The goals of every WSO Symposium include broadening collaboration among the various sectors of the safety field, building professional skills and knowledge, strengthening professionalism within the membership, expanding networking opportunities, and raising awareness of the value and impact of “Making Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide.”

At the WSO Symposium, you’ll connect with leaders, experts, elected officials, and changemakers of today and tomorrow, who are all committed to promoting the continuous advancement of safety and accident prevention technology and striving for a universal level of professionalism and competence among its members and all professionals and practitioners in the multi-discipline of occupational and environmental safety, health and accident prevention.

WSO Symposia are known for a unique, friendly atmosphere, providing an opportunity for corporate managers and executives, SH&E professionals, advocates of safety and accident prevention, leaders of safety organizations, and WSO members from around the world to network and connect, exchange information, learn about new programs, and gain professional knowledge at a variety of breakout sessions. The WSO Symposium is always the gathering of friends and colleagues, a place to improve performance, and meet new people in the fields of safety and accident prevention.

Symposium topics generally include, but are not limited to, occupational safety and health, 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.

So come join us...

We’ll be waiting for you!
Welcome to the January issue of the WSO Newsletter!

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, safe, and productive New Year!

At this time of year we always think of New Year’s resolutions and all the things we will do to improve ourselves over the next 12 months. These resolutions are not only personal, but they also affect our work and professional life.

In particular, a couple come to mind:

The first of these is to plan on attending WSO’s annual Symposium being held October 5–7 at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Plans are already underway for one of the best and most informative symposiums we have ever held. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us and your friends and associates for this event. We look forward to seeing you there.

We also would like to see our membership continue to increase this year. We ask that each and every one of you approach your business associates and ask them to join WSO as an Affiliate Member and take steps toward obtaining a WSO certification. Considering our ISO/IEC 17024:2012 accreditation, this is a valuable career move.

As always, if you have suggestions for ways to make our organization more valuable and useful to you, please let us know.

Thank you for your membership! We look forward to a great year. [CHB]
Refocusing after a Vacation or the Holidays

Submitted by Scott Masters, WSO-CSM; Contract Employee, Construction Lead Safety Specialist, Alliant Corporation; Tennessee and South Carolina USA

After being away from work for vacation or a holiday, it might take some time to regain focus on the job at hand. But in construction, it’s crucial that every person is responsible for being alert and creating a safe work environment the minute they step onto the jobsite. Use this toolbox topic to refresh the idea that safety is not only a priority but a Core Value.

Everyone on the jobsite is asked to get their minds and hearts focused on the tasks at hand and to uphold the highest of standards for safety practices. Workplace mishaps can be dramatically reduced with the correct mindset and attitude by recognizing four common errors that open the door to injury:

1) Rushing
Employees may feel pressure to complete tasks as quickly as possible so that they can move onto the next task or finish the day early. Rushing reduces the quality of workmanship and increases the chances of not following the correct safety steps to complete tasks. Accidents increase on Fridays, holiday weekends or when jobs are behind schedule.

It’s important to remind employees that working safety is the first priority, even if it means finishing the job later. Take the time to carefully and thoroughly pre-plan the work, understand the hazards, use the right tools and wear the proper personal protective equipment … never rush though these steps in an effort to save time.

2) Frustration
Frustration is a mindset that everyone experiences at some point. Having the right tools to manage frustration and turn negatives into positives is key to avoiding accidents and injuries. Creating a workplace that prevents frustration from developing is critical.

Listen and engage with each other to create solutions and ease frustrations.

3) Fatigue
Fatigue greatly reduces production and performance. A tired driver is said to be as dangerous on the road as a drunken driver, which illustrates the dangers of fatigue. Construction work is physically demanding, and mental demands, such as tasks that require long periods of intense concentration, can also increase fatigue. Climate extremes (hot and cold), noise, and handling vibrating tools can place demands on workers and increase fatigue. Workers’ personal dietary and sleep habits and emotional well-being can also impact fatigue at work.

