BEANPOT FALL NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOSTON CHAPETER
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



SEPTMBER&
OCTOBER 2024

Newsletter Highlights

Reflecting on Historic Catastrophes for a Safer Tomorrow: Observing Emergency Preparedness Month

A Message from the Chapter President

Lithium-Ion Battery
Emergency
Preparedness: Are You
Prepared?

Interviews with Social Media & Website Co-Chairs Matt Carberry & Ryan McNally

Recent Technical Meetings & Socials - Update from Safety 2024 PDC Denver

News & Views

ASSP Foundation Update

ASSP Foundation
Scholarship Advertisement

Upcoming Events
Calender

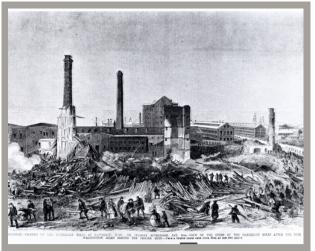


REFLECTING ON HISTORIC CATASTROPHIES FOR A SAFER TOMORROW: OBSERVING SEPTEMBER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

By Michael "Miki" Alroy

As we mark September as Emergency Preparedness Month, our attention is naturally drawn to the prevention of future accidents and disasters. But it is also a fitting occasion to reflect upon the past, particularly the catastrophic events that have shaped our understanding of safety, to inform and guide our future actions. In the state of Massachusetts, we have a long history of industrial and public safety incidents that offer us both lessons and warnings.

This is an ideal time to reevaluate emergency procedures, engage in training exercises, and foster a culture of safety and preparedness within your organizations and communities. Let's capitalize on the wealth of resources available, from webinars and workshops to emergency drills and safety audits. Preparedness is not just an individual responsibility; it is a collective endeavor that safeguards our workplaces, homes, and communities. Let's honor this month by dedicating ourselves to enhancing safety and preparedness at all levels.



Source: https://mlon.presshooks.pub/americanenvironmentalhistory/chapter/chapter-5commons-mills-corporations/

The Pemberton Mill Collapse, Lawrence, 1860

On January 10, 1860, the five-story Pemberton Mill in Lawrence crumbled without warning, trapping hundreds of workers under debris and heavy machinery. The collapse killed 145 and injured countless others.

The tragedy was found to be the result of multiple avoidable factors. In disregard of already dubious load capacities, additional textile equipment had been crammed into the factory's upper levels. Further investigation revealed the presence of poor construction practices. The brick walls had been inadequately mortared and lacked proper support. Additionally, the iron columns used to sustain the floors were of low quality and brittle, yet they had been used in the construction anyway.

Lessons Learned:

Structural Integrity: The necessity for periodic inspections and structural assessments became evident. Occupational Density: The disaster also underscored the risks associated with overcrowding in industrial settings.

The Brockton Boiler Explosion, 1905

The catastrophic event at the R. B. Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton. Massachusetts on March 20, 1905, resulted in a devastating explosion, structural collapse, and subsequent fire. This tragedy claimed the lives of 58 individuals and left 150 others injured. Originating from a boiler malfunction, the explosion caused the four-story wooden structure to give way, and the debris subsequently ignited, entrapping and incinerating workers within the wreckage.

This incident served as a wake-up call for industrial safety regulations. It catalyzed the implementation of rigorous safety laws and paved the way for the establishment of a national code focused on the safe operation of steam boilers.

Lessons Learned:

Regular Inspections: Machinery, like boilers, need to be regularly inspected for signs of wear and tear.

Evacuation Plans: Clearly marked and easily accessible emergency exits save lives during a crisis.



Before & After Views of the Grover Shoe Factory Source: https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/grover-shoe-factory-disastershakes-nation-1905/



Source: https://www.wbur.org/news/2019/01/15/boston-molasses-flood-100-

The Great Molasses Flood, Boston, 1919

On January 15, 1919, Boston's North End was the scene of an unimaginable tragedy when a tank containing 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, killing 21 people and injuring 150 others.

