIHA community mourns the loss of Raffaele “Raffie” Sessa, a long-time member and respected OEHS professional who passed away in early June 2026. Raffie was known for his dedication to worker health, mentorship of students, and warm presence at chapter events. Raffie was also a National AIHA Fellow and served on the Pittsburgh AIHA Executive Committee as Secretary and Director.

Obituaries: Beinhauer Funeral Home: https://www.beinhauer.com/obituaries

Legacy (Post-Gazette): https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/postgazette/name/raffaele-sessa-obituary

2026 Pittsburgh AIHA Membership Renewal – Past Due

Membership dues for 2026 was due December 31, 2025. We have 40+ members who have not paid their Pittsburgh AIHA dues. An email was sent on 2/15/26 requesting payment. There are two ways to pay –

1. **National AIHA members** should check the box for Pittsburgh Local Section to include your LS annual **dues of $35** for your Pittsburgh AIHA membership, or
2. NON-National AIHA members can pay dues directly to the Pittsburgh AIHA via the link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=42WTZ9VE56U8A.

Information is also posted on the homepage. Any questions, please contact Christy at ckirsch@pittsburghaiha.org.

IUP Offering Free Safety Training for Small Businesses

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Safety Sciences is offering **free safety training** for small businesses across Pennsylvania through the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Susan Harwood Grant program.

The training covers the following topics:

- Hazard Communication
- Lockout/Tagout
- Inhalation and Absorption Hazards/Respiratory Protection

Training is available **in English or Spanish** and can be conducted **onsite at your company or at a convenient location near you**.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

There is no cost to participate. To learn more and request training, please visit IUP's website at https://www.iup.edu/safetysciences/osha-training/index.html and complete the brief survey questionnaire.

IUP Contact person for more information:
Dr. Tracey L. Cekada, CSP
Chairperson and Professor
Department of Safety Sciences and Env.l Engineering
Phone: 724-357-3019 **Email:** cekadat@iup.edu

Pittsburgh AIHA Member Awarded TSI/Arthur J. Abrams Scholarship!

Congratulations to Pittsburgh AIHA member **Kari Knable**, who was awarded the **TSI/Arthur J. Abrams Memorial Scholarship** at AIHA Connect 2026. Kari joined our local section while enrolled in Darrick Bertig's Safety and Health Communications course at IUP in Spring 2025. She is currently completing her internship and majoring in **Safety, Health, and Environmental Applied Sciences** at IUP.

The TSI/Arthur J. Abrams Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF), is presented to a first-time student, with preference given to those attending a college or university in Minnesota or the Northeastern United States. Additional consideration is given to students returning to school to pursue a career change into the industrial hygiene profession.

Our **Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section Scholarship** recipient, **Naydelin Hernandez**, was also recognized at AIHA Connect 2026 and is included in the group photo of scholarship winners.

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2026 eLearning Subscription – Summer Update

The National AIHA sent an eLearning notice to subscribers on July 15 with these updates. Please check your email for the calendar links or log into your online classroom to access the program. If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach the National team at DLAssistant@aiha.org.

Participants in the **2026 Pittsburgh AIHA eLearning Subscription** continue to enjoy full access to this year's online classroom. The program runs through **December 2026**, and members are encouraged to log in regularly to take advantage of new webinars, OnDemand recordings, and continuing education opportunities.

This benefit is available only to ACTIVE Pittsburgh AIHA members who have renewed their membership for 2026. If you did not receive the eLearning email, please confirm that your membership is current.

- **Log in and access the online classroom: https://learning.aiha.org**
- **Review the information posted on the 2026 eLearning Subscribers page**

Upcoming Live Webinars

Subscribers are automatically registered for all live events and can access them under **My Live Events** in the online classroom.

- **Climate, Health, and Sustainability 101** – July 22
- **Modern Noise Dosimetry** – August 5
- **Chemical Protective Clothing Performance & Program Management** – September 30
- **OEHS Ethics in the Age of AI** – November 4
- **An Updated Toolbox for Modeling Exposures** – November 18

New Webinar Recordings Added

- Hazard Recognition & Control for the Emerging North American Cannabis Industry
- Psychosocial Hazards 101
- Engaging the Workforce to Control SIF Risk
- Making Practical Sense of Enormous Data Logs
- Mental Health as a Core Workplace Value
- PPE Risk Assessment
- Controlling Silica Exposure in Stone Countertop Fabrication & Installation

New OnDemand Sessions Added

- ToxShorts: Occupational Exposure Banding Basics
- ToxShorts: Respiratory Anatomy, Physiology, and Toxicology
- Managing Roof Hazards
- Objective Quality Evidence & Robust Records
- Welding Fume Exposure Factors
- Upton Sinclair Lecture: Protecting Miners

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach the National team at DLAssistant@aiha.org.

