



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

## **AIHA NATIONAL UPDATE**

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### **AIHA Government Relations and Public Relations: Working Together to Fill the OEHS Pipeline**

Presented by: Susan Marchese, CAE; AIHA Managing Director, Marketing and Communications

Potomac Local Section: December 7, 2021

# ABOUT US

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AIHA is the association for **scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) in the workplace and community**. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, networks, comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional and competency standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists, and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed across the public and private sectors, as well as to the communities in which they work.

# DOMAINS/SUCCESS STATEMENTS

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## COMMUNITY

AIHA will nurture and empower a diverse and inclusive professional community and engage with allied professional organizations to work towards achieving common goals.

## ADVANCEMENT & DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

AIHA will explore, develop, and disseminate cutting-edge educational, technical, and career enrichment resources to advance the OEHS profession and professionals.

## AWARENESS

AIHA will promote the practice of occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) by increasing awareness of the value of the profession and growing the organization.

## INTEGRITY OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

AIHA will identify, develop, continuously improve, and promote excellence in OEHS practices.

## ADVOCACY

AIHA will influence the actions of the public, government, and organizations to advance worker and community health and safety.



# ADVOCACY

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AIHA will influence the actions of the public, government, and organizations to advance worker and community health and safety.

AIHA's Public Policy Agenda is built on four pillars:

1. Increase the number of OEHS professionals in the United States.
2. Increase the knowledge and skills of OEHS professionals in the US.
3. Increase public awareness of the roles and value of OEHS professionals in the US.
4. Increase protections for workers in the US from the risk of OEHS hazards.

# AIHA Government Relations Recent Work

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- OSHA's ETS on COVID-19
- AIHA meeting w/DOL Secretary & new OSHA leadership
- DOL's Climate Action Plan
- Congress: Infrastructure, reconciliation & OSHA/NIOSH funding

# **OSHA'S ETS on COVID-19**

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- OSHA issued an emergency temporary standard (ETS) on COVID-19 on November 5 that requires employers with 100 or more employees to require their employees to either be vaccinated or be tested regularly and wear a mask
  - AIHA submitted comments
  - The ETS would have taken effect when it was published in the Federal Register on Nov. 5. The rule expires w/in six months after it's issued and serves as the proposed permanent rule, which would replace the ETS and is why AIHA will submit comments on the rule.

# **OSHA'S ETS on COVID-19**

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## **Compliance dates**

- 30 days after publication (which occurred on November 5, 2021 – so December 5, 2021): All requirements other than testing for employees who have not completed their entire primary vaccination dose(s).
- 60 days after publication (January 4, 2022): Testing for employees who have not received all doses required for a primary vaccination.
- These dates could be impacted by court action, so stay tuned.

# OSHA'S ETS on COVID-19

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## Fines for noncompliance

- OSHA may fine employers ~\$13k for a serious violation of the ETS
- Will rely mostly on whistleblowers

## Who does the ETS apply to?

- Employers w/100 or more employees as of November 5, when the ETS was published.
- Once an employer crosses the 100 employee threshold, the ETS always applies, even if they drop below 100.

## Who does the ETS not apply to?

- Outdoor workers
- Remote workers

# 5th Circuit Court Ruling

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Ordered OSHA to “take no steps to implement or enforce” the ETS until further court order.

Found that:

- OSHA exceeded its statutory authority
- The ETS is both overly and underinclusive
- COVID-19 does not represent a “grave danger” to all workers in all the workplaces where the ETS would apply
- The ETS might even prove ineffective or counterproductive, since what we know about SARS-CoV-2 changes so fast. Instead, flexible, industry-specific guidance might be the better solution from OSHA to reduce the COVID-19 hazard

# AIHA Meeting w/DOL Secretary & New OSHA Leadership

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## Topics discussed included:

- COVID-19 ETS
- Impairment on the Job (e.g., Opioids, Cannabis)
- Climate change adaptation
  - Heat stress
  - Vector-borne illnesses
- Diversity-Equity-Inclusion and Occupational Health & Safety
- Help in recruiting Certified Safety and Health Officials
- Encouraging DOL to provide more funds to OSHA staff so that they can attend professional development conferences, such as AIHce EXP.

