



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

AIHA NATIONAL UPDATE

Revised: **March 30, 2026**



Isabel Bacarella, MPH, CIH, CSP

Manager Safety Operations Gas Transmission & Midstream (GTM), Enbridge
National Director at Large, AIHA

Isabel Bacarella, Manager Safety Operations GTM and has been with Enbridge since 2019. She is a certified industrial hygienist (CIH), certified safety professional (CSP) and earned her MPH degree from the University of Michigan in Environmental Health, Industrial Hygiene, and Hazardous Substances Management as well as a BS degree in Marine Biology from the University of Miami.

Prior to joining Enbridge, Isabel worked with PPG in specialty chemical and aerospace manufacturing sectors holding global environmental, health, and safety leadership roles.

She is also an active leader with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), as a Director-at-Large. Previous positions include: President of the Gulf Coast local section, Chair of Women in Industrial Hygiene, Career and Employment Services Committee Chair.

Isabel is a Florida native and now lives in Houston with her husband and their two children. When not working, she enjoys yoga, staying active, hiking, and spending time with her family.

AIHA SUPPORTS THE OEHS PROFESSION



Advocacy



Public Awareness



**Lab Accreditation &
Proficiency Testing**



**Occupational &
Community Exposure
Limits**

AIHA SUPPORTS OEHS PROFESSIONALS

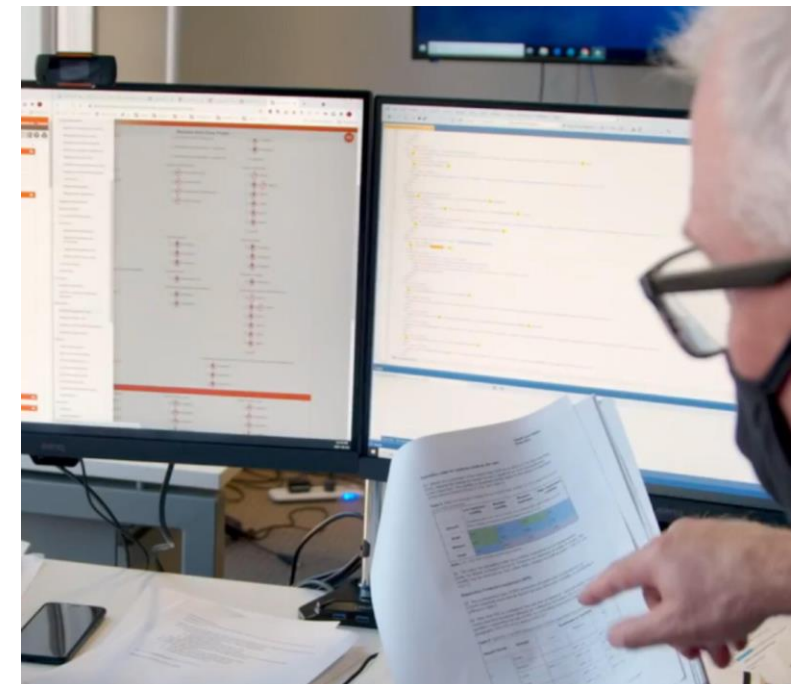


AIHA
UNIVERSITY®

**OEHS
Education**



Career Development



**Exposure Risk Decision
Resources**

AIHA SUPPORTS OEHS PROFESSIONALS



**Future
Guidance**



**OEHS Professional
Credentialing**



Global Outreach

AIHA STRATEGIC PLAN: 2025-2027

Our Core Values

Prevent | Empower | Advocate | Collaborate | Respect



Strategic Domains

Pursuit
of Knowledge

Advancing the
Profession

Member & Volunteer
Engagement

Impact
& Awareness

A. PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

Develop and disseminate cutting-edge educational and career enrichment OEHS resources.

SAVE THE DATE

June 1-3, 2026
New Orleans, LA



AIHA National Members save over **\$450**

 **AIHA**
CONNECT™
2026



 **AIHA®**

aihaconnect.org

aiha.org | 8

2026 E-LEARNING SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

- Runs January to December 2026
- Access for your roster to up to 24 contact hours of education from the 2026 AIHA University Education Webinars and select AIHA Connect OnDemand recordings.

Roster size	Early Bird Member (through 12/31/2025)	Early Bird Non-member ((through 12/31/2025)	Standard Member (after 1/1/2026)	Standard Non-member (after 1/1/2026)
Individual Subscription	\$450.00	\$750.00	499.00	\$799.00
Rosters up to 25	\$1,800.00	\$2,400.00	2,100.00	\$2,700.00
Rosters up to 50	\$2,010.00	\$2,670.00	2,310.00	\$2,970.00
Rosters up to 100	\$2,115.00	\$2,805.00	2,415.00	\$3,094.20
Rosters up to 150	\$2,220.00	\$2,940.00	\$2,520.00	\$3,240.00
Rosters up to 200	\$2,325.00	\$3,075.00	2,625.00	\$3,375.00
Rosters up to 300	\$2,535.00	\$3,210.00	2,833.80	\$3,510.00
Rosters up to 400	\$2,745.00	\$3,345.00	3,042.60	\$3,645.00
Rosters up to 500	\$2,955.00	\$3,480.00	3,251.40	\$3,780.00

CONTENT PRIORITIES & CPAG

WHAT IS A CONTENT PRIORITY?



The **Content Portfolio Advisory Group (CPAG)** advances AIHA's mission and values by providing input on the content AIHA provides.

FUTURE TRENDS & CHANGES

Targeted areas of growth as per the latest environmental scan and results evaluation by CPAG.

Information Flows

Contending with AI-driven changes.

21st Century Health

Growing health threats emerging from societal trends, including mental health, climate change, schedules, violence, and overdoses.

Evolving Science

Keeping pace with AI rapid identification patterns and generated answers in the absence of theoretical models.

Politics & Society

Views of science, safety, and regulation are affecting OEHS efforts via growing doubts of expert credibility.

Workforce Shifts

Demographic and cultural changes will require OEHS professionals adjust to different needs and priorities.

IH in an AI World

The need for OEHS professionals to integrate AI without replacing human judgment.

CURRENT CONTENT PRIORITIES

How AIHA is channeling future trends and changes.

Big Data, AI & Sensor Technologies

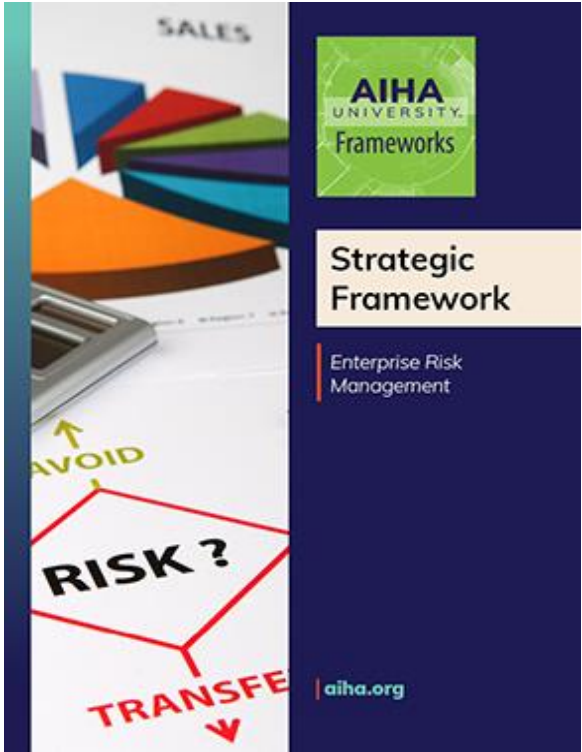
Total Worker Health®

Changing Work Dynamics

Enhancing OEHS Communication Skills

Total Worker Health® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Participation by AIHA does not imply endorsement by HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

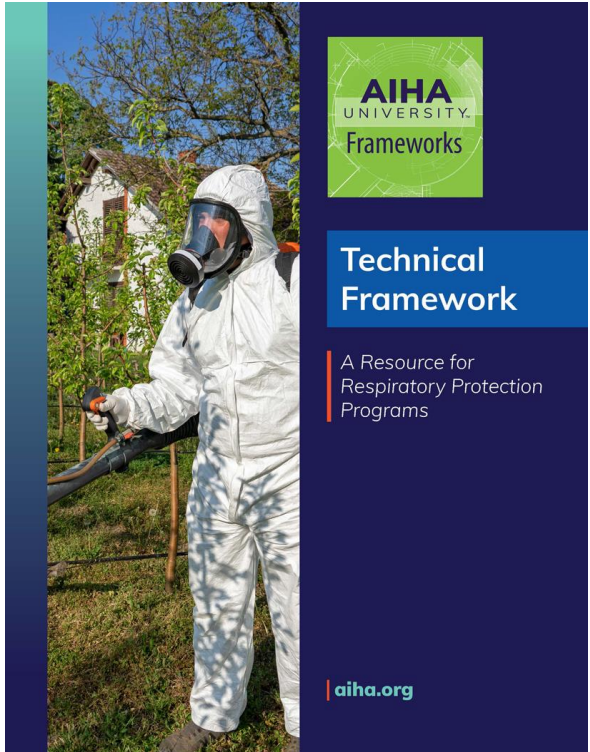
ADDITIONAL OEHS RESOURCES



1 Strategic Framework



3 Competency Frameworks



18 Technical Frameworks

FEATURED NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES (2025 RELEASES)

