

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



## WELCOME

### Mark your Calendars for 2021 PDC!



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The Gulf Coast ASSP Chapter proudly announces the official call for presenters to be a part of the **2021 Gulf Coast Chapter ASSP PDC on Friday, April 23, 2021**. Interested presenters must submit a proposal to speak for review by the Conference Planning Committee. This annual event provides one of the most sought after opportunities for attendees to learn the profession's best practices focusing on Safety. The committee is interested in dynamic, technically oriented presentations with case studies. Sessions at the PDC are expected to be one full hour! The 2020 PDC will be held at the Houston Area Safety Council Headquarters located at 5213 Center Street in Pasadena, TX 77505. If you are interested in presenting at this event, please submit [this form](#) to [safety@gulfcoastpdc.com](mailto:safety@gulfcoastpdc.com) or fax to 866-751-2090 **by Friday, October 30th, 2020**.

**Got Questions?**  
**Contact Us**

Gulf Coast Chapter  
[info@gulfcoast.assp.org](mailto:info@gulfcoast.assp.org)

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 2065  
League City, TX 77574

## Professional Development

**Energy Corridor Section**Date: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 11:30-12:30 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Carter Dennis- Carter Dennis has been with Lift Safety for nine years working as a Territory Sales Manager. He covers a variety of different construction channels including electrical, plumbing, HVAC, general construction, industrial and oil & gas. Lift Safety started over ten years ago with unique approach to PPE safety gear. We design PPE that is comfortable, functional and looks cool! This encourages workers to wear our product. Lift Safety is also a manufacturer of Carbon Fiber and Fiber Resin hard hats.

Topic: Present ASTM/ANSI requirements for head protection (hard hats) and hand protection (gloves)

**Gulf Coast Chapter**Date: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 11:30-12:30 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Dave Thomas – President at REPSS, Inc.

Topic Quantitative Fit Testing + Live demonstration

**North Section Meeting**

North Section Members and Attendees: We look forward to the day when we can meet in person again and are evaluating the changing conditions monthly. In the meantime, we want to invite you to join the Chapter Meetings (Mothership) held online on the first Thursday of each month. More information can be found at this link: <https://gulfc coast.assp.org/north-section/about-north-section/>

**Air Quality in the Built Environment**

By: Doug Rush

As I sit down to write this article, I am reminded of the lyrics to the song, 'Signs'.

*Sign, sign, everywhere a sign  
Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind  
Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?*

There are lots of mixed and conflicting messages (signs) regarding how to protect yourself and everybody else from the dreaded Covid-19.

There are many organizations involved and they all add onto their message the following phrase, "We don't know much about Covid 19, but..."

Some of the most common organizations providing input include: AIHA, ASHRAE, CDC, NIOSH, OSHA, ASSP, EPA, WHO, etc. Perhaps the leading organizations in the USA are the CDC and OSHA.

With all this information, how does a prudent organization know how to deal with the built environment as their workforces make plans for reentry into the workplace or plans for future pandemics of this nature?

***Here are the things we know about Covid-19 and How COVID-19 is transmitted?***

The disease, COVID-19, is caused by the coronavirus referred to as SARS-CoV-2. This disease is believed to be transmitted by droplets and aerosols containing the virus which is thought to be generated by asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic persons showing the symptoms when coughing, shouting, laughing, singing, and even quietly talking.

Direct contact (e.g. kissing, touching) is also known to be a transmission path, and there is some evidence of the virus being disseminated from fecal matter by toilet flushing.

