



MAY
2020

World Safety Organization NEWSLETTER

Reports on the International Labour Organization's 2020 WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK



"We need special measures to protect the millions of health care workers and other workers who risk their own health for us every day. Teleworking offers new opportunities for workers to keep working... However, workers must be able to negotiate these arrangements so that they retain balance with other responsibilities, such as caring for children, the sick or the elderly, and of course themselves."

ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder

Recognizing the great challenge that governments, employers, workers and whole societies are facing worldwide to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work focused on addressing the outbreak of infectious diseases at work, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concern is growing over the continuing rise in COVID-19 infections in some parts of the world and the ability to sustain declining rates in others. Governments, employers, workers and their organizations face enormous challenges as they try to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and protect safety and health at work. Beyond the immediate crisis, there are also concerns about resuming activity in a manner that sustains progress made in suppressing transmission.

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work will focus on addressing the outbreak of infectious diseases at work, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to stimulate national tripartite dialogue on safety and health at work. The ILO is using this day to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces and the role that occupational safety and health (OSH) services play. It will also focus on the medium to long-term, including recovery and future preparedness, in particular, integrating measures into OSH management systems and policies at the national and enterprise levels.

The [SafeDay Report, In the Face of a Pandemic: Ensuring Safety and Health at Work](#), highlights the occupational safety and health (OSH) risks arising from the spread of COVID-19. It also explores measures to prevent and control the risk of contagion, psychosocial risks, ergonomic and other work-related safety and health risks associated with the pandemic. The ILO Centenary Declaration adopted in June 2019 declared that "safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work".

This is even more significant today, as ensuring safety and health at work is indispensable in the management of the pandemic and the ability to resume work.

The SafeDay webinar, which took place on 28 April 2020, may be viewed [here](#).

WSO National Office for Nigeria (WSO Nigeria) Holds Sixth Annual Event and First Webinar to Mark SafeDay2020

In accordance with safety culture practices as inaugurated by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (WDSH) as an annual event every 28th of April, the WSO National Office for Nigeria (WSO Nigeria) contributed her own quota in marking the day. The event was held as a webinar session this year due to the global lockdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19 virus).

The theme of the event as stipulated by ILO for the year 2020 was "Stop the Pandemic: Health and Safety Can Save Lives".



The program was kicked-off by the moderator, **Soji S. Olalokun**, Director for WSO Nigeria, who welcomed the participants to the event and also introduced the Key Speakers. According to him, it was the desire of

WSO Nigeria to commemorate the World Day for Safety & Health 2020, by joining her efforts and knowledge with ILO, national government through the Federal Ministry of Labor & Employment, community groups, and other skilled professionals in the Occupational Safety & Health sector to respond

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Stop the Pandemic: Safety and Health at Work Can Save Lives

from the desk of

DR. CHARLES H. BAKER

Chief Operations Officer



We talked recently about the cancellation of our annual symposium due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Things have not changed much, and the virus battle seems to be continuing. I know we are all dealing with it the best we can.

When we recognized the serious, worldwide effects that COVID-19 would have, the WSO Executive Action Committee decided to cancel the onsite event that was scheduled for October 5-7 in Las Vegas. Our intent was to replace the onsite event with a virtual event that allowed an outlet for those participants who were planning papers or presentations. Unfortunately, response from members offering presentations has been weak, at best. We have fewer than 10 papers submitted to date.

Because we know many offices, including our National Offices, are still currently closed because of the pandemic, we have decided to extend the deadlines for submitting abstracts/outlines and video presentations (see UPDATE, above right). In the event you wanted to make a presentation but did not previously have time or resources to meet the original deadlines, we hope that this might make a difference.

As always, please let us know if you have comments or suggestions. We always value your inputs as we try to meet the needs of our membership.