IH/OH PROFESSIONALS

Guidance Documents

- [Aerosolized Transmissible Diseases](#)
- [FAQs about Spore Trap Air Sampling](#)
- [Spanish Version of Construction Health: COVID-19](#)
- [Using AI to Enhance OEHS](#)

White Papers

- [Recommended Skills and Capabilities for Silica Competent Persons](#)
- [Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Waste Anesthetic Gases in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit \(Update\)](#)
- [Update of Workers Rights](#)
- [Young Worker/Child Labor in US](#)

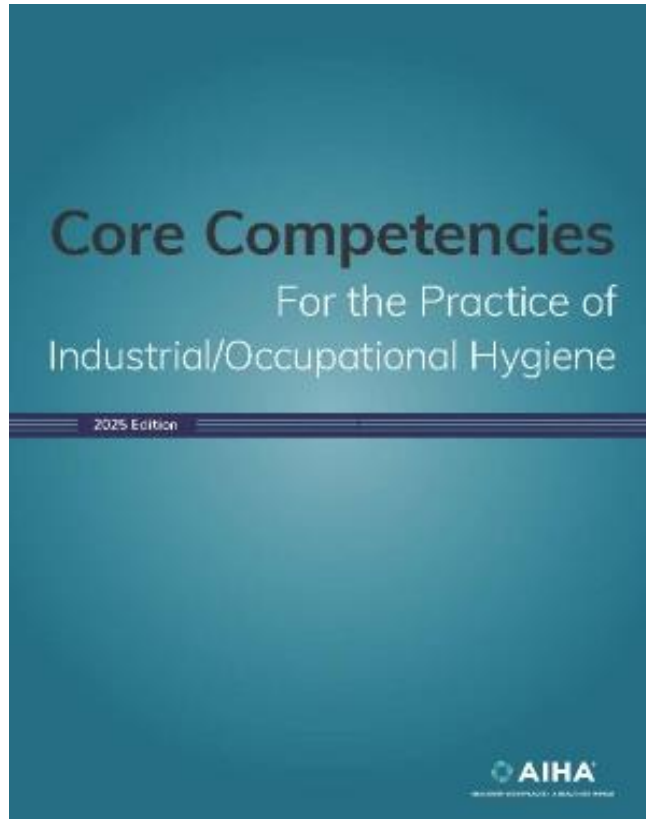
Fact Sheets

- [Sound Level Meters](#)
- [Engineered Nanomaterials in the Workplace](#)

Publications

- [AIHA IH/OH Professional Pathway](#)
- [Chemical Protective Clothing, 3rd edition](#)
- [Core Competencies for the Practice of IH/OH](#)
- [Technical Guide for Wildfire Impact Assessments for the OEHS Professional, 2nd edition](#)

FEATURED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR EHS GENERALISTS AND SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



- [Core Competencies for the Practice of Industrial/Occupational Hygiene](#)
- [Basic Principles of Occupational Hygiene eLearning Course](#)
- [Use of Direct Reading Instruments Certificate Program](#)
- [Occupational Exposure Assessment Certificate Program](#)
- [Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene Road Course](#)
- AIHA Connect OnDemand Generalist Bundles
- [360 Immersive](#)
- [Improving Exposure Judgments \(IEJ\)](#)
- [Fatigue Management Learning Pathway](#)



Resources for Academics

FREE for Everyone



**Improving Exposure
Judgment**



**Occupational
Exposure Banding**



**Control of Silica
Exposure**



**OHTA
Online Courses**



Toxicology Basics



**ABSA Biosafety,
Biosecurity, and
Biohazards Courses**



**EHS Business Case
e-Tool**



**Industrial Hygiene
Hazard
Identification and
Exposure Risk
Assessment by
Market Segment**

B. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

AIHA will identify, develop, improve, and promote excellence in OEHS practices, research, and applied science.

ADVANCING OEHS SCIENCE & PRACTICE

Elevating our
performance **today.**
Strengthening our
profession for **tomorrow.**

AIHA's initiatives for continuous improvement.
For healthier workplaces and a healthier world.



**Defining
the Science**



**Principles
of Good
Practice**



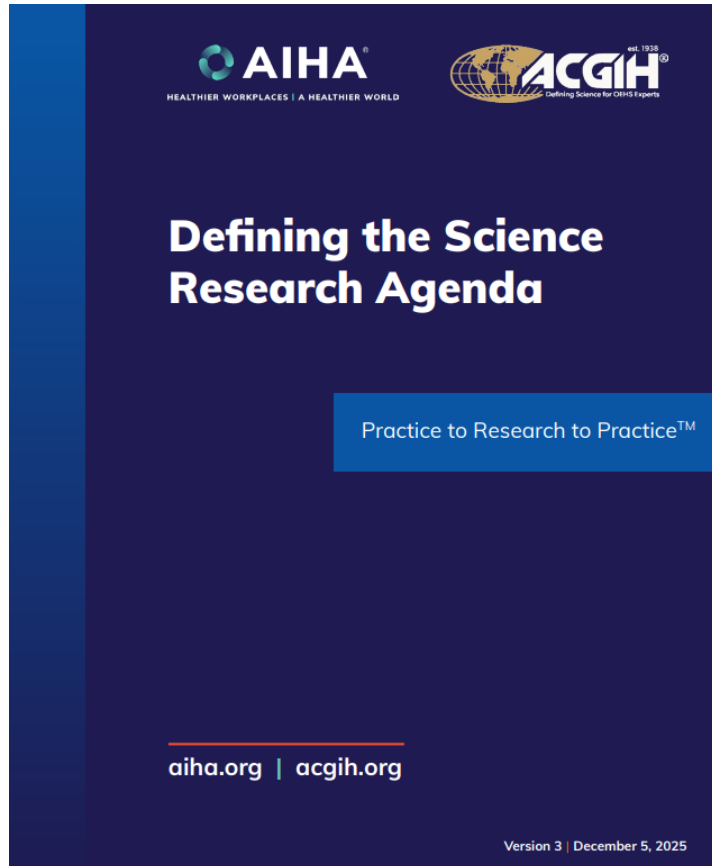
**State of
the Art vs.
Practice**



**Improving
Exposure
Judgments**

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DEFINING THE SCIENCE



- Latest version of the **Research Agenda** was released 12/5/25.
- **Looking ahead to 2026:** Next version will be published early in the year and include these topics:
 - Use of 3-D Printing in Construction
 - Exposure Assessment Methods for Bone Conducting Headphones
- New version of the Members Guide, including Dermal and Surface Sampling brainstorming ideas
- An updated **Barriers to Practice list**

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE



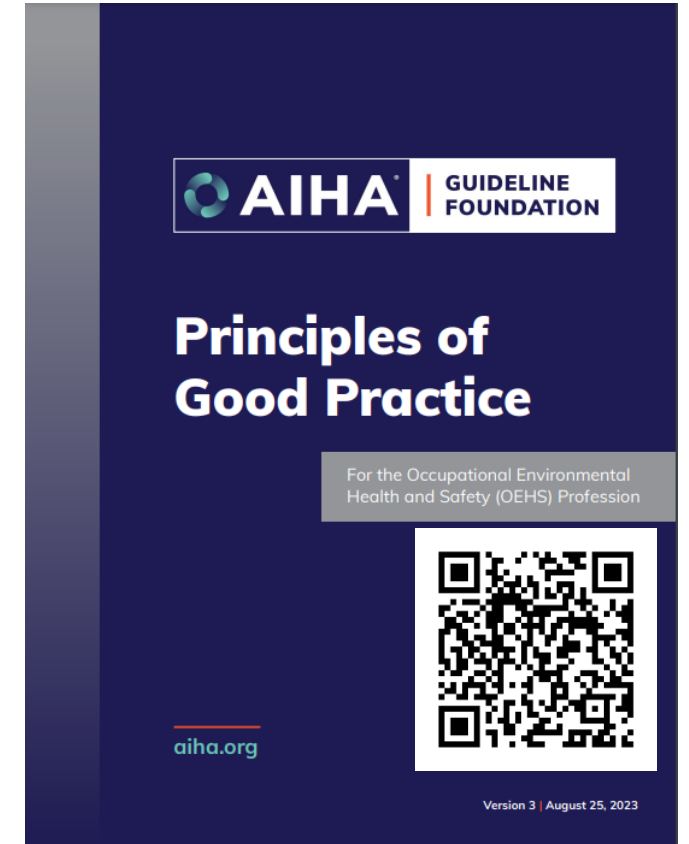
Purpose

- Document vital OEHS professional practices that reliably and effectively protect workers and communities from unacceptable risks
- Elevate the performance of OEHS programs by providing a set of uniform program and performance targets that can be used in continuous improvement activities.

