

2020 WINTER/SPRING CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Southern Colorado Chapter Meets every other month. Meetings are held at a local business and topics are related to the businesses and tours are offered based on availability. The meetings are generally from 1:30-3:30 pm. The officers have decided to not charge for snacks and beverages but donations to the chapter are always welcome to help offset the costs of the snacks and beverages. Directions and meeting venue requirements are shared with you in the registration email. Our mission is to offer an opportunity for safety professionals to meet other professionals and to share their experiences and knowledge with one another to promote safe and healthful working conditions in Southern Colorado.

The Safety Professional's Role in Planning for a Pandemic – [Learn More](#)

Chapter Activity Highlights – A list of amazing speakers and events we've enjoyed together!

April 2019 – US Olympic Museum tour, courtesy of *GE Johnson* and Jim Cosgrave

May 2019 – *Active Release Techniques (ART)*, a way to treat soft tissue disorders so people can get back to peak performance as quickly as possible

July 2019 – Speaker Natalie Schwatka, PhD, CDPHE, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

November 2019 – Injury Prevention and Performance Methods – courtesy of *Lori Frederic* of [BalanceBio](#)

A special thanks to [Timberline Landscaping](#) for allowing us to use their amazing new facility!

January 2020 – *Martin Drake Electrical Power Plant* member tour

March 20th – *Colorado Springs Airport Technical Tour* (**Postponed**)

July 17th – *Patty Jewett Golf Course* – Meeting

Check out our upcoming [Events in 2020!](#)

Did you know that our chapter is Gold!



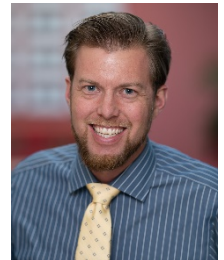
LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

[10 Things You Wish Everyone Understood About Safety](#)

1. Safety is a Profession
2. Safety Affects Everyone
3. Safety, Health and the Environment are Connected
4. Safety Professionals Aren't Cops
5. Safety is about Expecting the Unexpected
6. Safety Doesn't Stop at Work
7. Safety Earns Companies Money
8. Safety Takes Constant Communication
9. Safety Doesn't just Happen
10. Safety is in Demand

Chapter Value

ASSP chapter communities provide accessible, face-to-face opportunities for ASSP members to become better safety professionals.



John Crawmer

LETTER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

As we explore new ways of conducting business in a modern world, what are methods that you've found to be most beneficial to maintain business continuity? There are numerous resources from the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA), the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA). These organizations have developed content applicable to help employers keep workers safe and productive during an unplanned event, like the recent COVID-19 pandemic. But even other situations might occur where your employer might encounter business interruptions. These situations should be evaluated by senior leadership with methodical preparation to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. Using resources like NFPA 1600 and partnering with your insurance risk management professionals can yield favorable outcomes for employees and employers. Here at your local SOCO ASSP chapter, we want to assure that our members and communities are informed and prepared. It's more important than ever to source information from a trustworthy source. This helps assure knowledge sharing is credible and relevant. If you have questions, then calmly reach out and explore your resources to solve problems specific to your operations. Working together with a unified approach yields strong results.

Here are some agencies that help to offer guidance during times of uncertainty



[Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#)



[Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#)



[Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management](#)



[Pueblo Emergency Preparedness](#)

COVID-19 QUESTION CORNER

If one of my employees suspects they've contracted COVID-19 at work, is that a compensable workers' compensation illness?

With the growing number of COVID-19 (coronavirus) cases in Colorado, it's crucial to prepare your workplace in case one of your employees gets the virus. Part of that preparation is understanding whether employees could claim workers' compensation if they contract the virus. For such a claim to be admitted, the employee would have to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the infection arose out of and in the course of employment.

This approach is no different than any other claim of workplace exposure to contamination or illness. If the worker was on the clock and on the premises at the time of the exposure to the virus and can establish a causal connection between the duties of their employment and the infection, then the claim may be deemed compensable. If the virus were to become widespread throughout Colorado, it may be difficult for a worker to prove COVID-19 was contracted at work versus elsewhere in the community. A worker will need to be able to trace the contraction of the virus to a particular time, place and cause in the workplace for it to be deemed compensable. *Source:* <https://www.pinnacol.com/covid-19>

Injury/Illness Recordkeeping and COVID-19: Updated OSHA Guidance

On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, OSHA provided guidance requiring the recording and reporting of workplace exposures to COVID-19. In response to employer concerns about how they would determine where a person contracted the virus—in the workplace or elsewhere—the agency issued updated guidance on March 13, 2020.

Recording Workplace Exposures to COVID-19

COVID-19 can be a recordable illness if a worker is infected as a result of performing their work-related duties. However, employers are only responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if all of the following are met:

1. The case is a confirmed case of COVID-19 (see [CDC information](#) on persons under investigation and presumptive positive and laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19).
2. The case is work-related, as defined by 29 CFR 1904.5.
3. The case involves one or more of the general recording criteria set forth in 29 CFR 1904.7 (e.g., medical treatment beyond first-aid, days away from work).
4. Visit OSHA's Injury and Illness [Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements page](#) for more information.

Source: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/standards.html>

HAVE EMPLOYEES WORKING FROM HOME?

Help them set up a safe workspace

Contributing Author: Pinnacol Assurance

You look after your workers' safety at the office or on job sites by conducting fire drills and buying ergonomic furniture. But have you implemented similar steps to keep telecommuters safe in their home offices? It's a new and critical concern as more businesses embrace telecommuting.

The number of Coloradoans working from home has risen by at least 21,000 since 2010, [to more than 173,000](#). Boulder leads the nation with almost 11 percent of its workforce telecommuting.

You can protect these employees by adopting a safety policy that outlines requirements for home offices. These plans make telecommuters more aware of their surroundings and the hazards they can face.

What should your policy cover? We recommend touching on three critical areas, including several issues outlined in our [Home Office Hazards infographic](#).

1. **Location** - Telecommuters should have a dedicated workspace that is:
 2. Lit sufficiently to avoid squinting at the computer screen
 3. Devoid of clutter, which can lead to slips, trips and falls
 4. Free from obstructions, such as cords or an uneven carpet, in walkways
 - a. **Workspace hazards** – Check for compliance on:
 - b. **Fire prevention:** Know the exit routes, make fire extinguishers easy to access, and check smoke detectors regularly
 - c. **Electrical safety:** Use surge protectors, turn off equipment when it is not in

use, and don't plug in too many extension cords and power strips

- d. **Ample ventilation and adequate temperature:** Place computers far from heat sources and monitor space heaters' output carefully
- e. **Ergonomics** - Provide telecommuters the same guidelines you give those at your office:

5. Use correct posture
 6. Position your chair so your computer screen is at eye level
 7. Take short breaks to prevent strain to eyes and neck
- Put our [checklist of telecommuting work safety tips](#) into effect. Then ask your employee to sign your safety policy to keep everyone on the same page.
 - For even more information, download our library of [Office Safety](#) and [Lifting and Ergonomics](#) resources.
 - Questions? Contact us at safetyoncall@pinnacol.com

Source: <https://www.pinnacol.com/blog/have-employees-working-from-home-help-them-set-up-a-safe-workspace>

Fun Facts

Federal OSHA is a small agency; with our state partners we have approximately 2,100 inspectors responsible for the health and safety of 130 million workers, employed at more than 8 million worksites around the nation — which translates to about one compliance officer for every 59,000 workers.

Federal OSHA has 10 regional offices and 85 local area offices.

OSHA budget

FY 2017: \$552,787,000

FY 2018: \$552,787,000

FY 2019: \$557,787,000

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



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