# DOL's Climate Action Plan

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Pres. Biden issued [Executive Order](#) requiring Federal agencies to develop a climate adaptation plan. In October, the White House unveiled these plans & invited the public comments.

AIHA responded by submitting comments on the Department of Labor's Climate Action Plan, which focused on five main areas:

1. Ensuring worker safety
2. Facilities resilience and mission readiness
3. Competitive employment and training
4. Community economic resilience
5. Procurement and acquisition resilience

# Infrastructure

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President Biden [signed into law](#) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ([H.R.3684](#)), which provides a \$1.2 trillion dollar investment – including \$550 billion in new spending for traditional infrastructure.

These are historic investments and they'll have an impact on workplace health and safety, particularly by increasing the demand for OEHS services.

# Funding for OSHA and NIOSH

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## OSHA

- Senate appropriators recommended \$665.9 million, which is an increase of \$74.1 million, but less than the \$100 million increase recommended by the House.

## NIOSH

- Senate recommending \$347.3 million (+\$2 million); ERCs would be level-funded
- House recommending \$360.3 million (+\$15 million); ERCs would receive +\$2 million

# Funding for OSHA and NIOSH

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## House report

Encouraging OSHA to take action on hearing loss prevention by lowering the current PEL to 85 dBA time-weighted average using a 3 dB exchange rate.

## Senate report

Encouraging OSHA to issue standards on workplace violence prevention, heat stress, and infectious diseases.

## Effect

Both send important messages to DOL and OSHA leadership.

# Current Status of Agency Funding

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- Federal fiscal year began October 1, and the government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) until December 3.
- There will likely be another CR until late December/early next year.
- Fair amount of talk about a year-long CR.
- A year-long CR would be bad for Federal workplace health & safety agencies and programs.
  - Makes it harder to plan
  - Inflation erodes purchasing power

# AWARENESS

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AIHA will promote the practice of occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) by increasing awareness of the value of the profession and growing the organization and profession.

# TERMINOLOGY OF THE PROFESSION TO NON-MEMBER PUBLIC

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- “Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) Professionals”
  - Publications
  - Educational offerings (i.e., webinars)
  - Guidance documents, fact sheets and other committee-developed work
  - *The Synergist*
  - Our websites
  - Press releases

# TERMINOLOGY OF THE PROFESSION TO AIHA MEMBERS

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- “IH” or “OEHS”
  - Catalyst
  - Presentations at local sections or in committee meetings
  - Social media

# AIHA'S BRAND EVOLUTION

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Public Awareness



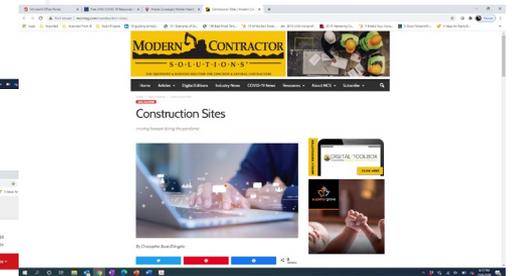
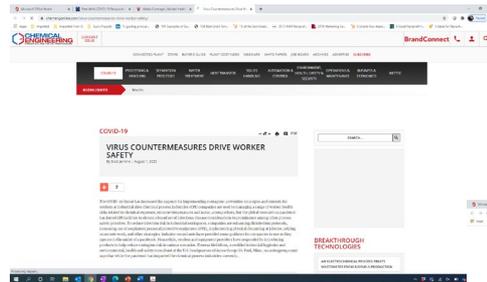
Public Education



Recruitment  
to the Profession

# CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Launch of Public Microsites
  - [www.workerhealthandsafety.org/](http://www.workerhealthandsafety.org/)
  - [www.oehscareers.org/](http://www.oehscareers.org/)
- Media Outreach
  - [Modern Contractor Solutions](#)
  - [Chemical Engineering](#)
  - [Fire Engineering](#)
- Participation at Virtual USA Science and Engineering Festival (SciFest 2020 and [2021](#))



# MEDIA, MARKETING, AND EXPOSURE

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- Over 3.7M website views
- Over 3 million downloads
- Featured resource on CDC website
- Featured in and on:
  - New York Times
  - Wall Street Journal
  - MSN
  - Readers' Digest and dozens more...