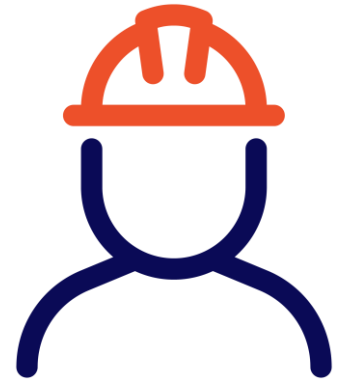
Appendices

- Exposure Assessment Strategies
- Noise/Hearing Loss Prevention
- Respiratory Protection Programs
- Protective Clothing and Equipment *
- Indoor Env Quality – Waterborne Pathogens *
- Thermal Stress *
- Ergonomics *

*** Topics under Development; will be featured in the 2026 edition**



STATE OF THE ART VS. PRACTICE

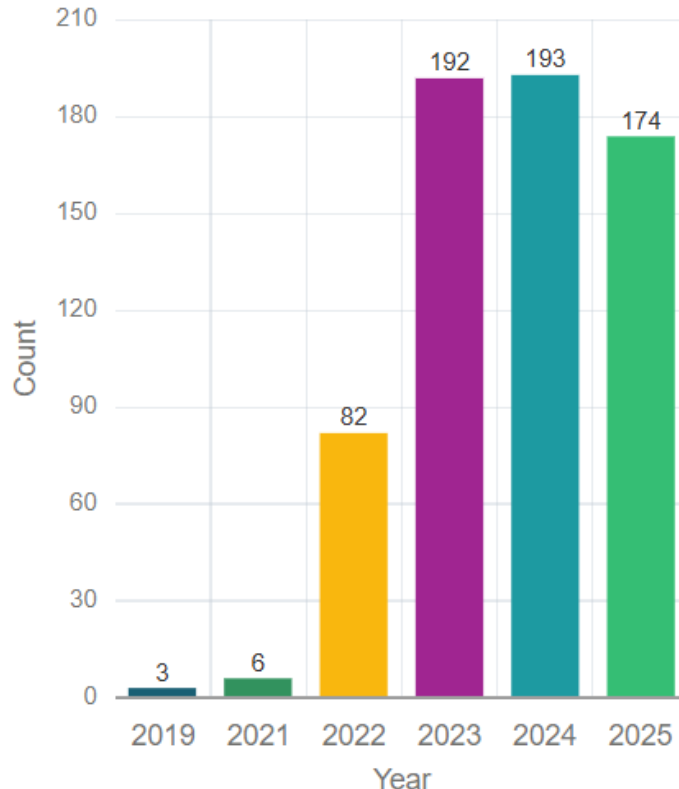


- Two (2) surveys completed to date on:
 - Airborne Chemical Exposure Assessment
 - Noise & Hearing Loss Prevention
 - Respiratory Protection
- **Looking ahead to 2026**
 - Key Findings Document from the 2nd survey will be published on the AIHA website
 - These findings will inform our new **Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - A third survey will be launched

IMPROVING EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS



Number Passing EDA Registry Exam (1st Time)



As of December 9, 2025

Activities for 2025

- Year 3 of 3 of a specially funded **Communications Project**
- Continue offering 9 hours of FREE webinars

Align the IEJ-AG Project Initiatives with the CIP

- Collaborate with Academic Faculty
- Advance the Use of Modeling
- Outreach to Local Sections and Student Local Sections
- Develop a new Self-Assessment Tool
- Create a Users Group

Looking ahead to 2026: Continued communications and outreach. Tie-in with **Grand Challenges** initiative.

IMPROVING EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS



Videos

Complete:

- How to Get Started

Coming Soon:

- How to Use the Tools
- Recommended Tools
- The Benefits
- What is IEJ



Discover the many benefits of

IMPROVED EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS

For workers. For workplaces. For you.

When you take steps to strengthen your own exposure risk decisions—by bringing statistical tools and other approaches into your daily practice—you'll discover a wide range of benefits.

BETTER PROTECTION OF WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES. through improved judgments that lead to safer workplaces.

INCREASED CONFIDENCE in your own judgments, with verifiable data analysis to inform and validate your assessments.

STRONGER COMMUNICATION with your colleagues and clients.

GREATER EFFICIENCIES in assessing risk that require less time and money, and fewer samples than you might think.

The truth is current approaches to exposure judgments tend to underestimate the risk to workers. That's why AIHA is committed to helping you elevate your risk-assessment abilities by offering FREE access to the education, software and resources you need to improve the accuracy of your exposure judgments.

By learning about these approaches and applying them in your own work setting, you'll take important steps toward protecting workers and strengthening your skill set as an OEHS professional.



Access your FREE suite of resources:

Visit our online portal at AIHA.ORG/IEJ

Video Courses you can take on your own schedule to acquire and apply new skills.

Software Tools you can download and use to accurately evaluate exposure profiles.

Real Case Examples, Exercises, and More.

Three ways

IMPROVED EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS can save you time.

We all strive to improve our performance as OEHS professionals, but who has the time?

The everyday demands of our careers make it challenging to learn new skills and put them into practice. That's why AIHA has launched a long-term initiative to help make improving exposure judgments attainable and a big time saver, too.

Studies show that using statistical tools to characterize exposures, rather than relying on our professional judgment alone, greatly improves the accuracy of our risk decisions. So, don't let time constraints keep you from learning about these approaches and applying them in your own work setting.

TIME SAVER #1: You can quickly learn how to use statistical tools to improve judgments with our FREE online course, *Making Accurate Exposure Risk Decisions*. In just nine hours, you'll gain a basic understanding of lognormally distributed exposure profiles and the knowledge you need to put traditional and Bayesian statistical analysis tools into practice.

TIME SAVER #2: You also have FREE access to the software tools you can use to characterize exposures. It takes just a few minutes to enter the data points and get the output you need to make informed risk decisions.

TIME SAVER #3: Because your risk decisions are backed by verifiable data, you'll save time and communicate more efficiently when sharing results with your colleagues.

Visit the Improving Exposure Judgments Portal at AIHA.org/iej to learn about the FREE suite of courses and tools available to every OEHS professional.

Discover the many benefits **IMPROVED EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS** can create for workers, for workplaces, and for you.



Access your FREE suite of resources:

Visit our online portal at AIHA.ORG/IEJ

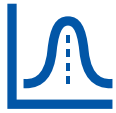
Video Courses you can take on your own schedule to acquire and apply new skills.

Software Tools you can download and use to accurately evaluate exposure profiles.

Real Case Examples, Exercises, and More.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Example: Occupational Exposure Assessment

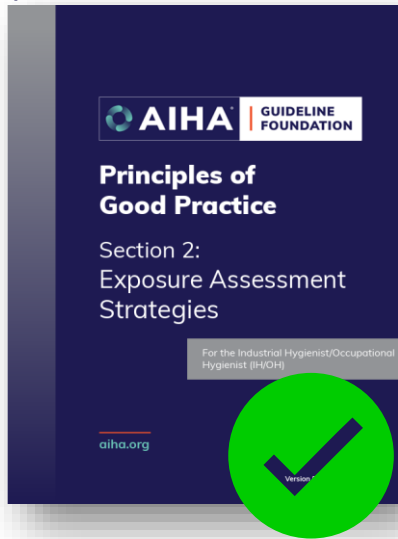


Occupational Exposure Assessment (OEA) Domain



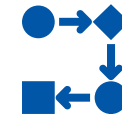
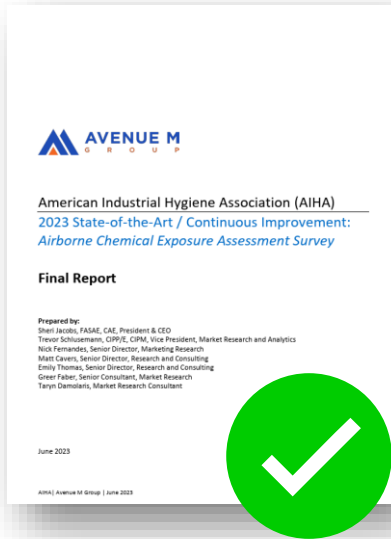
Develop a Principles of Good Practice (PGP) Document

Establish the framework for good practice and enhanced practice



Conduct the State-of-the-Art v Practice (SOTAvP) Survey

Identify gaps between current and state of the art practice



Develop and Implement a Continuous Improvement Strategy (CIS)

Item	Plan Year Goal (Y-2023)	Deliverable	Activities	By	Metric	Yr	Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Comments
Initiative 1: Increase AIHA Exposure Assessment Strategy Training and Awareness																		
Initiative 2: Develop and Deliver Key Messaging at 2023 AIHA Connect: Why Invest in Change and Empowerment: The AIHA Exposure Assessment Strategy																		
Initiative 3: Develop Key Messaging and Resources That Practitioners Can Use to...																		



Repeat SOTAvP Survey for OEA in 5-10 years

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Looking ahead to 2026:

- Complete the 2025 Exposure Assessment CIP Goals.
- Review and refresh the Exposure Assessment CIP Goals for 2026.
- Develop the CIP for Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention and Respiratory Protection CIP for Q4 implementation.

Questions on any of the Advancing OEHS Science & Practice Initiatives?

Contact Michele Twilley, DrPH, CIH
AIHA's Chief Science Officer
mtwilley@aiha.org

AFFILIATED BUSINESS UNITS



**GUIDELINE
FOUNDATION**





AIHA[®]

**GUIDELINE
FOUNDATION**

- **Established 2009**
- **501(c)(3) non-profit organization**
- **Program areas include:**
 - *NEW!* Development of **AIHA Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs)** for chemical agents (formerly WEELs)
 - Development of community exposure guidelines for chemical agents (**Emergency Response Planning Guidelines or ERPGs**)
 - Oversight of AIHA's involvement in **consensus-based standards development**
 - Leading research to **advance the profession** (including our Principles of Good Practice and Defining the Science initiatives)



The AIHA Guideline Foundation is a proud sponsor of TRANSCAER, which serves as a resource for free hazmat and emergency response training.