Following the incident, 119 community members initiated a collective legal action against the United States Industrial Alcohol Company, which had acquired owner of the tank Purity Distilling in 1917. This case was among the earliest class-action lawsuits in Massachusetts and is regarded as a landmark event that helped lay the foundation for contemporary corporate oversight.

Lessons Learned:

Quality and Inspection: Regular testing and inspections of storage tanks and their construction materials are examined

Community Preparedness: This incident involved the wider community, emphasizing the need for public awareness and preparedness.



Source: https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/11/28/today-marks-anniversary-cocoanut-grove-fire/OgRP3ItbZdFp1FophXNMcL/story.html

The Cocoanut Grove Fire, 1942

On November 28, 1942, a fire broke out at the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, claiming 492 lives. It remains the deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history. Locked exits and flammable materials used in the décor contributed to the tragedy.

Local medical facilities were remarkably well-equipped to handle the casualties, thanks in part to their recent emergency drills aimed at preparing for potential wartime assaults on the East Coast. The crisis underscored the importance of newly established blood banks and spurred significant progress in burn treatment methodologies. In the aftermath of the fire, a slew of legislative changes were made to enhance safety in public spaces. These included prohibitions on the use of flammable decorations, mandates to keep emergency exits unlocked from the inside, and regulations stipulating that revolving doors could not serve as the sole means of egress.

Lessons Learned:

Fire Safety Standards: Materials used in public spaces should adhere to fire safety standards, reclassifying restaurants and nightclubs as places of public assembly thereby mandating more stringent regulations and including requiring automatic fire spinkler systems depending on occupant load and building configuration.

Emergency Exits: Doors should not only be marked clearly but also must remain unlocked during business hours to facilitate emergency escapes.

Our Collective Mission

While safety measures have improved significantly since these incidents, the need for vigilance and preparedness remains. Emergency Preparedness Month serves as a sobering reminder that safety is a collective mission—one that depends on rigorous standards, regular inspection, and the ongoing education of both professionals and the public.

Let us continue to innovate and educate this September, and indeed all year long, to make our workplaces and public spaces safer for everyone.



2024 Safety Professional of the Year
Cesar Morocho

Congrats!



A Message from our Chapter President - Miki Alroy



Dear Greater Boston ASSP Chapter Members,

I'm excited to welcome you to a brand-new chapter year as your 2024-2025 President! First, I want to extend my deepest thanks to our immediate past president, Jeffery Myung, and last year's elected officers for their incredible work in maintaining our Platinum Level Chapter status for the second year running—a remarkable achievement.

This year is even more special, as it marks the Centennial anniversary of our chapter. We're planning a celebration this spring that will be fitting for such an important milestone. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

One of the key focuses during my term will be on you, our members. Our goal is to provide you with the best resources, events, and support that ASSP has to offer. From technical meetings to social events, we're planning an exciting year ahead. We also just migrated our LinkedIn page to a new one due to some technical issues with our previous group setup—please be sure to follow the new page to stay up to date on chapter news and events!

I'm honored to work alongside an outstanding team of officers this year, including Brian Hanlon as president-elect, Cesar Morocho as secretary, and the legendary Mike Sample as treasurer. We've also welcomed some new faces to our Executive Committee, and I couldn't be more excited about what we'll accomplish together.

We are committed to being as approachable and supportive to our members as possible. If you ever need assistance, want to get involved, or have a question, feel free to reach out to any of us through LinkedIn or via the Chapter website's contact form (https://boston.assp.org/contact-us/), and we promise to respond.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Best regards & Be Safe,

Michael "Miki" Alroy President, 2024-2025

Greater Boston ASSP Chapter





PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER 2023-2024

PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER 2022-2023

Lithium-Ion Battery Emergency Preparedness: Are You Prepared?

By Michael "Miki" Alroy

Lithium-Ion Battery Emergency Preparedness: Understanding the Risks and Solutions

With the increased use of lithium-ion batteries in the workplace and at home—powering devices like laptops, tablets, cell phones, and even e-bikes and scooters—it's essential to address the unique risks they present. These batteries are prevalent in many industries and personal spaces, yet the dangers they pose, particularly in the event of an emergency, are often overlooked. Understanding these risks and preparing accordingly is crucial for safety professionals.



