



NewsLetter

WORLD SAFETY ORGANIZATION



www.worldsafety.org

DECEMBER 2018

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WSO Symposium Returns to Las Vegas!

Our ever-changing world continues to become smaller through advanced methods of communication, requiring changes in how we live our lives and how we work, how we learn, how we share new information, and how we comply with new laws, regulations, and demands of the changes in global trade.

In the World Safety Organization's 44th year, we are continually reminded of the WSO Objectives: to encourage the effective exchange of information and experiences between/among the members of the WSO; to collaborate with other organizations in conducting activities of mutual concerns, interests and directions; to promote the continuous upgrading of the safety and accident prevention technology and these fields related to loss of lives, property, and environment; to strive for a universal level of professionalism and competence among its members and WSO non-members whose functions are related to safety; to perform such other necessary acts and functions relevant to the WSO overall theme of "Making Safety A Way of Life ... Worldwide."

Symposium Format

The Symposium provides a unique learning and networking opportunity for corporate managers and executives, SHE professionals, advocates of safety and accident prevention, leaders of safety organizations and WSO members from around the world. Participation in the Symposium provides a forum for information exchange, networking, professional contact with other members, safety professionals, but most of all, learning about new programs and professional knowledge at sessions, panels and workshops presented during the Symposium. The Symposium format often consists of presentations, lectures, panels, workshops and plenary sessions. As a part of the program, Symposium participants are invited to take part in the "WSO Global Safety Roundtable," the suggestions, comments, resolutions, etc., of which will be formatted for submission to governmental legislation and Missions of the United Nations (UN), International Labor Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), and similar rule-making groups on the local, national and international levels.

Symposium Topics

Symposium topics include occupational and environmental safety and health, ergonomics, systems safety management, security, industrial hygiene, hazardous materials management, transportation safety, construction safety, off-the-job safety, recreational safety, safety of the workplace, disaster preparedness, and legislative topics on the national and global scale.

**SEE YOU
THERE!
OCTOBER
7-9**

Continued on Page 4

THE VENUE



TUSCANY SUITES & CASINO

Set just two blocks from the Las Vegas Strip, the Tuscany Suites & Casino is a Mediterranean-inspired all-suite casino hotel located two miles from the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Understated suites with warm decor have free basic Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, kitchenettes, and sitting and dining areas. Sophisticated 2-bedroom suites add whirlpool tubs.

Dining options include an Italian restaurant/bar, a pub, a cozy eatery with sandwiches and pastries, and a cafe with a 24-hour breakfast menu. Other amenities include a spa and a casino with live entertainment, plus a fitness center, two pools, a business center, and laundry facilities.

from the desk of

DR. CHARLES H. BAKER

Chief Operations Officer



Happy Holidays to all our members and their families! On Page 4 we've included some tips to help you have a safe and joyous holiday. We are usually less aware of safety issues during this time of year, so we want you to think and act safely and enjoy the holiday festivities with family and friends.

Planning is underway for the 2019 Symposium to be held in Las Vegas. We are happy to be going back to Las Vegas and hope that everyone plans to join us. Even though it is early, we are already asking for speakers and plan on having a very good, informative program. Start talking to your friends and colleagues about attending with you! More information will be available soon.

We hope you enjoyed the holiday e-card, which was created in keeping with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the UN, WSO is committed to supporting these goals. If you have creative ideas for how we can do our part - for any of the goals - please feel free to send them our way. If you are involved in a project that supports or promotes the SDGs, we'd love to include an article in a future newsletter.

Notice the addition of a stamp for use on your professional documents (this page, top right). If you are a WSO-certified member, we'd like to encourage you purchase and use a stamp on all your professional correspondence...then be prepared to tell everyone about the WSO certification program!

Finally, this has been a very good year for World Safety Organization, and we look forward to an even better 2019. As always we welcome your comments and/or suggestions to make our organization better and more responsive to its members. [CHB]

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New Item Now Available in the WSO Online Shop

For the WSO-certified safety professional/practitioner needing an official stamp, we now offer a self-inking option. The cost is \$45 USD, which includes shipping and handling for US orders. International shipping prices will vary by country; please contact the WSO World Management Center for more information.