American
Industrial
Hygiene
Foundation



- **Mission:** To advance the profession by **awarding education and professional development scholarships** in industrial hygiene and related disciplines.
- Over the past 40 years, AIHF has awarded more than **1,152 scholarships totaling nearly \$3.3 million** to students studying IH and/or OEHS.
- In 2026, AIHF awarded **\$197,244 in scholarships to 60 students**.
- AIHF is governed by a Board of Trustees.
- **New Capital Fundraising Campaign: Strategic Advisory Group OPEN CALL 2026**



LAP is a group of laboratory accreditation programs whose primary mission is to establish high standards of performance for laboratories that promote the production of quality data for use in evaluating exposures.

Current Programs

- Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation Program (IHLAP)
- Environmental Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELLAP)
- Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP)
- Food Laboratory Accreditation Program (FoodLAP)
- Unique Scopes Laboratory Accreditation Program
- Beryllium Field/Mobile Accreditation Program (Be Field/Mobile)

Future Planning 2026

- More mobile lab accreditation across all LAP programs
- Standalone Sampling Accreditation
- Pilots for Sensor Testing Accreditation
- Improved training for site assessors
- Web and self-paced training for accredited labs

Current Programs

- **Bulk Asbestos** Proficiency Analytical Testing (BAPAT) Program
- **Beryllium** Proficiency Analytical Testing (BePAT) Program
- Environmental **Lead** Proficiency Analytical Testing (ELPAT) Program
- **Environmental Microbiology** Proficiency Analytical Testing (EMPAT) Program
- Industrial Hygiene Proficiency **Analytical Testing** (IHPAT) Program

New Programs

Launched New IHPAT Programs:

- **Airborne Particulates** by NIOSH 0500, NIOSH 0600, NIOSH 5000, etc.
- **Mercury** by NIOSH 6009, OSHA ID-140, etc.

Launched On-Demand PTs

- **International (ION)**
- **Current Participants (On-Ramp)**



Promotes the recognition of individuals who have demonstrated competency in a specialized area of industrial/occupational hygiene practice.

- Asbestos Analysts Registry
- SDS & Label Authoring Registry
- Exposure Decision Analysis Registry **(free)**
Designed as a stepping-stone for those who have not yet earned their CIH and a valuable add-on credential for those who have!

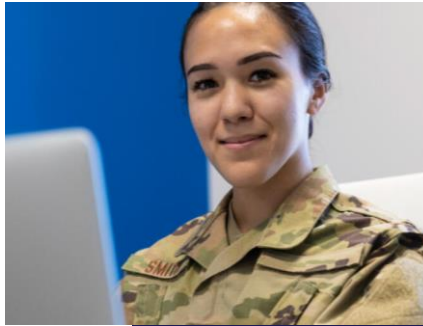
C. MEMBER & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

AIHA will nurture and empower the OEHS community through strategic growth, enhanced member value, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



Student



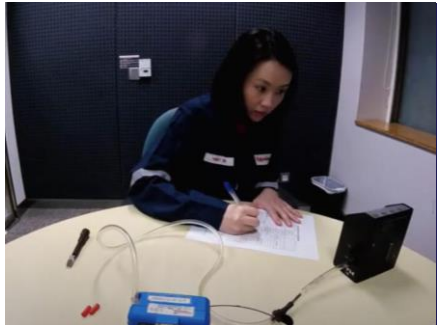
**Military
& PHS**



**Early Career
Professional**



e-International



Full



Emeritus



Organizational

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OEHS: AIHA VOLUNTEER GROUPS

28 Technical Committees*
& 10 Working Groups*

3 Special Interest Groups*

9 Professional
Development Groups*

14 Advisory Groups

Project Task Forces

National Level
& Operations Committees

Part of Color Council, **AIHA Membership Required for Technical Committees*

Micro-Volunteering for Every Schedule



THE VALUE OF AIHA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- **Exclusive Resources** like the **Synergist Magazine**
- **Deep Discounts** on AIHA Connect, Connect OnDemand, and eLearning Subscription
- **Networking**
- **Catalyst Community**
- **AIHA University** Discounts on Education and CM Maintenance
- **AIHA Consultants Listing and Directory**
- **Leadership Development**, including the Mentoring Institute
- **Career Development**, including Career Advantage
- Opportunities to **Shape and Advocate** for OEHS
- Access to **Liability Insurance**



SAMPLE AIHA RESOURCES



Download the FREE AIHA Sampler Pack

D. IMPACT & AWARENESS

AIHA will promote the practice of OEHS.



Free Heat Stress App



Sponsored by



IH Calculator App

 **Basic Sciences**

 **Heat Stress**

 **Noise**

 **Statistics**

 **Ventilation**

 **Radiation**

 **Conversions**



ADVISORY GROUPS



MISSION:

To ensure AIHA provides a consistent messaging that the OEHS profession is the right partner to support EPA and our external stakeholder community in Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) occupational risk assessments and management as mandated by the Lautenberg Act of 2016.

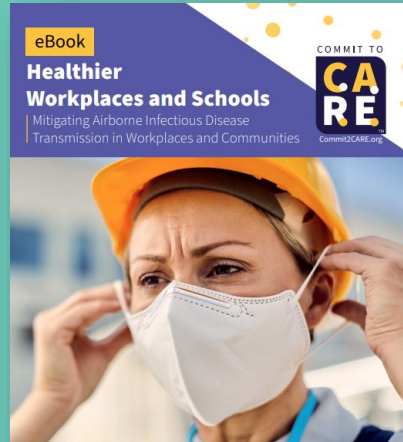


MISSION:

To serve in a liaison capacity between AIHA's Volunteer Group network and ASHRAE and strengthen communication and coordination of activities that foster enhancing Indoor Air Quality (IAQ).

PUBLIC AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

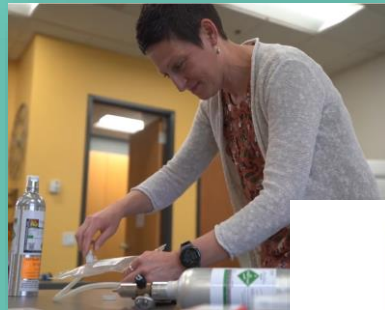
**Healthier Workplaces
and Schools,**
2nd Edition Free eBook



**Public Resources
on AIHA.org**

Natural Disasters

Workplace Hazards
by Industry/Type



Highlighting the OEHS
Profession to the Public

#IamIH



Consultants
Listing &
Directory

AIHA FELLOWS SPONSORED: GRAND CHALLENGES

Eliminate preventable workplace illness, death, and disability by:

1. Mitigating the Impacts of **Climate Change on Workers** (e.g., heat stress)
2. Improving **Equity in Workplaces, Minimizing Precarious Work Situations, and Protecting Vulnerable Workers** (e.g., gig workers, undocumented persons, migrant labor)
3. Addressing the Impacts of a **Changing Work Environment** (e.g., remote work)
4. Improving **Exposure Assessment in the Workplace**

Grand Challenges for Worker Health, Safety, and Well-Being

Mitigating the Impacts of a Changing Climate on Workers

Grand Challenges for Worker Health, Safety, and Well-Being

The Changing Work Environment

aiha.org

AIHA

3120 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 360
Falls Church, VA 22042

S4NP volunteers are covered by liability insurance and empowered to contact nonprofits and propose work.

If you want to use your skills and make a difference – sign up at S4NP.org



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



AIHA[®]

International Affairs
COMMITTEE

MISSION:

Promote the advancement of the practice of occupational hygiene around the world by being a focal point of contact with international organizations on professional development, technical and educational issues.

AIHA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Supports the development of international OEHS networks, assists countries in building OEHS programs, identifies international education needs, promotes the profession, and recruits members.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AIHA Emerging Economies Microgrant Advisory Group

Provides a fair, structured, transparent, and consistent mechanism for funding education and research projects that promote OEHS in economically developing nations.

Sponsored by 

Support of Developing Economies

AIHA offers a variety of digital publications at up to 80% off.

AIHA + OHTA

OHTA is a nonprofit established in 2009 that delivers professional training to enhance the practice of occupational hygiene (OH) worldwide.

OHTA asks local sections to consider donating: <https://ohtatraining.org/support/donate/>



ADVOCACY UPDATE

NEW SENIOR MANAGER, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS JEREMY ROBINSON



RECAP:

2025 HIGHLIGHTS, OUTCOMES,
AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

AIHA IS A MEMBER OF THE WORKPLACE EHS COALITION*

01 Business-Driven Practice: Standards and Worker Well-Being

02 Beyond Compliance: Embracing Risk and Safety Management Systems

03 Leading Indicators: Revolutionizing Recordkeeping for Predictive Insights

*Informal group of 30 OEHS nonprofits. Its primary purpose is **shared advocacy.**

Driving Business Growth and Profitability

Through Modern Occupational Environmental, Health and Safety Practices

Modern occupational environmental, health and safety (EHS) practices are key to driving economic growth. This document, developed by the Intersociety Forum (ISF), a coalition of organizations dedicated to safeguarding worker safety and health, highlights the many ways safety practices create a strategic advantage that powers enduring business success while fostering innovation and protecting workers.