The Dangers of Lithium-Ion Batteries: Thermal Runaway and Fire Hazards

One of the most critical dangers associated with lithium-ion batteries is thermal runaway—a chain reaction where an increase in temperature causes the battery to release more heat, leading to fire and the release of toxic, flammable gases. This process can happen quickly and unexpectedly, making it difficult to contain if proper safety measures aren't in place.

What makes lithium-ion battery fires particularly challenging is the difficulty of extinguishing them. Due to the configuration of the batteries within devices, it can be hard to get extinguishing agents to the battery cells that are actually on fire. Traditional fire suppression methods, like water or foam, are often ineffective or even hazardous in these situations.

Extinguishing Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: Emerging Technologies

While ASSP does not endorse any specific product, several technologies are designed to tackle lithium-ion battery fires. Here are three emerging solutions:

FireIce XT: This gel-based extinguishing agent cools the battery while forming a barrier to prevent the spread of heat and flames. It is particularly effective at cooling the affected area and preventing reignition.

EA-500 Fluorine-Free Extinguishing Agent: This agent is designed to rapidly cool and smother lithium-ion battery fires without releasing harmful fluorine compounds.

CellBlock FCS: This technology uses an absorbent material to encase the batteries, suffocating the fire while absorbing toxic fumes and heat. It helps prevent thermal runaway from spreading to nearby cells.

Creating an Emergency Action Plan for Lithium-Ion Battery Incidents

Given the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries, workplaces should incorporate Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) specifically addressing these emergencies. An effective EAP should include:

- Regular training for employees on how to identify lithium-ion battery hazards and the proper response protocols.
- Clearly defined roles for emergency personnel and staff in the event of a battery fire.
- Proper storage, handling, and disposal guidelines for lithium-ion batteries to prevent accidents.
- Integration of appropriate fire suppression tools, such as the aforementioned extinguishing technologies, into the workplace safety plan.



Warning Signs of Lithium-Ion Battery Damage

Early detection of a damaged lithium-ion battery can be critical in preventing thermal runaway. Key signs of battery damage include:

- Swelling or bloating of the battery casing.
- Overheating, even when the device is not in use.
- Unusual smells, such as a chemical or burning odor.
- Discoloration or visible damage to the battery case.
- Leaking fluids from the battery.
- Unexpected device shutdowns or failure to charge properly.

If any of these signs are present, the battery should be removed from service immediately and handled with caution to prevent further escalation.

Interview with Greater Boston's Website Update and Social Media Co-Chairs Matt Carberry & Ryan McNally

By Michael "Miki" Alroy

We are excited to present interviews with Matt Carberry and Ryan McNally, the dynamic co-chairs of the Greater Boston Chapter's Website and Social Media Committee. Both graduates of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Matt and Ryan have built impressive careers in safety and environmental health, contributing to the industry in various capacities. Matt Carberry began his journey in construction, working with large construction managers in the Boston area before transitioning into safety management at Moderna. Recently, he took on the role of EHS Facilities Manager at Novartis in Cambridge. Ryan McNally, meanwhile, launched his career as a consultant with True North Safety, focusing on heavy utility construction. He then moved into a role at Moderna managing construction safety and is now a safety manager at GeoComp, where he oversees risk management for infrastructure projects. Their leadership in safety, coupled with their commitment to advancing the Greater Boston Chapter's online presence, makes them key figures in the local safety community.

How has your education at Massachusetts Maritime Academy influenced your approach to safety and risk management in your current roles?



Novartis's Matt Carberry pictured above.





GeoComp's Ryan McNally pictured above.

Matt Carberry:

"My education at Massachusetts Maritime Academy has greatly influenced my approach to safety and risk management, focusing on four key principles: integrity, communication, leadership, and continuous improvement. Integrity drives my strict adherence to safety protocols, while strong communication skills help me promote safety awareness effectively. The academy also honed my leadership abilities, enabling me to proactively manage risks and foster a safety-focused culture. Continuous improvement pushes me to stay updated with industry advancements and refine safety methods. These principles have shaped how I approach my current role with a strong commitment to safety."