National AIHA News and Updates

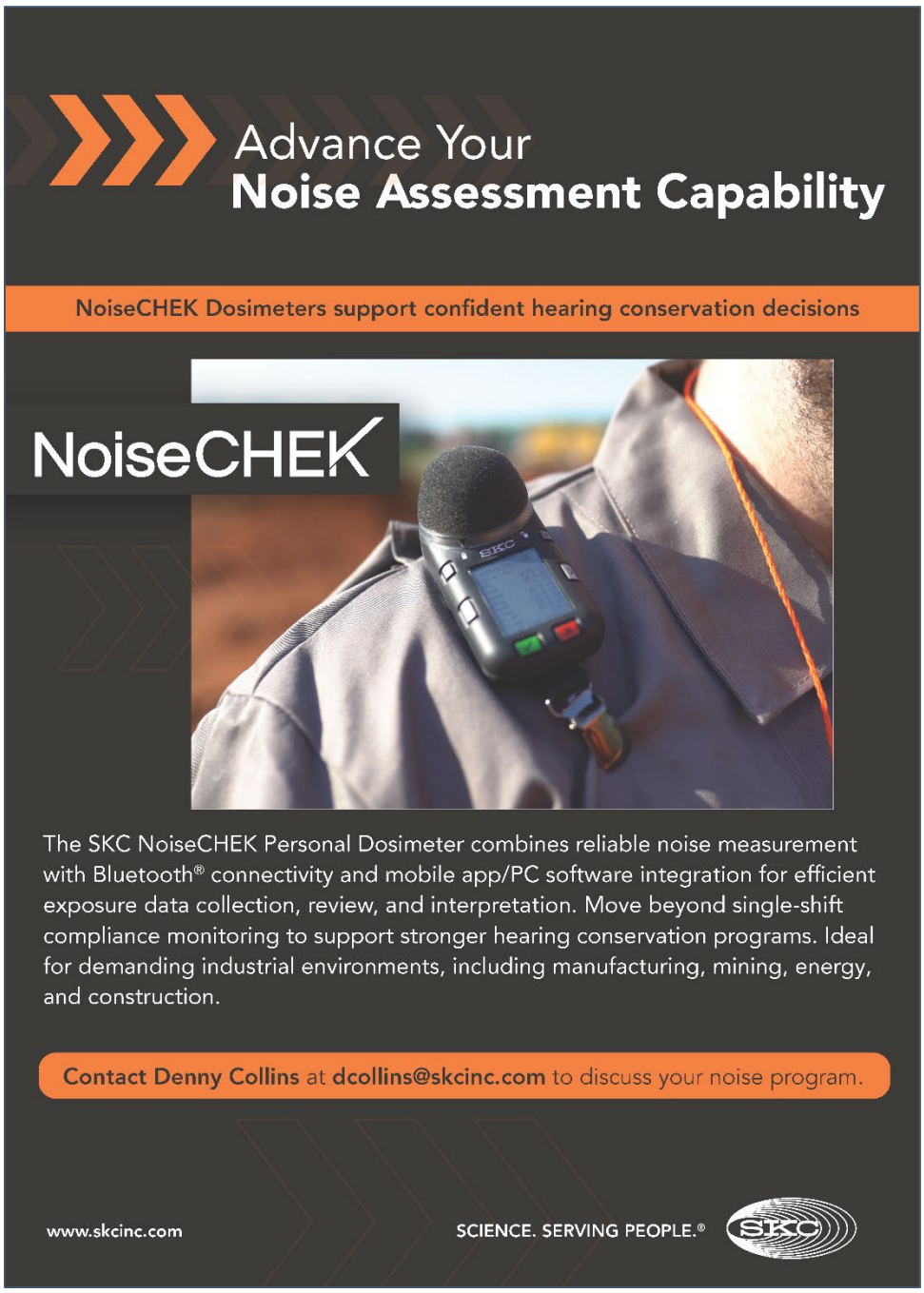
Connect 2027 Call for Proposals Now Open

AIHA has opened the **Call for Proposals for Connect 2027**, and members are encouraged to share their expertise as part of next year's education program. Following the success of Connect 2026 in New Orleans, AIHA is preparing an even more dynamic conference in **Houston, Texas**, and is seeking contributions from subject matter experts across the OEHS community.