[www.backtoworksafely.org](http://www.backtoworksafely.org)

# OUTREACH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

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ALL YOU NEED TO SHARE  
ABOUT YOUR PROFESSION

OUTREACH CENTER

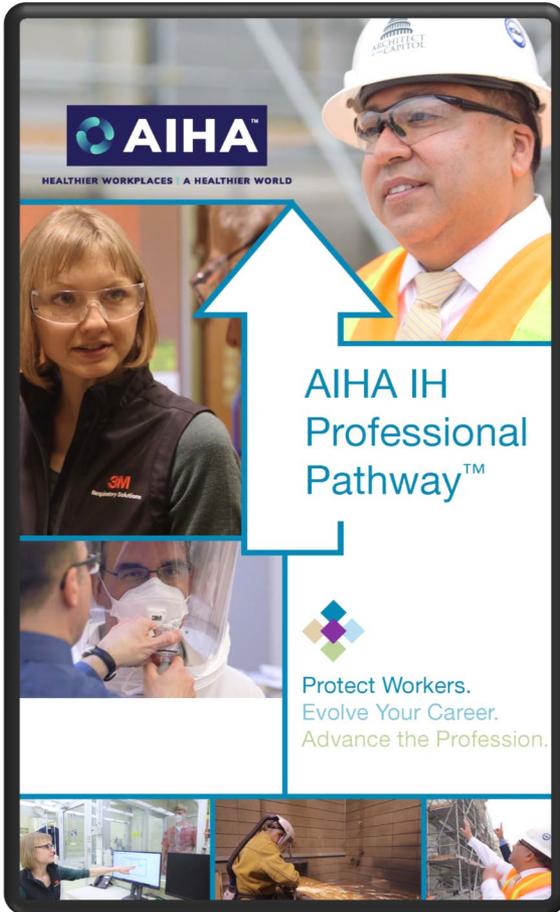


# IH PROFESSIONAL PATHWAY INFOGRAPHIC

FREE DOWNLOAD



# E-GUIDE



This eGuide is designed for individuals at any stage within the industrial hygiene/occupational hygiene (IH/OH) career path.

AIHA offers suggestions on how you can advance your career with practical advice aligned with three different “tracks”:  
**Technical**, **Management** and **Leadership**.

In addition, we provide recommendations on educational resources appropriate by career stage and a summary of allied professionals with whom the IH/OH professional may work.