Ryan McNally:

"My education at Massachusetts Maritime Academy has had a profound influence on my approach to safety and risk management in my current roles. The regimented academy taught me discipline, leadership, and knowledge. Studying marine safety and environmental science at the academy gave me a deep understanding of the importance of proactive risk assessment and mitigation. This foundation has enabled me to prioritize safety in every aspect of my work and to develop comprehensive risk management strategies that prioritize the well-being of all individuals involved."

What motivated you to take on the role of co-chair for the Social Media and Website Update Committee of the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter?

Matt Carberry:

"My motivation for joining the ASSP and its Social Media Committee comes from a desire to enrich and engage the safety culture in Greater Boston. I believe safety is about culture, not just protocols, and aim to use the committee to foster a sense of responsibility and promote two-way communication. By sharing best practices, highlighting achievements, and encouraging collaboration, I hope to inspire safety professionals to stay informed and create a community where safety is deeply ingrained. My goal is to help build a safety culture that not only thrives locally but also sets a national standard."

Rvan McNallv:

"Although I initially joined the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter to network, I was particularly drawn to the opportunity to co-chair the Social Media and Website Update Committee. I believe that effective use of social media and an engaging website are crucial for reaching and engaging with our members, as well as promoting our events and resources to a wider audience. As a result, I felt motivated to take on this role to help enhance the chapter's online presence and communication strategies."

Interview with Greater Boston's Website Update and Social Media Co-Chairs Matt Carberry & Ryan McNally Continued:

How do you plan to leverage your professional experiences to enhance the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter's online presence and engagement?

Matt Carberry:

"My approach to enhancing the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter's online presence centers on engaging safety professionals in meaningful ways. Drawing from my diverse industry experiences, my goal is to create a collaborative online space where members can learn, share, and grow. By fostering camaraderie through interactive sessions like webinars, expert panels, and live demonstrations, I aim to encourage participation and professional growth. Highlighting members' unique experiences and insights is key to building a dynamic safety community. Ultimately, my motivation is to deepen connections and strengthen our shared commitment to safety."

A little more about Matt Carberry (Novartis):

In your new role at Novartis, how do you see the integration of safety protocols evolving in a global pharmaceutical context?

"In my new role at Novartis, I see safety protocols evolving significantly within the global pharmaceutical context, especially in construction projects. One key challenge is applying safety standards across diverse regions, each with its own regulations and norms, which requires flexible, adaptive strategies. Another challenge is managing safety during transitions between project stages, which demands careful planning and communication. By leveraging technology and data analytics, I aim to improve risk management and create tailored training programs. While challenging, this approach offers the opportunity to elevate safety standards in the pharmaceutical industry."

What unique challenges do you anticipate in managing safety communications within such a large and diverse organization?

"Managing safety communications at Novartis presents unique challenges due to the organization's geographical spread, diverse disciplines, and the rapidly evolving nature of the pharmaceutical industry. With operations in different regions, effective communication must account for language, cultural differences, and varied regulations. The multi-disciplinary nature of the company adds complexity, requiring tailored safety messages for different functions while maintaining consistent standards. Additionally, the fast pace of industry changes demands timely updates to safety strategies. My goal is to create clear, inclusive communication by leveraging digital platforms, multilingual resources, and open dialogue to ensure safety across all levels."

Ryan McNally:

"I believe my experience in social media management will be instrumental in enhancing the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter's online presence and engagement. I plan to utilize my skills in creating compelling content and implementing effective social media strategies. Additionally, I aim to bring fresh ideas and innovative approaches to increase member participation and create a connected online community for the chapter."



A little more about For Ryan McNally (GeoComp):

**At GeoComp, you're working in a field that blends civil engineering with geostructural services. How does this experience shape your perspective on safety within infrastructure projects?