Despite advancements, workplace injury and fatality rates remain stagnant. By adopting proactive, risk-based safety and strengthen their global competitiveness.

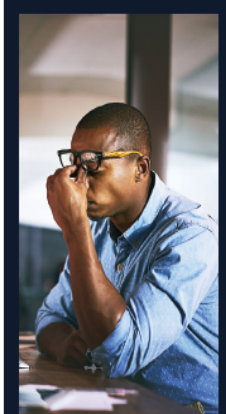
Occupational EHS as a foundation of economic global leader in safety, innovation and workforce well-

The Intersociety Forum Supports These Principles

1. 	2. 	3. 
4. 	5. 	6. 
7. 	8. 	9. 
10. 	11. 	12. 
13. 	14. 	<p>ADD YOUR VOICE: https://assp.us/ISF-Core-Principles</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>

1. AAOHN
2. ABSA International, The Association of Biosafety and Biosecurity
3. ACGIH
4. American Industrial Hygiene Association
5. American Society of Safety Professionals
6. Board of Certified Safety Professionals
7. Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC)
8. CSHEMA
9. Institute of Hazardous Materials Management
10. International Safety Equipment Association
11. National Safety Council
12. NECA
13. NEHA
14. VPPPA

The Human Cost Is Staggering



In the U.S., one worker died on the job every 99 minutes in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The cost per worker death in 2022 was \$1.39 million, according to National Safety Council's (NSC's) Injury Facts.

2025-26 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



1. Preventing Heat-Related Injuries, Illnesses & Deaths*



2. Disaster Preparedness, Response, & Recovery*



3. Strengthening the OEHS Pipeline*



4. Noise/Hearing Protection*



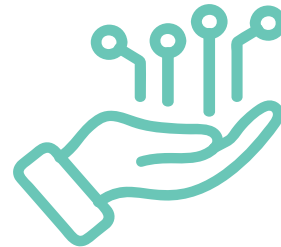
5. Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reform*



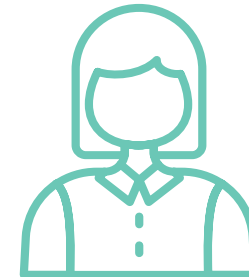
6. Indoor Environmental Quality



7. Vulnerable, Contingent, & Temporary Workers



8. AI & Automation



9. Child Labor Protections



10. Professional Title Protection

HIGHLIGHTS: ENGAGING POLICYMAKERS



- 100+ newsletter and legislative highlights developed for members
- 38 letters to Congress and the Administration on AIHA priorities, including NIOSH, OSHA, heat, workplace violence, and the OESH workforce
- 8 hearings attended with post-hearing follow-up & communications briefs
- 4 coalition sign-on letters aligned with AIHA priorities
- 4 updated/new policy documents on key priorities
- Recent activities: US MOLD Act Letter, NIOSH Firefighter Safety RFI response package, DOE Nuclear Facility Health & Safety

HIGHLIGHTS: ENGAGING POLICYMAKERS



Federal OSHA

- Comments submitted on proposed deregulatory measures
- Heat Injury and Illness Prevention

AIHA comments continue to emphasize:

- Science- and data-driven foundations
- Feasible prevention programs
- Clarity for employers and IH professionals
- Enforceable worker protections

NIOSH ADVOCACY IN NATIONAL NEWS

Bloomberg News

Businessweek | The Big Take

How Trump Broke Corporate America's Most Valuable Consultant

Businesses are begging the White House and RFK Jr. to rethink their massive cuts to Niosh, a workplace research agency that saves the US billions of dollars a year.

By [Josh Eidelson](#)

September 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM EDT

[Save](#) [Translate](#)

For decades, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has been one of the best deals the federal government has to offer. At a cost of about \$1 per American per year, Niosh, a quiet little agency tucked inside the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, conducts or funds most of the country's research into workplace harms. Its scientists operate like a world-class source of free consulting, working across a massive range of fields to provide



2026 NIOSH ADVOCACY

Restore NIOSH is now **Preserve NIOSH**

With budgets, spending, and federal policy in a state of constant flux, we must continue to ensure ALL congressional leaders and their staffers understand the unique value of NIOSH's mission.

We must emphasize that its research and programs are not duplicated elsewhere in the federal government and are critical to the protection of worker health and safety not only here in the US but around the world.

How to Support:

Submit a letter through our automated VoterVoice system.

Schedule time with your elected officials. Visit the campaign page for talking points and background info.



LANDSCAPE:

2026 FEDERAL AGENCIES AND LEGISLATION

AGENCY LEADERSHIP



Department of Labor
DOL oversees OSHA & MSHA

Secretary:

Lori Chavez-DeRemer

Confirmed Mar 11, 2025

Pushing agency-wide deregulation and budget restraint.



OSHA

Assistant Secretary:

David Keeling

Confirmed Oct. 3, 2025

Broad deregulation package and managing heat rule timeline.



Deputy Assistant Secretary:

Amanda Wood Laihow



MSHA

Assistant Secretary:

Wayne Palmer

Confirmed Oct 3, 2025

Looking to roll back Biden-era regulations.



EPA

Administrator:

Lee Zeldin Sworn Jan 29, 2025

Recently removed agency's ability to regulation emissions

Deputy Administrator:

David Fotouhi Confirmed Jun 10, 2025

Asst Administrator, Office of Air & Radiation,

Aaron Szabo Confirmed Jul 24, 2025

Central to wildfire smoke policy.



FEDERAL FUNDING: CURRENT PICTURE

OSHA: \$629.3M

Key “watch” issues: how much staffing and standards capacity is supported within the topline, given simultaneous heat-rule closeout/deregulatory workload.

NIOSH: \$366.8M

Key “watch” issues: which research portfolios and general activities are rebuilt/restarted first; where the agency will place its renewed focus.

MSHA: \$387.8M

Key “watch” issues: enforcement posture, inspector capacity, and program continuity under the new topline.

OSHRC: \$14.5M

Key “watch” issues: adjudication capacity and the practical impacts of commissioner turnover/quorum on contested cases.

CSB: \$14.0M

Key “watch” issue: practical capacity constraints, coordination w/ OSHA, EPA

FEDERAL FUNDING: NEXT STEPS



- FY26 full-year appropriations (at +/- FY24/25 budget levels) are now enacted, reducing near-term uncertainty for core worker-safety agencies and allowing program planning to restart on a stable baseline.
- For AIHA priorities, the practical question shifts from “shutdown risk” to how agencies rebuild and/or allocate within enacted topline (rulemaking capacity, enforcement posture, research priorities, and discretionary initiatives).
- The FY27 President’s Budget Request is on hold. It sets the Administration’s opening position for program growth/cuts, policy riders, and agency direction.
- **We’ll watch for:** (1) proposed reallocations that affect standards/enforcement and NIOSH research capacity, (2) committee narratives that signal where Congress will constrain or steer agency priorities, and (3) riders that affect worker protections or agency independence.

OSHA: DEREGULATORY PACKAGE



- OSHA’s deregulatory initiative is still the main “countervailing force” running alongside major health-rule work: it aims to revise or remove requirements the Department characterizes as obsolete or unnecessarily burdensome.
- The public comment phase has largely closed; the key 2026 question is whether OSHA advances discrete items to final action, and how those changes alter baseline protections, enforcement tools, or professional practice.
- **We’ll be watching:**
 - Does the change reduce clarity/enforceability for hazards that still exist?
 - Does it shift burdens onto IH professionals to recreate protections through voluntary guidance?
 - Does it weaken documentation, training, medical surveillance, or exposure assessment expectations that underpin credible prevention programs?

OSHA: HEAT STRESS STANDARD



- OSHA’s proposed federal heat rule is now in the late-stage record-development posture: hearing concluded July 2, 2025; post-hearing submissions closed October 30, 2025.
- Near-term focus is on OSHA’s disposition of the hearing record and whether the agency moves to a final rule (or re-proposal on key elements) during 2026.
- **We’ll watch for:**
 - Whether OSHA preserves a true program standard (plan, triggers, controls, training) or shifts toward narrower compliance obligations.
 - How OSHA handles indoor heat coverage, acclimatization, and “trigger” definitions for varied work environments.
 - State-plan and state-legislative alignment: states may move faster than the federal timeline, creating near-term compliance pressure in high-activity jurisdictions.

OSHA: WPV (HEALTHCARE) STANDARD



- OSHA’s workplace violence rulemaking remains categorized as long-term and is not moving on the same near-term track as heat. For 2026, the policy pressure points are:
 - Whether OSHA re-accelerates a program-standard approach (risk assessment, prevention plan, training, reporting, incident review) versus continuing to rely on enforcement through existing authorities.
 - Whether Congress advances targeted workplace violence bills that create OSHA mandates or funding/reporting requirements.
 - Whether states pursue healthcare-specific workplace violence prevention plan requirements, creating “patchwork” compliance demands ahead of a federal standard.
- **For AIHA priorities**, the key is ensuring prevention-plan requirements are evidence-based and integrate OEHS and exposure/controls expertise.