If you have an innovative idea or a topic that deserves greater visibility, now is the perfect time to submit a session proposal. **Submission Deadline: September 9, 2026.** Learn more at: **https://aihaconnect.org**

AIHA Initiates Search for New CEO

AIHA announced on May 28 that it has begun the search for its next Chief Executive Officer. The current CEO, Lawrence D. Sloan, will conclude his tenure at the end of 2026, marking the close of a decade of leadership. AIHA is seeking a successor who will guide the association's strategic direction, strengthen member engagement, and support continued growth across OEHS initiatives. Read the full press release: https://www.aiha.org/press/aiha-initiates-search-for-new-ceo



AIHA Guideline Foundation Launches New ERPG Online Resource

The AIHA Guideline Foundation now offers a new online resource making Emergency Response Planning Guidelines (ERPGs) and their supporting technical documentation easier to find, navigate, and apply. The digital platform provides free, centralized access to ERPG values, background science, and explanatory materials for the entire professional community. ERPGs — airborne concentration thresholds for short-term, high-level chemical exposures — support site planning, risk communication, and emergency decision-making, and are referenced in EPA's Risk Management Program rule and built into tools like CAMEO and NOAA's ALOHA modeling software. The launch comes as AIHA modernizes its ERPG program ahead of the guidelines' 40th anniversary in 2027. ERPG Online Resource: https://erpg.aiha.org/Content/About.cfm

AIHA Healthier Workplaces Show: Season Five Now Streaming

AIHA's bi-monthly video podcast, the Healthier Workplaces Show, is in its fifth season, spotlighting the future of the OEHS profession. Recent episodes cover CEO Larry Sloan's recap of the National Town Hall, a midpoint look at AIHA's 2025–2027 strategic plan, and how AI-driven data is reshaping workplace resilience — themes explored by AIHA Connect 2026 closing speaker Tom Koulopoulos. The season also covers regulatory updates and the human side of safety, including integrating Mental Health First Aid into workplace safety culture. Healthier Workplaces Show: https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/healthierworkplaces/healthier-workplaces-show-video-podcast-industrial-hygiene-advice

Micro-Volunteering with AIHA

AIHA offers micro-volunteering opportunities for members who want to contribute without a long-term commitment. These quick, flexible tasks—such as reviewing technical content, supporting advocacy efforts, helping with educational materials, or contributing to SynergistNOW—typically take only minutes to an hour and help advance AIHA's mission. It's

an easy way for busy OEHS professionals to stay engaged and make an impact. Learn more or explore current opportunities: Micro-Volunteering for AIHA https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/micro-volunteering-for-aiha

AIHA, ACGIH Announce Integration Discussions

AIHA, ACGIH ANNOUNCE INTEGRATION DISCUSSIONS

During the AIHA Connect 2026 closing session on June 3, Bradley King, PhD, MPH, CIH, and Nancy M. McLellan, MPH, CIH, CHMM, of AIHA's Board of Directors were joined on stage by Stephanie Lynch, PhD, CIH, CSP, chair of the ACGIH Board of Directors, to announce that the two organizations have been in discussions to explore deeper alignment and assess the feasibility of a strategic integration.

As described in an FAQ on AIHA's website, the potential integration would combine ACGIH and AIHA's Guideline Foundation into a new entity. The intent of this integration would be to strengthen long-term sustainability, produce greater efficiencies, enhance service to the profession, and expand global impact. ACGIH would retain its brand within the new entity, while education and training currently offered by ACGIH may be brought under their respective programs within AIHA.

The potential benefits to members from integration would be an expanded professional network and opportunities to collaborate, combined educational and technical resources, greater influence in policy and global OEHS initiatives, and reduced duplication across programs and offerings from the two organizations.

Scientific independence and integrity, particularly concerning the ACGIH TLVs and BEIs as well as the AIHA OELs and ERPGs, are main considerations in the discussions. See the article by McClellan on page 8 for more discussion of this issue.

The first of three town hall webinars on the potential integration was held in June. Additional town halls have been scheduled for Aug. 24 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET and for Sept. 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. ET. Visit **aiha.info/joinlth2** and **aiha.info/joinlth3** to register for these events.

More information is available from the FAQ page at **aiha.info/integration**. Members are invited to submit questions and feedback regarding the potential integration at **aiha.info/feedback**.