In the meantime, I hope everyone is safe and weathering the virus storm in good stead. [CHB]

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Virtual Symposium UPDATE

WSO Sets New Symposium Deadlines

Speakers/Presenters

- 1 AUG Completed "Paper Outline/Abstract" with indication of length of the presentation/workshop (maximum 60 minutes).
- 15 AUG
 - Résumé/Bio/Profile: 100-150 words
 - Photo in JPG or PNG format
- 1 SEP
 - Paper and/or slides for publication in the "Symposium Proceedings"
 - Completed Presentation Video

WSO Awards

Awards Nominations due August 15

A list of the WSO Awards, along with the requirements for each, may be found on our website, or you may request a copy of the guidelines by contacting the WSO World Management Center by telephone or email:

+1-660-747-3132 | symposium@worldsafety.org
Visit www.worldsafety.org to submit online.



Do you blog?

**Do you write articles
for your company's newsletter?**

**Do you have something relevant
to share?**

**Did your company sponsor
a special safety-focused event?**

**If so, we would love to feature your content
in a future WSO NewsLetter or TechLetter!**

Just email your article/blog, author(s) byline, brief bio, and photo to us at editorialstaff@worldsafety.org.

Please request a publication release form if required by your employer or co-author(s). Authors/companies will maintain all proprietary rights, and WSO will state where the original content was posted or published, if applicable.

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WSO Nigeria SafeDay 2020

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to the COVID-19 crisis with an equitable, zero hazard focused approach to mitigate the economic, social and health impacts of this crisis towards achieving the Sustainable Development in the workplace by looking into post COVID-19 effects.

The program of events kicked off with the confirmation of registered participants for the event on the WSO Nigeria website and were linked up via Zoom to participate at the webinar session. These includes Government officials, Workplace Directors and Managers, Regulatory officers, others Safety bodies such as the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON), the Safety Advocates & Enforcement Foundation (SAEF), the Director of OSH, Federal Ministry of Labor and Employment in Nigeria, WSO SaFERR Ambassadors and Representatives within Nigeria and other parts of Africa at large like the WSO Cameroon, WSO Ghana, and WSO Kenya representatives.

Three key speakers, all members of WSO from Philippines, Pakistan and Nigeria, were invited to speak at the event with relevant topics to expatiate on the COVID-19 pandemic effects and the future of work.



Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr.

WSO President/Director-General

Director, WSO International Office for Philippines

Response Guidance for Businesses to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19

Engr. De La Rosa started with prevailing symptoms, clinical characteristics and diagnosis of the Pandemic COVID-19. He elaborated on the Response measures as Action Plans to be carried out to combat the crisis in the workplace. These includes establishing a core-team to coordinate response to COVID-19; implementing flexible work arrangements; use of PPE's, utilizing online Telecommunication applications instead of face to face meetings; implementing self-assessment questionnaires to employees, visitors, delivery personnel and other third parties; a 14-day quarantine period for employees travelling in from other countries at their home or government provided facility; establishing reporting procedures for employees; restriction, postponement or total cancelation of intended employee travels; cooperating with Government health authorities; re-engineering strategies for Business continuity and ensuring Safety and Health is First(1st) priority among others as he spoke extensively on how Businesses could put structure in place to curb the spread of the pandemic by implementing these guidelines for the workplace and also having an Emergency Response Plan in place in readiness to confront cases that may pose threats on Business continuity. He also threw light in possible ways they have been able to bring control to the spread of COVID-19 in the Philippines and similar measures Nigeria and other African countries represented could put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 in their countries.