"Working at GeoComp has given me a unique perspective on safety within infrastructure projects. The combination of civil engineering and geostructural services requires a comprehensive approach to safety that takes into account not only the structural integrity of the project, but also the surrounding geological and environmental factors. This experience has reinforced the importance of thorough risk assessment, regular safety inspections, and effective communication among all stakeholders to ensure the safety of both workers and the surrounding community"

What are the key safety risks you encounter in your role at GeoComp, and how do you plan to address them?

"The key safety risks in GeoComp often include hazards such as unstable soil conditions, slope instability, and potential excavation collapse. To address these risks, we plan to implement thorough site assessments and regular monitoring to identify potential hazards. Additionally, we will prioritize appropriate safety training for all team members and enforce strict adherence to safety protocols and procedures."

Recent Technical Meeting & Social Networking Event Summaries

By Michael "Miki" Alroy





OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE AND SAFETY ISSUES IN BIOPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

In September, the ASSP Greater Boston Chapter hosted a highly engaging meeting at Moderna, featuring a presentation by Jack Geissert on Occupational Hygiene and Safety Issues in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing. Jack delivered an insightful session to a packed room, covering critical safety concerns specific to the biopharma industry. The highlight of the event was a fun and interactive breakout session, where attendees applied the tools Jack introduced. We participated in a fictional scenario, taking over Jack's role as he "retired," and developed an EHS strategy for our fictional pharmaceutical company. The session sparked lively discussions and hands-on learning around occupational safety in this specialized field.

ASSP GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER



EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE SPRING & SUMMER SOCIALS

The ASSP Greater Boston Chapter's Emerging Professionals group has been busy with a series of fun and engaging social networking events. It kicked off with an Earth Day cleanup at Blue Hills in Canton, followed by a delicious meal at Trillium Brewing. The summer brought a pickleball event at PKL in South Boston, where participants enjoyed a BBQ spread and chapter updates. On a hot day, the group gathered at Granite Links in Quincy for a golf clinic, working on their swings with industry pros. These events offered a great mix of networking, outdoor fun, and professional development.





"Greater Boston Chapter Insights: Highlights from the CONFERENCE + EXPO National Professional Development Conference in Denver"

Prior to the ASSP Safety 2024 Conference and Exposition, Greater Boston ASSP Chapter members Steve Marcassoli and Don Delikat attended the ASSP Leadership Conference in Denver, CO on August 6,2024. The ASSP Leadership Conference provided leadership development training, team-building and problem solving sessions for many attending ASSP Chapters. Networking provided excellent opportunities to learn and share ideas with other National and International ASSP Chapters. Discussion with the Colorado ASSP Chapter provided for interesting ideas with regard to possible new initiatives which the Greater Boston ASSP Chapter could adopt.



By Don Delikat



Above: Chapter Members pictured Don Delikat, Steve Marcassoli & Ahsan Manii

The ASSP Safety Exposition featured a wide range of exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge safety equipment, software solutions and consulting services. Some of the numerous exhibits included:

The ASSP Safety 2024 Conference and Exposition was held in Denver, CO from August 7-9, 2024 and attended by a sold out attendance of over 6000 safety professionals, over 200 exhibitors and 100+ educational sessions and workshops. The Greater Boston ASSP Chapter had various members attending(see photo).

Among the notable sessions this year were:

- Implementing AI in Safety Practices
- **Navigating Compliance Changes**
- Mental Health in the Workplace



Above: Chapter Members pictured Don Delikat, Steve Marcassoli, Hayley Taylor & Ahsan Manji

- New advances in PPE, such a Type II Safety Helmets
- Safety Management Systems designed to streamline incident reporting and compliance
- Interactive demonstrations with hands-on experience with new technologies such as Virtual Reality simulation for safety training

News & Views



by Suzanne Norembrega Center for Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW)





The Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW) conducts research with working people and employers to overcome workplace obstacles to health. The Center also offers research-based program toolkits and education to help employers support a health-promoting workplace and a vital, productive workforce.