It is very important to identify when a worker is fatigued to take the correct course of action.

4) Complacency
Complacency can be the most dangerous mindset that results in an injury or accident. The false belief that experience makes you invulnerable can be the first step to an accident. Accidents can happen to anyone, at any time. One should always be finely tuned to each situation’s risk; and supervision needs to be quick to intervene when boredom results in complacency.

With commitment to safety training and awareness, the job site’s culture can replace complacency with an emphasis on alertness, planning, hazard identification, problem solving, and prevention and care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2–5
Emergency Response & Fire Leadership Global Summit
King Abdullah Cultural Center
Jubail, KSA
www.ерf.globalsummit.com

MARCH 8–11
The Big 5 Saudi International Building & Constructing Show
Jeddah Centers for Forums & Events
Jeddah, KSA
www.TheBig5Saudi.com

OCTOBER 5–7
33rd WSO SYMPOSIUM
Professionalism and Excellence for the Future
Tuscany Suites & Casino  |  Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Date TBA
WSO National Office for Nigeria
NatConf&Awards 2020
Details to Come!

PHOTO: Calendar, Google Images
Submit Your Speaker Abstract Today!

You may request an Outline/Abstract form from the WSO WMC or download from the WSO website. All abstracts submitted will be reviewed, and authors will be notified if the presentation has been accepted. Deadline for abstract submission is 15 May 2020. Upon notification of acceptance, the completed presentation must be submitted prior to 15 July 2020 for publication in the “Symposium Proceedings.”

You may also submit your outline/abstract online: http://worldsafety.org/online-outlineabstract-submission/

Papers & Presentations

* All papers shall be written in concise English and typed with a minimum font size of 11 point. Papers should have an abstract of not more than 200 words. On a separate page, or in a separate file, the author should supply the author’s name, contact details, professional qualifications, current employment position, and a brief bio. A current high-resolution photo in JPG or PNG format must also be submitted.
* Writers should include all references and acknowledgments. Authors are responsible for ensuring that their works do not infringe on any copyright. Failure to do so can result in the writer being accountable for breach of copyright. The accuracy of the references is the author’s responsibility.
* Papers should be referenced according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 2017 (available upon request).
* Please submit text composed in Microsoft Word, via email attachment or copied to a USB drive and mailed to us.
* Presentations may be submitted in MS PowerPoint format; however, an Abstract must accompany.
* Illustrations, tables, and graphs may be included. Color photos are acceptable. All illustrations, tables, graphs, and photos must be labeled.
* Statistical data should be expressed in SIUs (Standard International Units), as far as is practicable.

- If desired, editing is available at the WSO WMC for contributors whose first language is not English.
- Reprints: No reprints are available, unless requested. There may be a charge applicable for reprints. Please contact the WSO World Management Center. Copyright of all materials is retained by the WSO; however, requests for reprinting in other journals may be approved.
- Copies of the “Symposium Proceedings” are distributed to the Missions of the United Nations, participants at various national and international conferences where the WSO participates, WSO National Offices, participants of the WSO sponsored/co-sponsored seminars and courses, agencies of state/ federal/etc. governments, libraries of universities, as well as numerous societies and associations (globally).

Schedule of Dates for Speakers’ and Presenters’ Documentation

15 MAY  
Completed "Paper Outline/Abstract" with indication of length of the presentation/workshop (either 30 or 60 minutes).

31 MAY  
- Résumé/bio: 100-150 words
- Abstract: 150-200 words
- Photo in JPG or PNG format

1 JUN  
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS MUST HAVE VALID TRAVEL VISA BY THIS DATE to participate! Request your invitation letter in ample time to schedule your visa interview.

15 JUL  
Paper for publication in the “Symposium Proceedings,” speaker’s photo, and an updated bio

1 SEP  
Conference Registration Form and payment of Fees must be received to confirm participation in the Symposium Program. Some employer-paid exemptions may apply. Please notify the Symposium Coordinator if your employer’s funding policy does not allow payment on or before the September 1 deadline.

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.