Tayyeb Shah

Director, WSO National Office for Pakistan

The World System: Health & Safety and Future of Work after COVID-19- cum an overview from Pakistan

Mr. Shah gave an elaborate situation report of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan, the major areas affected and possible ways the Government of Pakistan had to step-in to help families of victim affected by the pandemic. As regards Job and Economy, he highlighted on occupational concerns after the pandemic, that except jobs are adding value at this time, they are likely to perish while Technology will improve significantly to provide not only remote working with great experience but also remote schooling. Homes will start having a home office to qualify for jobs in the future and everything digital will replace almost everything that needs physical to connect to remote connections. He further looked into several adaptations to work post COVID-19, as several people who have lost their jobs would have to change and learn new skills to be employed for new jobs, this implies jobs would no longer be discipline or degree specific but rather skill specific. New graduates looking for employment would also have to learn on the job and improve on them with little supervision as Employers may be embracing employees on contract basis instead of regular jobs to minimize cost and staff salaries due to the situation of the economy. According to him, crisis situations take away millions of jobs, but new ones get created soon. With COVID-19, Digital economy will get a major boost and create more jobs for technology professionals while Healthcare and wellness sectors will get a tremendous boost and create more jobs.



Dr. Okunola Olushola

Consultant Pediatrician, University of Benin Teaching Hospital

Deputy Director, WSO Nigeria

Pandemic Related Hazards and Safety in the Workplace: COVID-19 Workers and Other Essential Workers in Nigeria

Dr. Okunola started by identifying possible hazards that COVID-19 workers could be faced with and the necessary precautions and adequate PPE they need to prevent them from being infected since they are on the frontline with COVID-19 patients. Workers with pre-existing diseases and Respiratory Tract Infections like Asthma or Pneumonia should not be allowed to work on frontlines with COVID-19 patients as this could lead to more complications for them. Hospital cleaners should also be well protected and waste disposal should be properly managed. Putting on the necessary coveralls, hand gloves and facemasks and proper autoclaving and sterilizing of garments and equipment respectively used by workers is of utmost importance.

Other essential workers are also expected to maintain the social distancing practice and equally sanitize their hands and maintain good housekeeping in the workplace. Ergonomic practices at workplace and Good exercise were solutions proffered for

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workers' lockdown at home. He equally added that since cash remains the prominent mode of exchange for work, people should rely more on e-transactions during this period and equally wash or sanitize their hands each time hard currency is received as money could carry germs and people may not be cautious enough to wash their hands before robbing their faces or eating. Long distance travels and multiple place visits should also be minimized during these periods.

Each speaker was allowed to speak for a period of 20 minutes and their PowerPoint presentation displayed on Zoom for all the participants to view while a Q&A session of five minutes was allotted to each speaker for participants to ask questions.

The Director of Occupational Safety & Health and Factories Act, Federal Ministry of Labor & Employment in Nigeria, **Dr. (Mrs) Ifeoma Anyawutaku**, gave her goodwill remarks by thanking the WSO Nigeria Team for putting such an event together to commemorate the annual World Day for Safety & Health at Work for the year 2020. She encouraged other Safety Professionals in Nigeria to emulate such to bridge the gap of not being able to meet en masse due to the lockdown. She however raised her concerns about the nonchalant attitude of citizens towards social distancing and voted that Safety professionals in Nigeria

should take up the responsibility of advocacy and awareness on the need for social distancing during this period of the pandemic virus COVID-19.

The three (3) key speakers were also given the opportunity to give their last remarks of which they thanked WSO Nigeria for inviting them and look forward to other subsequent WSO events later in the year. The Closing remark was made by Mr. Olalokun, who thanked everyone for participating at the event and made recognition of key stakeholders that participated:

- **NYONG Clément Bantar** (Director, WSO Cameroon)
- **Engr. Joseph M. Kimeu** (WSO Board of Directors, Kenya)
- **Mrs. Belinda Odeneye** (Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Environment)
- **Mrs. Monica Nwosu** (Executive Director, Association of Nigerian Women Safety Professionals)
- **Hassan B. Hassan** (Health & Safety Advisor, Business Contracting Limited Group)
- **Emmanuel Abayowa** (Administrator, WSO Nigeria)
- **Chidike Okoro** (Director, Effective Consult & Resources Development Limited, and WSO Nigeria Partner)

[Reports collated by **Emmanuel A. Abayowa** for WSO Nigeria.]