During the AIHA Connect 2026 closing session on June 3, AIHA Board of Directors members Bradley King, PhD, MPH, CIH, and Nancy M. McLellan, MPH, CIH, CHMM, joined ACGIH Board Chair Stephanie Lynch, PhD, CIH, CSP, on stage to announce that the two organizations are exploring a deeper alignment and assessing the feasibility of a strategic integration.

According to an FAQ on AIHA's website, the potential integration would combine ACGIH and AIHA's Guideline Foundation into a new entity. ACGIH would retain its own brand within the new entity, while education and training currently offered by ACGIH may be brought under their respective programs within AIHA.

Potential member benefits include an expanded professional network and collaboration opportunities, combined educational and technical resources, greater influence in policy and global OEHS initiatives, and reduced duplication across programs and offerings from the two organizations. Scientific independence and integrity — particularly regarding the ACGIH TLVs and BEIs, as well as the AIHA OELs and ERPGs — remain key considerations in the discussions.

Two town hall webinars on the potential integration were held in June, with additional sessions scheduled for August 24 (1–2:30 p.m. ET) and September 22 (1:30–3 p.m. ET). Visit https://www.aiha.org/aiha-acgih-information-faqs to register.

More information is available on the FAQ page at https://www.aiha.org/aiha-acgih-information-faqs. Members can submit questions and feedback at https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019e3c4451ae7dae804e797a6da91b53.

Events & Regional Highlights

Festival of Combustion–Celebrating Industrial Heritage-Oct. 3, 2026

Rivers of Steel will once again host the Festival of Combustion at the historic Carrie Blast Furnaces, celebrating Pittsburgh's industrial legacy through metal casting, blacksmithing, glassblowing, welding demonstrations, and fiery artistic performances.

The event offers a rare opportunity to see traditional and modern metalworking processes up close while exploring the region's steelmaking history. Family-friendly activities, food trucks, live music, and guided tours round out the experience.

Learn more: https://riversofsteel.com/experiences/festivals/festival-of-combustion-2026/

MASHA Safety Conference –Save the Date - Oct. 29, 2026

The Mid-Atlantic Safety & Health Alliance (MASHA) will host its annual MASHA Safety Conference on October 29, 2026, bringing together safety, health, and environmental professionals from across the region for a full day of training, technical sessions, and networking. The conference features expert speakers, regulatory updates, and practical workshops designed to support workplace safety and compliance across industries.

Held each year in collaboration with regional safety organizations, MASHA's conference continues to be a valuable resource for OEHS professionals seeking high-quality education and peer engagement.

Event information and updates:
https://mashasafetyconference.org/

PA Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference – 100th Anniversary

The **PA Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference (GOSH)** will celebrate its **100th anniversary** this year, marking a century of advancing workplace safety, health, and education across the Commonwealth. This milestone event will take place **December 10–11, 2026** in **Hershey, Pennsylvania**, bringing together safety professionals, industrial hygienists, regulators, and industry leaders for two days of training, networking, and technical sessions.

Registration will open soon, and members are encouraged to watch for updates and secure their spot early for this landmark conference.

Learn more at: https://www.pasafetyconference.com/home

Regulatory Update – Summer 2026

OSHA to Hold Public Hearings on Proposed "Aggressive Deregulatory Efforts"

Starting August 19, OSHA will hold virtual public hearings on more than 20 proposed rule changes tied to its broader deregulatory push first announced in July 2025. The proposals include eliminating medical evaluation requirements for certain respirators, 16 changes affecting respiratory protection standards for hazardous substances (including asbestos, lead, and benzene), and an amendment to fall protection requirements under the walking-working surfaces standard.

Notably, OSHA's own Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) recommended against dropping the medical evaluation requirements, urging the agency to instead study best practices and provide additional training to employers.

The hearings begin at 9:30 a.m. on August 19 and continue subsequent weekdays, with the total number of days depending on how many people requested to testify. Visit https://www.osha.gov/deregulatory-rulemaking

Also on the agenda: proposed safety color codes for marking physical hazards in textile facilities, sawmills, and shipyards.

OSHA Heat Hazard NEP: Seasonal Enforcement in Full Swing

With summer temperatures rising, OSHA's updated National Emphasis Program (NEP) for Heat Hazards — reissued April 10, 2026 — remains fully active. The revised NEP updates the list of targeted high-hazard industries (now 55 total) and directs compliance officers to expand inspections whenever heat-related hazards are identified on days with National Weather Service heat advisories — a timely topic for OEHS professionals.