CONTINUING EDUCATION – FREE ONLINE, ON-DEMAND LEARNING FOR SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



<u>Employer Crisis Preparedness using a Total Worker Health Approach</u> 2-hour free online, on-demand course for professionals responsible for crisis planning.



Free on-demand Total Worker Health education for OSH Students

2-hour free online, on-demand course for university students. Introduces TWH concepts and varied OSH professional disciplines.

NEWS & VIEWS EMERGING ISSUE BRIEFS

Quick reads for professionals on emerging issues related to Total Worker Health



Why Safety Is Never First and What To Do About It



What's DEI Got To Do With Total Worker Health?

Sponsorships Now Available for the 2024 BOSGO Scholarship Golf Tournament

Great Brand Recognition Opportunity for a great cause !!! Click link here for details



FOUNDATION UPDATE - REMINDER ABOUT AVAILABLE PE GRANTS!





By Dave Crowley

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! IT'S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON WITH THE ASSP FOUNDATION! ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IN MID-OCTOBER 2024

The ASSP Foundation is the charitable arm of ASSP, the ASSP Foundation provides financial and programmatic support of the profession on behalf of ASSP and the ASSP community. The ASSP Foundation was established back in 1990 and has invested more than \$5.4 million into the occupational safety and health community to develop opportunities for career guidance, education and leadership development. This is a staggering dollar amount which represents greater than \$4.5 million in scholarships that were issued to students and \$300,000 in professional education grants issued to ASSP members.

GBC FUNDS: The GBC has two separate funds established with the Foundation, one dedicated for student scholarships and one professional development grant for existing safety professionals.

THE LATEST: The GBC increased their funding for the Foundation scholarship last year. Our chapter has invested \$90,000 for an endowed scholarship with the Foundation, this enables us to issue a \$2,000 annually. Please help get the message out on this – if you are a student, please consider applying. If you are an ASSP member and you know a student, please let them know about this opportunity!

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS: The GBC has a fund established for professional education grants for ASSP members. This is an endowed fund that has a balance of \$60,000 which enables the GBC to issue four (4) \$500 grant awards on an annual basis. This money is open to apply for and use for attending the PDC, attending an ASSP education course, or to use for your professional certification. ASSP members are encouraged to apply at any time. Grants are issued throughout the year. Submit your application NOW!



Show your love for safety by shopping online at:

www.assp.org/membership/assp-gear

Proceeds from every sale will directly benefit the ASSP Foundation.

IMPORTANT LINKS: We offer the following links to read and find out more about **ASSP's Foundation** >

More about the Foundation > https://foundation.assp.org/about/

How you can support the Foundation >

https://foundation.assp.org/support-us/
Scholarship application > https://asspfoundation.secure-

platform.com/a/solicitations/login/8

Grant application > https://asspfoundation.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/solicitations/login/10

It is important to note that, aside from the funds referenced above, the GBC also issues separate scholarships from the chapter budget. Students should stay connected so they are able to take advantage of these funding opportunities! Any questions, please reach out!

Cheers, Dave C. 1-617-877-2062 dave.crowley@hphood.com



24rd Annual ROSGO

October

Join the GBC for an amazing Friday of Autumn Golf in New England to support scholarships for local students who focus on occupational health & safety - Northborough, MA

Virtual Technical Meeting

October

"Workers' Compensation 101 & EMR for Safety Professionals" technical meeting to gain essential insights into managing workers' comp claims and understanding EMR's impact on safety performance.

New England Area PDC

November

American Society of Safety Professionals Region VIII - New England Area 26th **Professional Development Conference & Exposition - Springfield, MA**

In-Person Technical Meeting

November

Discover how AI is transforming workplace safety at our upcoming technical meeting, "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Safety Management."

Virtual Technical Meeting

December

TRD

2024 Annual OSHA Update - stay informed on the latest regulatory updates, enforcement trends, and key safety standards impacting your workplace.

ASP/CSP Study Course

SPRING

This in-person course is designed to present students with a representation of the Board of **Certified Safety Professional's ASP & CSP** certification exam's concepts and questions.