WSO National Office for Cameroon Hosts Webinar for SafeDay 2020

NYONG Clement B. Corporate HSE Consultant, Cameroon Safety Services. Director, WSO National Office for Cameroon. Douala, Cameroon.



Due to the pandemic Covid-19 and respecting one of the preventive measure which is Social Distancing, WSO Cameroon had to organize a Virtual Webinar with other safety professionals and individuals. Below the points that were discussed:

- How to Manage a Pandemic in the Workplace for Business Continuity
- Employee, Client, and Product Safety
- Activating the Pandemic Preparedness Plan

WSO Cameroon would like to thank **Dr. Oliver Ndimbie**, **Dr. Sule Nformi**, and **Jeberu NGIH** for supporting us in the fight against COVID-19 in Ndu Palace, a rural community. They donated some coronavirus prevention kits and WSO Cameroon volunteer safety jackets.

We appreciate their collaboration with WSO Cameroon in implementing WSO's motto: "Making Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide."



Above: WSO Cameroon Director visited Victoria Primary School for a preparation meeting for COVID-19 sensitization prior school reopening after 3 Months Of suspension and lock down. Top right: WSO Cameroon volunteer safety jackets. Bottom right: coronavirus prevention kits.

WSO London (UK) Chapter Hosts SafeDay Webinar

Rasib Hussain, WSO-CSM, EurOSHM. Director, AJP Safety Ltd. Vice President, WSO London Chapter. Berkshire, UK

AJP Safety, based in London (UK), collaborated with the WSO London (UK) Chapter and Contec AQS (Italy) to host an event on 28th April 2020 on World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

The event was titled “COVID-19 UK Business-ess,” and our Vice President, **Rasib Hussain**, presented the live 30 minute video Webinar to major international clients on key themes including:

- UK Time Line (first reported cases, lock down, actions taken by the UK government)
- Business types and venues to be closed or have restricted openings
- Guidance for Business operations and types of sectors affected
- Summary of Workplace measures to help prevent spread
- Impact of lockdown on the UK Population

COVID-19 Webinar

AJP Safety, in conjunction with WSO London (UK) Chapter, will be continuing to run more virtual training events — such as the one below — to help improve workplace safety especially in this current time including Human Factors training.

“Stop the Pandemic” Video

AJP Safety created a video on how organizations can help their workforce *stop the pandemic*. View the video [here](#).

Human Factors – COVID-19

Ed Milnes, MSc(Eng) C.ErgHF

With organizations increasingly planning how people will be able to return to workplaces as COVID-19 lockdowns are eased, it is clear that a key safety issue is compliance with behavioral instructions aimed at minimizing potential spread. In a nutshell, this is a clear Human Factors (HF) issue.

Compliance with safety critical behavior instructions (or in this case health critical behavior) is a core aspect of HF. The bottom line in HF is that **people don't always do what they are asked to do** (this will not be news to any Safety Managers!). This can happen due to a wide range of underlying reasons and when trying to control a hazard such as this one, and minimize exposure it is not enough to simply say to individuals – “do this and don't do that”.

The underlying potential reasons for non-compliance need addressing and ironing out as far as they can be. As a starter, di-

rections and instructions aimed at minimizing spread of COVID-19 need to be characterized with the following:

1) **Absolute clarity** on what to do (or not do), when to do it (or not to do it). Ambiguity introduces scope for misinterpretation (deliberate or accidental).

2) **Clear, justifiable and relatable functions** – every action and behavior is based on rapid risk and value judgments by each individual. If people do not see the value in doing something (and it may not always be obvious) then the risk of non-compliance increases.

3) **Backed up by the necessary support** – physical infrastructure/supplies. There is no point telling individuals to keep spacing if there is not space, or conflicting demands. There is no point telling people to wear masks if they are not provided, or use sanitizer gel if it is not provided.