Start the New Year off with professional style...check out the Shop on our website, and purchase your stamp today!

A FIRST FOR WSO: Digital Holiday Greeting

Happy Holidays!

Thank You for Being an Important Member
of the WSO Team!

Best Wishes to You and Your Family
for a Joyful Holiday Season
and a
Peaceful and Prosperous
New Year.

WSO Executive Action Committee
and Staff of the
WSO World Management Center



In support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, WSO Executive Action Committee and World Management Center Staff developed the greeting card (above) that was distributed to all WSO Members and Contributors.

WSO will continue to look for ways to incorporate the UN-SDGs, all of which you can find on the United Nations website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

WSO World Management Center HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, December 24 – Closing at 12:00 p.m. US-CST

Tuesday, December 25 – Closed All Day

Monday, December 31 – Closing at 12:00 p.m. US-CST

Tuesday, January 1 – Closed All Day

Challenges Facing Rail Systems Today in the Areas of Trespasser and Suicide Prevention

Hilary E. Konczal WSO-CSM/CSSD/CST. Chief Safety and Environmental Officer, Metra/Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation. Member, WSO Board of Directors. Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Trespassing and suicide prevention create numerous challenges for railroads across the United States. In an article recently published by the Congressional Research Service, it was reported that in 2016, there were 485 trespasser deaths, 492 trespasser injuries, and 229 suicides on freight, commuter, and intercity passenger railroads.

People trespass on railroad property for several reasons: some use the railroad right-of-way for short cuts; others use the railroad tracks as a backdrop for taking pictures or videos.

Another emerging trend railroads are seeing is an increase in suicides, where people are using the railroad to intentionally take their lives. We have done a lot as an industry to educate people about the dangers of trespassing and violating grade crossing warning devices through such programs as Operation Lifesaver, but we need to start addressing mental health and suicide prevention in order to reduce this emerging trend.

Partnering with mental health and suicide prevention organizations like the *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* and *Crisis Text Line* to enact signage are an important part of any railroads mental health awareness program. Another important mitigating strategy is providing mental health awareness training for employees to recognize when someone is in distress and giving them the skills to approach that person and bring them to safety. Mental health awareness training such as "Question, Persuade & Refer" QPR Gatekeeper Training for suicide prevention is listed in the National Registry of Evidence-based Practices and Policies.

In 2015, we began training our train engineers, conductors, ticket agents, and transportation managers at Metra Commuter Railroad in Chicago. Because of the program's success, we expanded the training in 2017 to include our maintenance, signal and track employees, and anyone who may come in contact with someone in distress along our railroad right-of-way.

In 2017, Metra employees were able to bring 51 people to safety who were attempting suicide. This year to date, Metra has brought 55 people to safety. Combining 2017 and 2018 data, 106 people have been brought to safety and are getting the help they need.

The QPR Gatekeeper training has been extremely successful in reducing the number of intentional deaths on the Metra system. QPR simply teaches our employees to be more aware of the behaviors of the people they come in contact with every day. The training provides them with the tools necessary to approach someone in distress and bring them to safety. One of the most important strategies we teach our employees to remember is that, "One conversation can save a life."



Hilary E. Konczal, Metra's Chief Safety & Environmental Officer, has over 26 years of service with Metra. He has an extensive background in safety, environmental compliance, railroad operations, regulatory compliance and security.

Hilary is responsible for the administrative oversight and management of Metra's safety programs and risk reduction initiatives, environmental compliance and industrial hygiene activities. He leads a team of safety professionals who are responsible for safeguarding Metra's employees, passengers and contractors.

He is an Associate Instructor for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) teaching FRA System Safety and FTA Safety Management Systems (SMS) to railroad and transit professionals throughout the United States.

Hilary is Chairman of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Commuter Rail Safety and Security Committee, Board of Director of the World Safety Organization (WSO), Board of Director of the DuPage Railroad Safety Council, Board of Director Operation Lifesaver - Illinois Chapter and Co-Chair of Metra's Labor Management Committee. He is an active member of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) and the American Association of Railroads (AAR) Safety and Operations Committee.