NIOSH: CURRENT STATE



What Happened

- April 2025: HHS issued reduction-in-force (RIF) notices impacting roughly ~90% of NIOSH staff (about ~1,000 employees)
- May 2025: HHS reinstated a portion of affected staff (reported as 328 in congressional testimony/reporting), while major disruptions continued across programs.
- Jan 13, 2026: HHS revoked the April 2025 RIF notices and began broad reinstatement across NIOSH divisions.

Where Things Stand

- NIOSH is restarting and reconstituting capacity across divisions, but attrition is real: reporting indicates roughly ~22% of staff retired/resigned/transferred during the disruption period (one estimate: 233 employees).
- Near-term operational reality: reinstatement restores headcount on paper, but projects, systems access, lab readiness, and field pipelines take time to fully normalize after months of stoppage.

NIOSH: CURRENT STATE



Confirmed Programs Resumed

- Respirator approval/certification (NPPTL): reported as ongoing since May 2025 after partial reinstatement and viewed by stakeholders as a critical continuity function.
- Coal miner and firefighter safety-related functions: reported as slated to resume during earlier temporary callbacks in spring 2025.
- Divisions included in recall actions: Respiratory Health Division, Division of Safety Research, Division of Compensation and Analysis Support, NPPTL, parts of Field Studies/Surveillance

Ongoing Disruptions

- Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) and related field work were reported as paused/stalled during the 2025 disruption period; unclear as to status.
- Extramural coordination and training grant administration experienced disruption; broad reinstatement includes extramural coordination functions; ramp-up expected.

NIOSH: CURRENT STATE



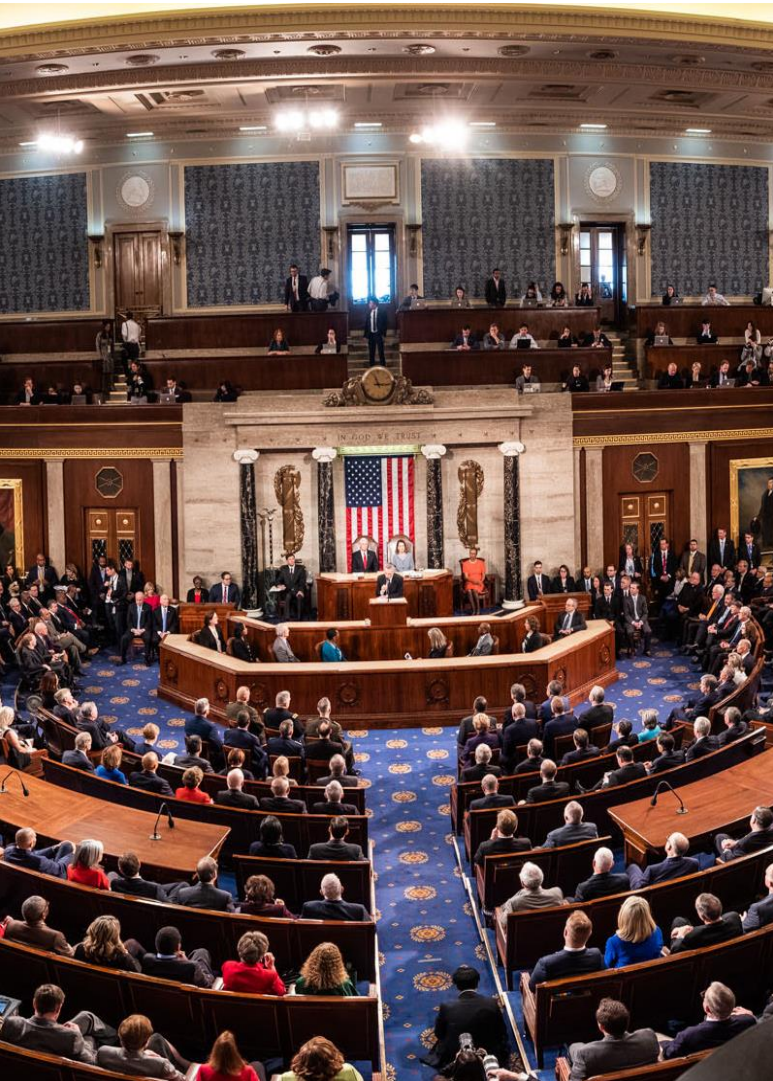
Potential Timeline for NIOSH Stabilization

- 0–8 weeks: administrative reactivation plus triage of highest-risk backlogs.
- 2–6 months: restoration of baseline throughput for priority functions, assuming staffing is in seats and resourced.
- 6–18+ months: rebuild of full research and guidance cadence (projects restarted, publications back on cycle, partnerships re-established, workforce rebuilt where attrition created gaps).

Assumptions

- Even with reinstatement, vacancies and backfills can take months; recent OPM-reported federal time-to-hire averages ~101 days (goal 80 days), and that's before considering specialized scientific roles.
- NIOSH's extramural and research pipelines run on multi-month cycles (awards, project periods, deliverables), so "back to normal" is more than flipping staffing on.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



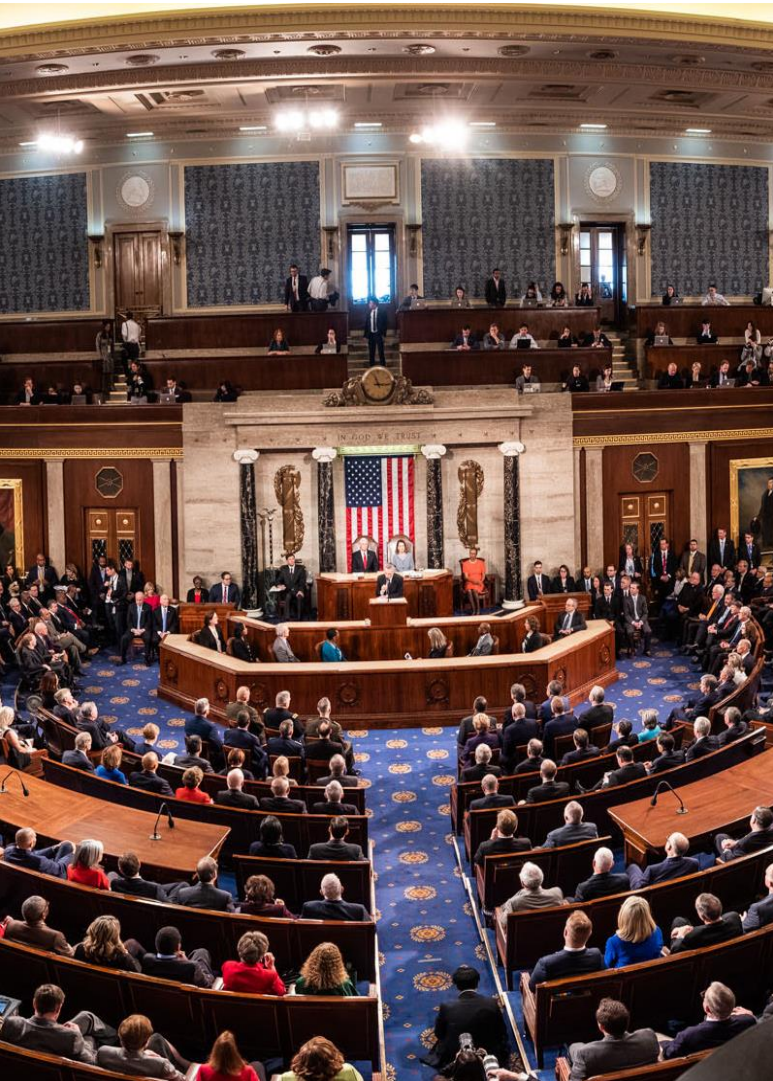
Farmworker Smoke and Excessive Heat Protection Act of 2025 H.R. 4844 / S. 2571

Summary: Would direct OSHA to establish an occupational safety and health standard specifically aimed at protecting farmworkers from wildfire smoke and excessive heat, with requirements intended to be enforceable and nationwide

Status: Introduced and sitting in committees

Watching: movement via hearings/markup, or inclusion in broader labor, agriculture, public health, or disaster/wildfire legislative vehicles

