

North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) Week, May 5–11, 2013

Safer workplaces emphasized; OSHP Day set for May 8

Most workers take their well-being while at work for granted, assuming they'll head home as usual without incident following their shift. But unexpected dangers can strike at any office or jobsite—anytime, anywhere. Case in point: 4,609 people died from on-the-job injuries in 2011, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹

To underscore the importance of worker occupational safety and health throughout the United States, North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week was launched in 1997. This year, NAOSH Week will be held May 5–11, with kick-off events slated for May 5 and 6 in Washington, DC at the US Department of Labor and the National Gallery of Art.

During NAOSH Week, an alliance of safety organizations will unite to educate the public on the significance of protecting workers, avoiding injury and illness, and eradicating hazards while at work. Events will include presentations on industry workplace safety and health efforts as well as recognition of the winners of the 11th annual American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) kids' "Safety-on-the-Job" poster contest.

NAOSH Week attendees will include ASSE leaders and members, federal and state officials, and representatives from



A poster presentation was among several events that occurred in Washington, DC during NAOSH Week 2012.

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collaborating organizations, including the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE), Mexico's AISOHMEX, and more than 35 OSHA Alliance program participants—among them The Joint Commission and The Joint Commission Resources Alliance—representing thousands of businesses around the world.

"It is alarming that 13 people a day are lost to work-related injuries—incidents that most often can be prevented," says ASSE President Richard A. Pollock, CSP, who encourages all companies and organizations to increase awareness of

this issue by sharing resources, best practices, and success stories during NAOSH Week.

The ASSE initially partnered with the CSSE in 2002 to promote NAOSH Week, which is one of several occupational safety-related events ASSE and its more than 35,000 occupational safety, health, and environmental professional members promote throughout the year.

Occupational Safety and Health Professionals (OSHP) Day, May 8, is the most important date on the NAOSH Week calendar. OSHP Day was created to honor occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals around the world who demonstrate strong commitment to safeguarding people, property and the planet. ASSE salutes these distinguished individuals each year.

The Joint Commission, which stresses safety in its Emergency Management and Environment of Care standards,

NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK MAY 5-11, 2013



NAOSH 2013

SAFE WORKPLACES FOR ALL
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (OSHP) DAY MAY 8, 2013

NAOSH Week takes place May 5–11, 2013.

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recommends that health care workers get involved in NAOSH Week events and campaigns. Participating can help you more effectively educate patients and peers about the positive benefits of a safer workplace.

Check out the NAOSH website (at <http://asse.org/newsroom/naosh>) to do the following:

- Discover how you can promote NAOSH Week and OSHP Day
- Nominate a safety and health professional in your organization who has been exemplary in demonstrating

workplace safety and on-the-job best practices

- Submit information on a NAOSH Week or OSHP Day event that your office or facility is planning
- Review workplace safety statistics and access electronic brochures and educational materials
- Learn how you can encourage officials in your area/municipality to issue a proclamation declaring May 5–11 NAOSH Week
- View a motivational video and photo gallery 

Reference

1. US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2011. Accessed Feb 15, 2013. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.nr0.htm>.

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