



May 2021 Newsletter

From the President's Perspective:

It's May and the first week looks more like April. As an avid turkey hunter (NY's Spring Turkey Season is mornings only in the month of May), I look forward to dry weather and the opportunity to get out in the early morning woods. It's a great time to see the world come alive after the dreary months of winter as plants begin to green up and blossoms decorate the forest; the woodland creatures come out to enjoy the warmth of spring heading in to summer. But, rainy days kind of put a damper on that activity; I no longer enjoy getting soaked. So, it's newsletter time!

In the Safety Theme Calendar, May is OSHA's month for Fall Prevention Awareness. I'm sticking with that theme for my employer; falls are certainly a leading cause of injury in the workplace, at home and in recreation. To help focus my attention on that; I had a recent near miss where an employee tripped over an extension cord strung (or laid) across a doorway at a jobsite. He did not get hurt, but was most likely preventable. I like to refer to it as "The ill effects of gravity" (more like the sudden contact with hard ground) in presentations; I've suffered them when tripping over logs, vines and roots when walking in the woods. The injuries were mostly to my ego, not long lasting. Situational Awareness helps prevent these occurrences! As does good housekeeping and paying attention to good electrical cord use practices!

It's well worth keeping your employees, families and friends aware of how easy it really is to prevent falls! OSHA has a very good smorgasbord of offerings that can be used to help raise situational awareness regarding keeping walkways clear, proper use of ladders and fall prevention from elevated working areas. They are great idea generators! ASSP and OSHA also have a vast amount of resources regarding the use of Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS); most importantly, how to properly set them up to prevent (work positioning restraints) and arrest a fall with minimal injury. It's not as easy as hooking a 6 ft. shock absorbing lanyard to the D-ring of a full body harness and then to whatever looks substantial in the work area. Employee education is very much in order when using PFAS or work positioning PPE. PFAS has a valid application in the real world for me; hunting from a tree stand (I just saw some really good camo pattern full body harnesses! Reasonable prices, too!). Yes, sadly enough there are those who fall asleep or take a misstep when 15 or more feet up in a tree stand that suffer the ill effects of gravity. Those accidents are preventable (there are fall restraint devices and PFAS available for hunters); they are also about 75% of the hunting serious injury or fatality events. As an added benefit regarding fall prevention training, you should notice an improvement in housekeeping!

On to some more ASSP business; the good news for us at the Niagara Frontier Chapter is that ASSP will be holding the House of Delegates meeting and Leadership Conference virtually in 2021. If finding time away from work or home duties would keep a Member from volunteering to be a Chapter Delegate (we are allowed one) or attending Leadership Conference, the option of virtual attendance could be the factor that allows them to participate. The Delegate would be allowed to attend at no charge to them or the Chapter. **Niagara Frontier Chapter will reimburse any cost to attend the Virtual Leadership conference for any interested Member (up to 3).** Those who attend Leadership Conference will gain knowledge and skills not only in ASSP Chapter governance, but skills that will enhance your Safety career (or any other business management function)! We actually want Members to take advantage of this offer!



We are also always looking for Members who want to participate in Chapter Governance; there are positions to fill, even in these COVID confused times. Let us or me know at president.nfassp@gmail.com or any other Chapter Leader. Yes, there is some work involved, but there is a reward of becoming familiar with teamwork, organizational skills and leadership principles. As well as meeting some really good People who just happen to be Safety Professionals!

As I wrap up this newsletter, it looks like we may be seeing the end of the more onerous COVID related restrictions happening. However, the guidance's from New York State are still not clear regarding indoor "gatherings"; it may not be until the beginning of July when we see further clarification on implementation of new "rules". Just think; theaters showing Broadway Plays (indoors) can operate at 100% capacity; baseball stadiums that are open air will have to designate vaccinated and unvaccinated sections, the vaccinated section can be normal capacity, but the unvaccinated section will be at 33% and 6 ft. between attendees. Huh? 'Splain that one, Lucy!

That leaves us in a rather interesting position; we may plan on another Chapter Year of virtual meetings or go to some level of in person events (I would really like to get back to in person events! Even if we meet outdoors in a park with pizza, wings and containerized drinks to discuss the current state of Safety & Risk Management!) I am asking that our Members be understanding as we work through the quickly changing regulations as well as logistics of planning the next Chapter Year! We already have a topic to work on for one of next Chapter Year's meetings, suggested by one of our Members; stay tuned to see what it will be on!

In closing, please let us know what you, the Members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter need and want so we can work out a plan to serve your needs as Safety Professionals!