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



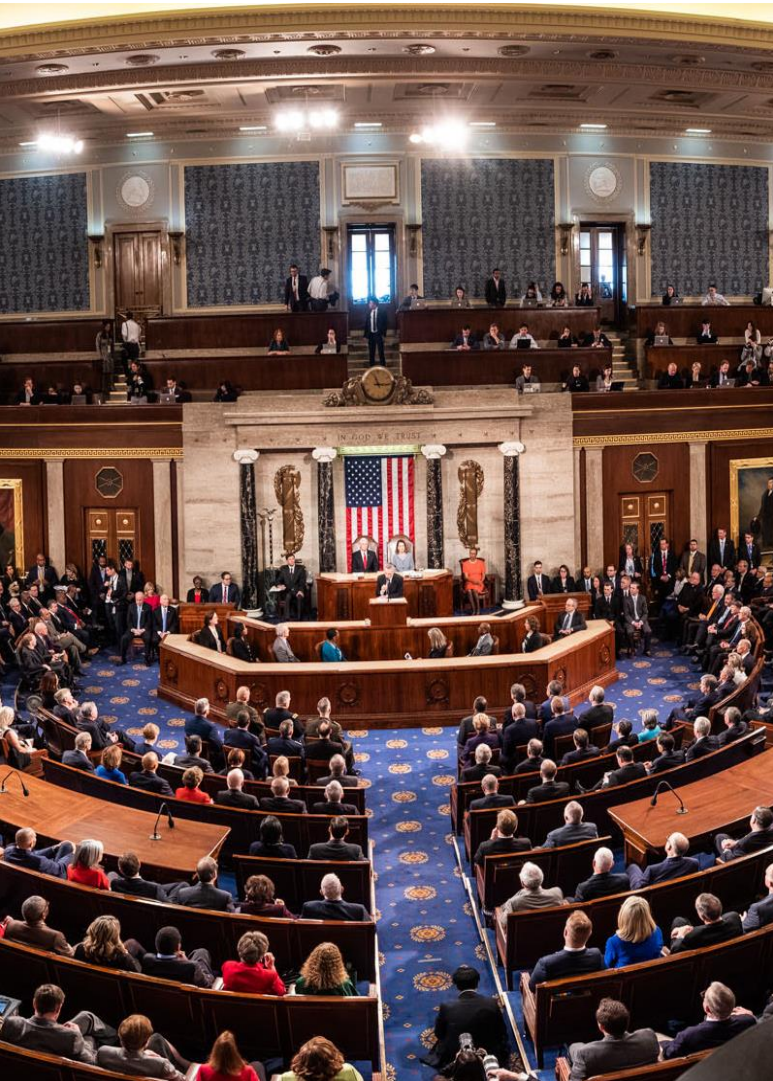
Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness, Injury, and Fatality Prevention Act of 2025 H.R. 4443

Summary: Would require OSHA to issue a federal heat-illness prevention standard (covering indoor and outdoor heat hazards) and would set an accelerated timetable compared to traditional rulemaking

Status: Introduced and sitting in committee

Watching: movement via hearings/markup

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



Coordinated Federal Response to Extreme Heat Act of 2025

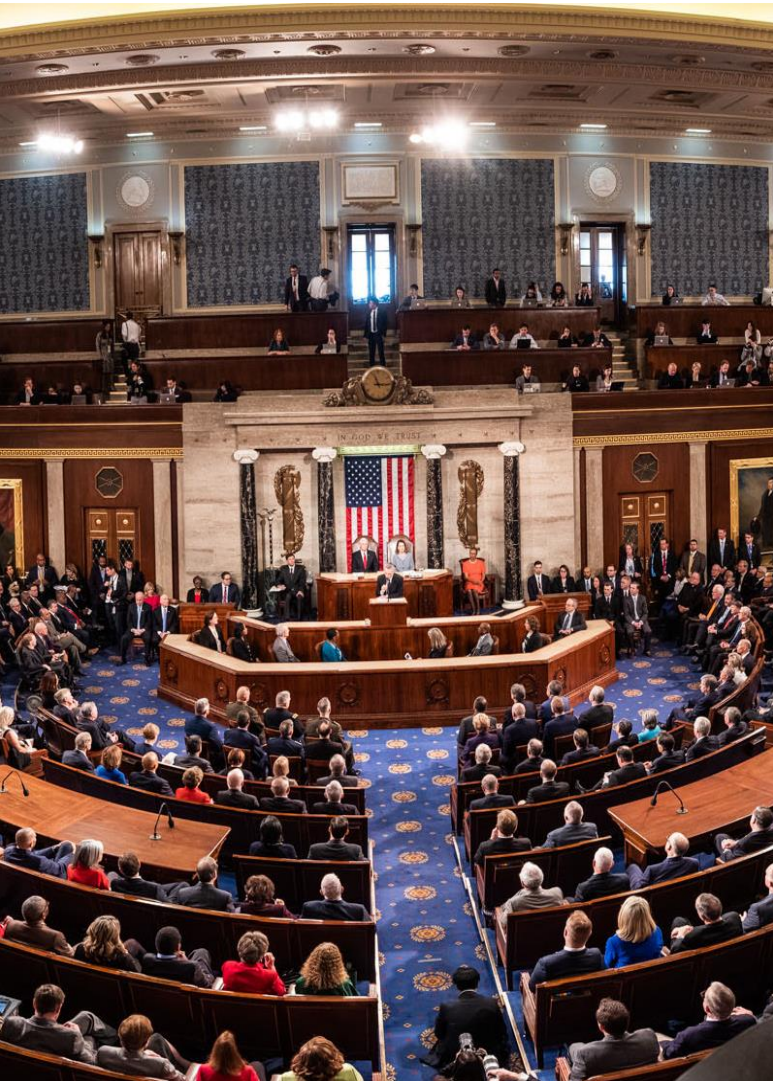
S. 325 / H.R. 3704

Summary: Would establish/strengthen a federal coordination structure for extreme heat (including an interagency approach that supports data, forecasting, communications, and preparedness)

Status: Introduced and sitting in committee

Watching: movement via hearings/markup, incorporation into larger preparedness, resilience, or appropriations-related vehicles rather than standalone passage

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



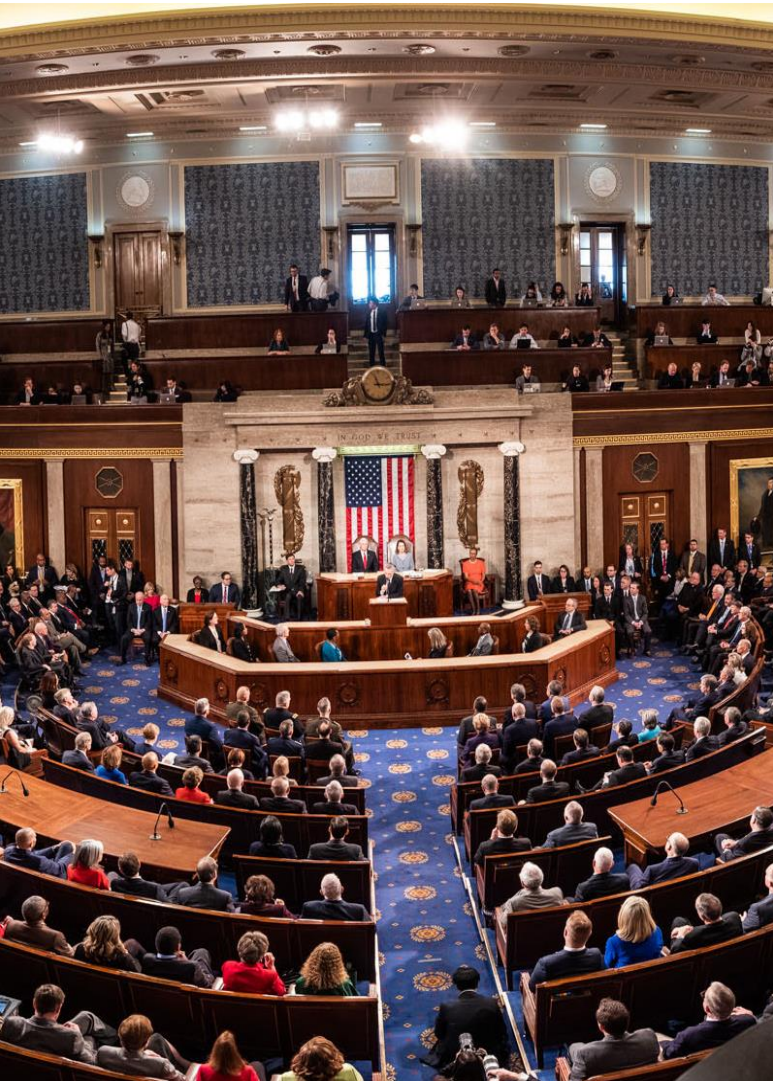
Smoke and Heat Ready Communities Act of 2025 S. 341 / H.R. 903

Summary: Would direct EPA to support smoke/heat readiness through grants and related assistance, with an emphasis on monitoring, public-facing risk communication, and community mitigation capacity that can also reduce occupational exposure during major events

Status: Introduced and sitting in committee

Watching: Traction through EPA/air quality, wildfire response, or community resilience policy packages