Heat Illness Prevention NEP Directive: https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/nep

EPA Risk Management Program (RMP) – Mid-Year Developments

EPA's proposed "Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention" rule, published February 24, 2026, would roll back several 2024 Risk Management Program (RMP) amendments and align requirements more closely with OSHA's Process Safety Management standard. Proposed changes touch safer-technology analysis, third-party audits, and public information access — updates that could affect process safety programs across multiple industries. The extended public comment period closed in May 2026, with approximately 31,000 comments submitted; a final rule is expected later this year.

Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OLEM-2025-0313
Federal Register notice: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/02/2026-06444/accidental-release-prevention-requirements-risk-management-programs-under-the-clean-air-act-common
More information: https://www.epa.gov/rmp

TSCA Chemical Risk Evaluations – Summer Status

EPA is working through compliance date extensions and rule amendments for several chemicals already regulated under TSCA Section 6, including trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), and methylene chloride — a proposed rule extending compliance dates is expected around July 2026, with a final rule targeted for October 2026. Separately, EPA's proposed rule addressing legacy asbestos uses has been delayed to June 2027, following a lawsuit over a missed statutory deadline. Facilities subject to these TSCA Section 6 rules must comply with Workplace Chemical Protection Program (WCPP) requirements, including exposure monitoring, regulated areas, and exposure control plans, where applicable — a critical compliance area for OEHS professionals to track.

TSCA Risk Evaluations: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca

Battery Manufacturing & Respiratory Protection

EPA's February 2026 guidance supporting APF 1000 respirators during initial industrial hygiene monitoring for cobalt- and nickel-containing mixed metal oxide (MMO) cathode active materials remains relevant as battery manufacturing and recycling expand. The APF 1000 provision applies specifically to the time-limited monitoring period (up to one year) while a full exposure monitoring plan is developed — it's part of a broader EPA framework that also includes a proposed rule requiring dust capture controls, ongoing exposure monitoring, and cobalt-content-based respiratory protection for manufacturers, processors, and recyclers of these materials.

EPA Mixed Metal Oxides Review Program: https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/integrated-approach-mixed-metal

Technical Spotlight – Summer 2026

Ventilation Effectiveness in Mixed-Use Facilities

Seasonal HVAC transitions make summer an ideal time to evaluate ventilation performance in facilities combining offices, labs, and production areas. For guidance on established standards, see The Synergist's overview of ANSI Z9 ventilation standards, which cover the fundamentals of designing and operating local exhaust ventilation and general industrial ventilation systems. Synergist Ventilation Article: https://synergist.aiha.org/202302-ventilation-systems

Silica Exposure Modeling – Updated Approaches

Silica exposure modeling remains an active area of research, with ongoing work aimed at refining tools for predicting worker exposures in construction, manufacturing, and mineral processing. These efforts support employers and OEHS professionals in anticipating exposure risks and strengthening compliance with OSHA's respirable crystalline silica standards.

OSHA Silica Resources: https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline
NIOSH Silica Research: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/default.html

Additive Manufacturing: Emerging IH Challenges

Additive manufacturing continues to grow, bringing new exposure concerns related to ultrafine particles, metal powders, and polymer fumes. NIOSH research highlights hazards including inhalation of powdered materials, VOC emissions during printing, and dermal exposure to hazardous materials — underscoring the need for updated exposure controls as the technology scales.

NIOSH Additive Manufacturing Safety:
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/manufacturing/additive/index.html

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Zane Frund, PhD, MPH, CIH, MBA, MSA Safety

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https://www.delfinohs.com/

Insight Exposure & Risk Sciences Group (NEW!)
Contact: Josh Maskrey, CIH
(724) 840-1807
josh.maskrey@insightrisk.com
https://www.insightrisk.com/

Intertek PSI
850 Poplar Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Contact: Mike Kopar
(412) 385-0469
mike.kopar@intertek.com
www.intertek.com/building/

MSA Safety, Inc.
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Contact: Zane Frund, PhD, CIH, MBA
(724) 776-7852
zane.frund@msasafety.com
www.us.msasafety.com

MES Life Safety
310 Parkway View Drive, Bldg. 3
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Contact: Matt Dennis
(724) 693-8699
Matt.Dennis@meslifesafety.com
https://www.meslifesafety.com/

SKC Inc.
863 Valley View Road
Eighty Four, PA 14330
Contact: Dennis Collins
(724) 941-9701
dcollins@skcinc.com
www.skcinc.com

U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.
302 Unity Plaza
Latrobe, PA 15650
Contact: Kelly Faulisi, CQIA, Owner & President
(724) 853-4047
kfaulisi@usmslab.com
www.usmslab.com

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