**FREE DOWNLOAD**



**BOB KIRKBY, CIH**  
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE



**SUBENA COLLIGAN**  
CIH, CSP, GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORP.



**TIM PAZ**  
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

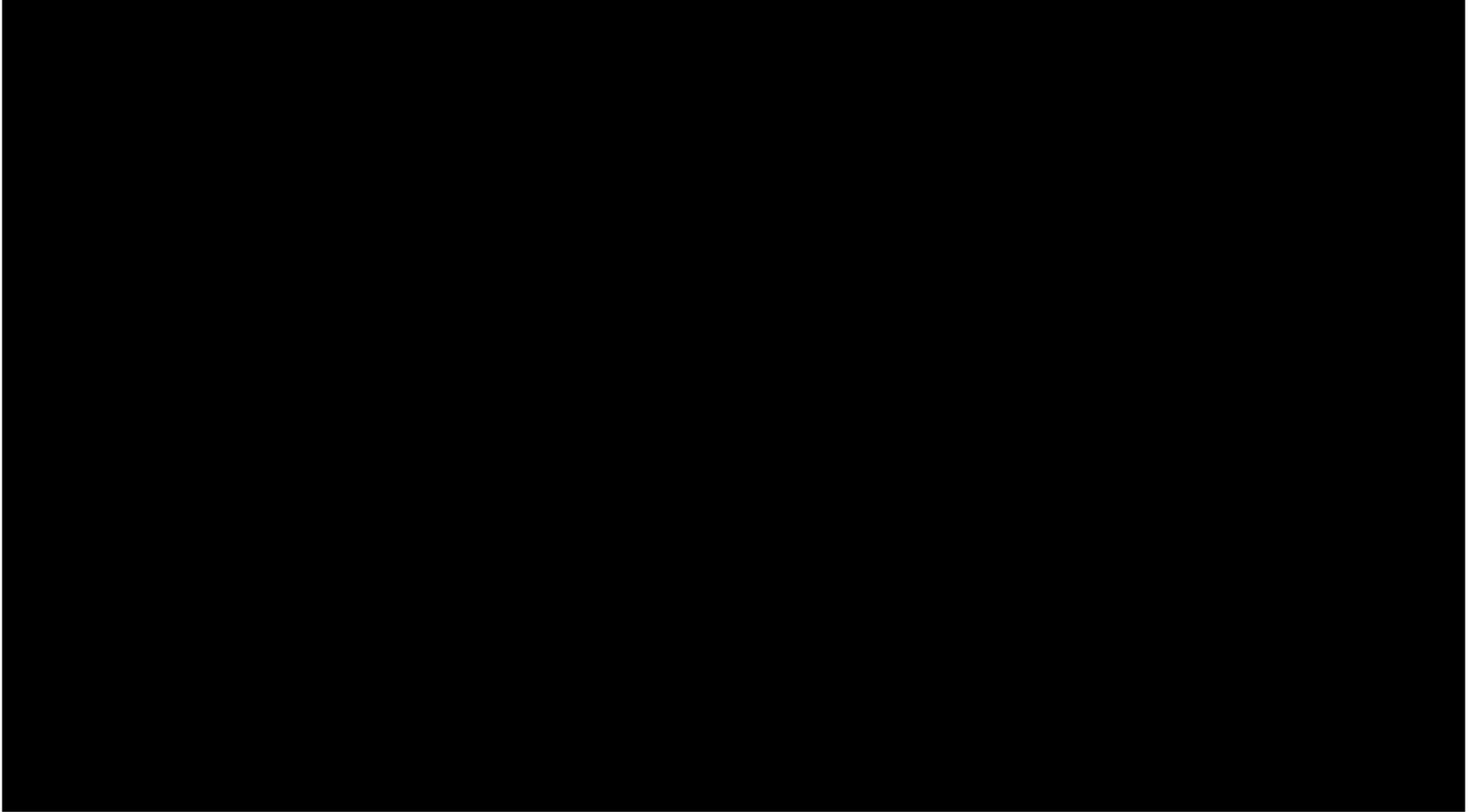


**VICKY TAY, CIH**  
EXXONMOBIL ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD

[Check them out: I AM IH Videos](#)

# HEALTHIER WORKPLACES. A HEALTHIER WORLD

## Docuseries



# READY TO HELP AIHA FILL THE PIPELINE WITH THE NEXT GENERATION?

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- In 2022, become an AIHA National Brand Ambassador (Speakers' Bureau)
- Do a career fair at your local high school and give out AIHA FREE materials
- Make a presentation at your alma mater or a local university to a class in your undergraduate major (AIHA PPTs will be available in January, 2022)
- Retweet or repost any of AIHA's social media

# CONNECT NOW!

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Look for exclusive AIHA information, updates, and offers



Check out *AIHA Network TV*, the I AM IH™ video series, and view popular uploads



Follow us for important industry news and happenings



Get more information at [aiha.org](https://www.aiha.org)



Join the discussion with other like-minded professionals



Pledge to do your part in making your building, organization, and community healthier and safer from COVID-19

# THANK YOU



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