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



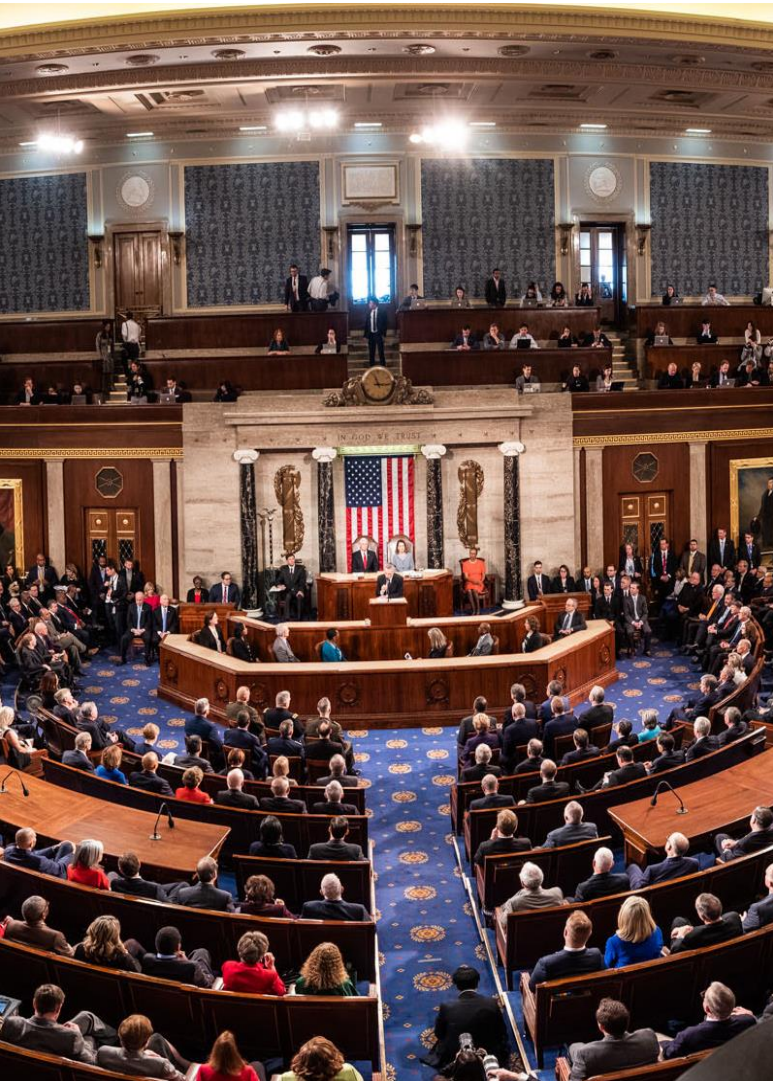
MOLD Act of 2026 S. 3654

Summary: Addresses mold in federally relevant housing contexts, with implementation details that matter for prevention, remediation quality, transparency, and occupant protections (i.e., not just “fix the mold,” but how standards and accountability are defined)

Status: Newly introduced in January 2026 and referred to committee

Watching: Near-term movement is most likely through housing/defense or other larger vehicles if it gains traction

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: KEY BILLS



LET'S Protect Workers Act H.R. 6597

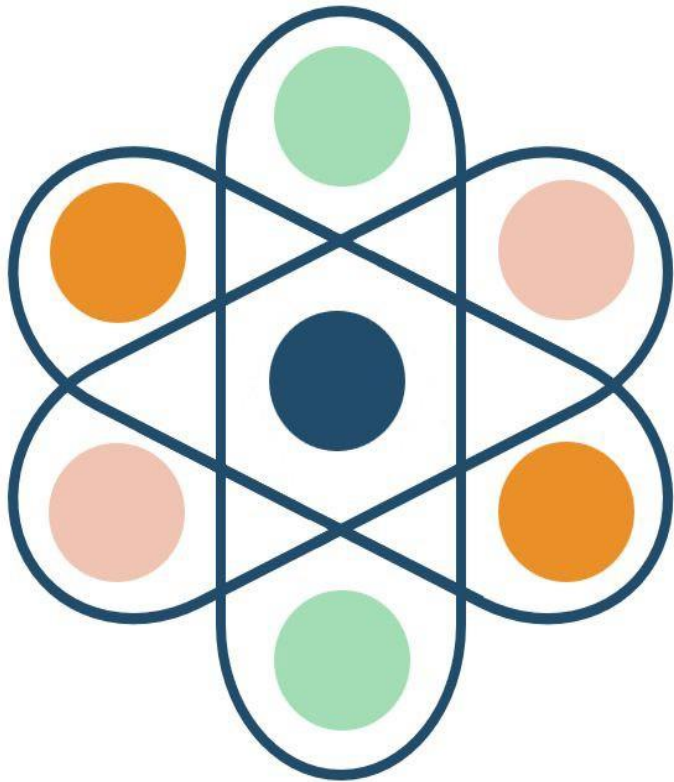
Summary: A broader (cross-cutting “carrier”/marker) worker-protection package that can serve as a negotiation framework even without standalone passage; provisions and themes can be used to justify amendments or packaged updates touching heat/smoke protections and enforcement posture

Status: Introduced and sitting in committee

Watching: Reactivation via hearings or broader labor packages

LANDSCAPE:

2026 STATE TRENDS AND LEGISLATION



WHAT WORKS INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY

AIHA's **Government Relations Contractor**
CIH Staff Support + Deep-Bench Advocacy in OEHS

Managing State Affairs

2026 Priority States:

- California
- Pennsylvania
- New York

Other states will be investigated as issues arise.



STATE LEGISLATION: OVERALL TRENDS



- Heat illness prevention remains the clearest cross-state storyline, with Virginia and Georgia moving bills and Oklahoma introducing a more prescriptive heat-index framework built around plans, training, water/rest/shade, acclimatization, and enforcement.
- Structural and regulatory reform is the other major theme, with Ohio's HB 59 and Oklahoma's proposed OOSHA framework revisiting how state occupational-safety, licensing, and oversight systems are organized.
- Beyond heat, states are also advancing targeted worker-protection and enforcement concepts, including Pennsylvania's food-processing worker safety bill and New York's proposal for an Attorney General-led work-related fatality investigation office.
- Watch item: whether heat bills keep moving faster than federal action, and whether "streamlining" and state-system bills stay mostly administrative or begin changing day-to-day compliance.

STATE LEGISLATION: CALIFORNIA

Bills Currently Being Tracked:

- SB20: Stone Slab Fabrication
- SB1046: OSH “Legislative Intent” Vehicle
- SB1330: Workplace Violence - Utilities
- AB596: Occupational Face Coverings
- AB694: OSH Advisory Committee
- AB1515: Reporting Requirements
- AB1642: Wildfire Contamination Standards
- AB2137: OSH Technical Cleanup
- AB2488: Cal/OSHA Staffing

STATE LEGISLATION: NEW YORK

Bills Currently Being Tracked:

- A00365: Heat Illness in Construction
- A05347: Indoor Air Quality
- A06007: Employee Responsibility
- A06785: Workers' Comp: Social Workers
- S05922: Workplace Opioid Antagonists
- S07990: State Fatality Investigation Office

STATE LEGISLATION: PENNSYLVANIA

Bills Currently Being Tracked:

- SB346: Public Employee OSHA Coverage
- HB863: Abusive Work Environments
- HB1163: Hazardous Duty Presumption (Diseases)
- HB1580: Workplace Heat Protection Standards
- HB1923: Meat Packing & Food Processing Protections

OHIO FOCUS: HB59



- HB 59 is best understood as a broad regulatory modernization and streamlining bill, but it reaches occupational licensing, mining safety certification and operations, and radiation-control requirements.
- The clearest safety significance is in mining and radiation oversight: the bill would allow one certified mine foreperson to conduct required per-shift examinations at multiple mine sites within a 10-mile radius and would update qualification pathways for certified radiation experts.
- Current status: the bill passed the House on Nov. 19, 2025, was introduced in the Senate on Nov. 25, referred to General Government on Feb. 11, and re-referred to Government Oversight and Reform on Feb. 18, 2026. It is currently awaiting Committee action.

GET INVOLVED

- **AIHA [Grassroots Campaigns](#)**
 - Send letters through VoterVoice
 - Schedule time with elected officials in your home districts
- **Access Catalyst ([AIHA Member Center](#))**
 - Monthly legislative trackers
 - Weekly news highlights on federal/state activities
 - For both National and Local Sections: Identify state issues we should be monitoring. Submit using [this form](#).
- **Join our [Government Relations Email List](#)**
 - Open to all **AIHA National** members

AIHA Member Center

Latest Discussions



Open Call – Finance Committee

By: [Melissa Jota Espinoza](#), 2 days ago

AIHA is accepting applications for open Finance Committee member positions. The committee provides financial oversight, reviews ...



Open Call for Volunteers: AIHA Content Portfolio Advisory ...

By: [Aimee Thomas](#), 2 days ago

Are you passionate about staying at the forefront of emerging trends in the OEHS profession? Do you want to drive content development ...



AIHA & WWi GR Newsletter Highlights - Week of February ..

By: [John Dony](#), 5 days ago

Good afternoon all, We hope you had a great long weekend! Please find attached this week's Newsletter highlights. Best, ...

AMPLIFYING OUR IMPACT



- AIHA can be most effective when member expertise is visible on the record (hearings, public comments), in informal and committee staff conversations (legislative design), and in state-level debate and implementation.
- We value all connections and opportunities you come across, and we're committed to reviewing all suggested conversations and actions.
- Priority opportunities for member engagement in 2026:
 - Heat prevention program design and feasibility
 - Workplace violence prevention plan frameworks
 - NIOSH research priorities that strengthen exposure science
- Interested members can learn more through Catalyst or by reaching out directly to AIHA or What Works staff.
 - More to come on specific state-level activities & opportunities!

THREATS

Regulatory Rollbacks

Changing Political Climate

JOEH Impact

Public Rejection of Science

Industry Pushbacks

AIHA Connect Attendance

Technical Expertise

Staff Bandwidth/Burnout

Organizational Finances

Member Engagement

Academic Research/Funding

Pipeline Sustainability

Gaps in Govt Agency Programs

OPPORTUNITIES

**Improved Public Awareness
of the Profession**

Relationship-Building with Govt Leaders

**Increased Financial Support for
Faculty & Students**

Enhanced State Govt Affairs

Global Efforts to Address “Grand Challenges”

**Deeper Collaboration with
Allied Associations**

Inspiring Member Engagement

**Strategic Scientific Leadership
(Tools/Training/Programs to Fill Gaps)**

Training Allied Professionals



Thanks for listening!

HEALTHIER WORKPLACES

A HEALTHIER WORLD