He is certified by the World Safety Organization (WSO) as a Certified Safety and Security Director (WSO-CSSD), Certified Safety Manager (WSO-CSM), and Certified Safety Technician (WSO-CST).

International Participants

WSO Symposiums are always international in scope. WSO members from Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas are frequent participants at the WSO Symposiums.

Legislative Representation

Representatives from state and federal agencies are invited to provide updates on newest laws and regulations relevant to the safety industry.

WSO Awards Banquet

WSO Awards Banquet is scheduled on Monday evening, October 7, to honor the individuals, corporations, organizations, and other groups for their concerns in the protection of people, property, resources, and the environment. A list of all WSO Awards, along with the requirements for each, may be found on our website. To nominate an individual, company, corporation, agency, publication, association, or other entity, please contact the WSO World Management Center for the WSO Awards Nomination Brochure or download from the WSO website.

Call for Speakers


The 2019 Call for Speakers will be distributed within the next few weeks. All abstracts submitted will be reviewed, and authors will be notified if the presentation has been accepted. Deadline for abstract submission will be 15 May 2019.

DISCLAIMER: The WSO does not pay speaker fees or facilitate the travel and other subsistence arrangements for any speaker of the Symposium. All arrangements related to travel, visas, accommodations, and daily subsistence are the exclusive responsibility of the speaker. Speaker pays discounted registration fee if attending the Symposium.

Schedule of Dates for Speakers' Documentation

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 15 MAY 2019 | Completed "Paper Outline/Abstract" with indication of length of the presentation/workshop. All sessions will be either 30 or 60 minutes. |
| 31 MAY 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Résumé/bio: 100-150 words• Abstract: 150-200 words, double-spaced• Bio: 100-150 words, double-spaced |
| 1 JUN 2019 | INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS MUST HAVE VALID TRAVEL VISA BY THIS DATE to participate! Request your invitation letter in ample time to schedule your visa interview. |
| 1 AUG 2019 | Paper for publication in the "Symposium Proceedings," speaker's photo, and an updated bio |
| 1 SEP 2019 | Conference Registration Form and payment of Fees must be received to confirm participation in the Symposium Program. |






We hope to see YOU there 7-9 October 2019...more information will be posted soon, so check your email and social media often!



holiday HOME SAFETY TIPS

brightnest.com

The holidays are here! However, there are more than a few hazards lurking among your festive preparations. Here are five important safety tips:

- 1 BE CAREFUL WITH CANDLES:**
 Nothing kindles the holiday spirit like candles, but those are open flames in your house! In a three-year span, candle fires caused around 130 deaths and \$360 million in damage. If you're leaving the house or going to sleep, blow out all of your candles first!
- 2 PROTECT YOUR KIDS AND PETS:**
 Holiday decorations can easily be mistaken for a shiny snack. Keep bite-sized ornaments out of reach and remember that mistletoe, poinsettia and holly berries are toxic. It's best to avoid these if you have kids or pets.
- 3 BE SAFE WITH HOLIDAY LIGHTS:**
 About 1,300 people are sent to the emergency room every year due to holiday light accidents. Before you plug yours in, check for frayed wires, damaged sockets and gaps in the insulation. If you find problems, toss the lights.
- 4 PREPARE FOR GREASE FIRES:**
 Your kitchen will probably see a lot of action this season, and grease can ignite without warning. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and if you wind up in a pinch, remember that flour and baking soda also squelch grease flames. Water does not!
- 5 CLIMB LADDERS RESPONSIBLY:**
 Each year, more than 164,000 people visit the emergency room because of a ladder accident. Decorations often call for a climb, so be safe by always keeping three body parts in contact with the ladder at all times.

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) // American Red Cross

www.brightnest.com

BrightNest is a free site that provides tips, tricks and weekly reminders to help you keep your home in great shape. Sign up now at brightnest.com!



"Making Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide" since 1975

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