4) **Supported by supervision** - These are challenging times for everyone and with a return to the workplace it will be easy sometimes to forget that we are still in a period of unprecedented risk. Gentle reminders will

help to keep nudging people to do things the right way. In our view one of the biggest risks in terms of spread is presenteeism; people who do not feel well turning up for work and coming into increased contact with others. Hopefully the last month has started to change culture in terms of this, but there will still be situations where people feel under pressure to ‘present’ at work. This is partly an individual characteristic, but it also relates to company culture. Now is the time for companies to reflect on this aspect of their culture and question whether there needs to be shift in priorities. In the short term this will rely on clear instruction.

Human Factors shouldn't be seen as a complex or challenging lens to look at this issue through. When the risks and behaviors are broken down it provides a logical and structured approach which will help support a safer return to a new normality.

The Energy Institute has provided a free resource - a helpful way of visualizing and structuring the hazards, risks and mitigations in a ‘Bow-tie’ diagram. This is a useful step in developing policy, re-structuring workplaces and working practices and can be applied across any business.

https://www.energyinst.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/726377/Bow-Tie-for-Covid-19-EI-and-CCPS-April-9-2020.pdf

“In these times of unprecedented challenges, the WSO's message of “Making Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide” has inspired our new Chapter to look at ways in getting that message across.”

George Mathew, MA
President, WSO London Chapter

Let's Talk About Respiratory Protection Disposable Face Masks

Domingo E. Rodríguez. Director, Hazmat School. Caracas - Venezuela.

The worldwide problem we are experiencing due to COVID-19, which has endangered the health of all people in all countries, they are talking and using disposable face masks to have some type of respiratory protection. Disposable face masks and so-called half-face masks cover the nose and mouth.

In many countries the respiratory protection disposable face masks are also called respirators.

The masks for respiratory protection must filter the air inhaled from the outside, and their main function is to retain pollutants from the environment in the where we are, solid particles in suspension (dusts, or micro aerosol droplets), bacteria or viruses. , it is very important to be clear that each type of mask is designed to protect us from a certain risk

In order to have an adequate level of respiratory protection, it is essential to follow these steps Identify the health hazards such harmful agents can be dusts, vapors, gases, bacteria or viruses, etc.

- Select the self-filtering mask, gas and vapor mask, or air supply kit.
- Have All Information of the mask, or respiratory protection equipment use, care and limitation.
- Proper donning of the mask or equipment, and adjustment

Masks, and so-called respirators, which are used for respiratory protection, are classified into major groups: those that filter air; and those that supply clean uncontaminated air, from a supply source that can be from a line of air, or from a cylinder.

In the USA, as well as in many countries, they are used for respiratory protection as a preventive element in the fight against



COVID-19, for the protection of disposable masks, with an N95 certification, on the recommendation of World Health Organization (WHO-OMS). Certification issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, against where respiratory protection is mandatory, employers must provide NIOSH-certified respirators to their workers. In order for your respirator to be NIOSH certified, it must meet standards and successfully pass various tests in NIOSH laboratories.

The letters used to indicate the capacity to filter that you have disposable masks are: **N**, **R**, and **P**.

N: Not Resistant to Oils.

R: Oil Resistant.

P: Very Resistant to Oil.

N-95 series of disposable face mask are quite effective the mask or respirator N series, only in the in the absence of oil particles

The number 95 is a designation that NIOSH has given to those respirators because they have the capacity to block very small particles (size 0.3 micron or 0.001 millimeter or 0.000039 inch) at 95 percent effectiveness.

The disposable face masks can make it difficult to breathe. Take care, and stay safe!

Source:

NIOSH-Approved N95 Particle Filtering Facepiece Respirator – A suppliers Lists US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health 2020-03-19.

NIOSH Science Blog. 2020-04-25.

N95 Respirator and Surgical Masks (Face Marks). US Food and Drug Administration 2020-03-11.



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