**Professional Development**

Houston Area Safety Council free webinars -  
<https://www.hasc.com/COVID-19/>

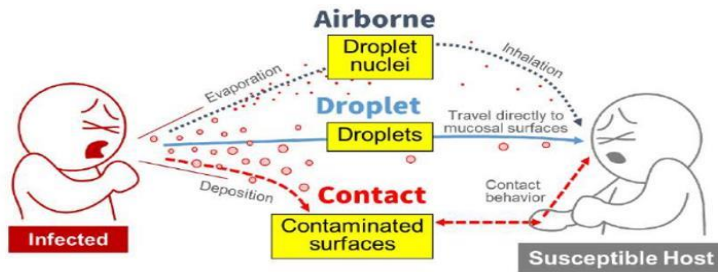
Free Safety Training Classes -  
<https://www.com.edu/gcsi/free-training>

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Based on this information, infections occur via the following **'Modes of Transmission'**:

1. Inhalation or direct contact through the eyes, nose or mouth with "droplets", typically defined as particles larger than roughly 5 to 10 microns ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). These are relatively heavy particles, so they drop out of the air after traveling a short distance of about 3 to 6 feet or 1 to 2 meters.
2. Indirect contact from droplets that contaminate surfaces are referred to as fomites. The fomites are transmitted to one's eyes, nose or mouth and practically spread by touching with the hands.
3. Inhaled aerosols or droplet nuclei are defined as particles smaller than about 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . These particles are considered to be the **Respirable** fraction of the droplets expelled and are defined as the mass fraction of particles that can reach the alveoli. The median value of the distribution of particle sizes in this category is 4.25  $\mu\text{m}$  with a GSD of 1.5.
4. Respirable particles are very light, and the aerodynamic forces of air movement counteract gravitational forces keeping the particles suspended for longer periods and creating conditions where they may travel longer distances than the larger droplets.

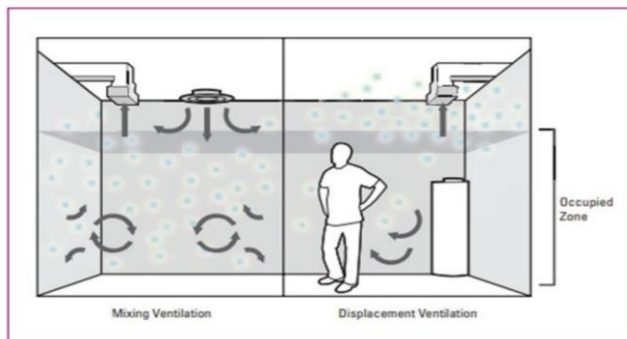


Modes of Transmission from Exhaled Pathogens (adapted from leaflet of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan (2020))

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies the first two **'Modes of Transmission'** as the primary cause of the pandemic. This property is where the term 'social distancing' or keeping a 6-foot distance from others to avoid droplet transmission, and frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and handwashing to reduce the risk of transmission from fomites originates.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) published a ["White Paper Ventilation for Industrial Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic."](#) This paper contains important information regarding the 'Hierarchy of Controls' and ventilation issues for a building owner, to include, in a review of their ventilation systems as they plan for reentry into the workplace. The information contained in the document includes considerations a building owner should review regarding the airborne transmission of the Covid-19 particles. This information should be reviewed and considered by your building team when developing your reentry plan.

Currently, most modern buildings incorporate a 'Mixing' form of ventilation verses the recommended 'Displacement' form of ventilation considered to be a better alternative for many of today's buildings where the Covid-19 virus may become airborne. The following illustration taken from the ACGIH White Paper visualizes the difference between the types of ventilation in today's buildings



Retrofitting ventilation equipment may be an expensive alternative for many building owners considering upgrading their systems to increase the overall air quality. As a result, it is recommended that a building owner conduct a **Risk Assessment** that includes **'Assessment of Risk and Optimization of Controls'** based on the usage of each space within the building. A properly conducted **Risk Assessment** will result in a **'Prioritization of Resources'** and an **'Effective, Efficient, and Visible System'** to provide a **'Safe Workplace'** that controls the risk to all reentering occupants.

Doug Rush is a Board-Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) with over 40 years of experience providing these types of 'Risk Assessments.' For more information contact him at [Scopus Consultants, Inc.](#) or directly at 832-544-8245 or [drush@scopusconsults.com](mailto:drush@scopusconsults.com) for a free initial consultation designed to help you and your organization to manage this pandemic in your workplace