

North American Occupational Safety & Health Week Set for May

Emphasizes safer workplaces

To underscore the importance of worker occupational safety and health throughout North America, the annual North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) Week will be held May 4–10, with events taking place in Washington, DC, at venues including the US Department of Labor and the National Gallery of Art.

During NAOSH Week, an alliance of safety organizations unite to educate the public on the significance of protecting workers, avoiding injury and illness, and eradicating hazards while at work. Events will include presentations on industry workplace safety and health efforts as well as recognition of the winners of the 12th annual American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Student Safety Awareness Art Contest.

NAOSH Week attendees will include ASSE leaders and members; federal and state officials; and representatives from collaborating organizations, including the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Canadian

Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE), and Mexico's AISOHMEX. In addition, more than 35 OSHA Alliance Program participants—among them The Joint Commission and The Joint Commission Resources Alliance will attend. Together, these Alliance entities represent thousands of businesses and health care organizations.

Occupational Safety and Health Professionals (OSHP) Day, May 7, is perhaps the most important date on the NAOSH Week calendar. OSHP Day was created to honor the occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals around the world who demonstrate the strongest commitment to safeguarding people, property, and the planet. In one event, the ASSE, in cooperation with OSHA, will present the second annual ASSE Triangle Award on May 7 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. This award honors an occupational safety, health, and environmental professional for outstanding heroic dedication as it relates to preserving life and/or preventing significant loss of property.

In addition, The Spirit of Alliance Award will recognize an OSHA Alliance Program participant for exceptional accomplishments that have produced significant and measurable contributions toward OSHA's goal of safe workplaces for everyone.

The Joint Commission, which stresses safety in its "Environment of Care" and related standards, recommends that health care workers get involved in NAOSH Week events and campaigns. By participating, health care organizations can more effectively educate patients and peers about the positive benefits of a safer workplace.

Please see the NAOSH website (at <http://www.asse.org/newsroom/naosh>) for further information. 

This article was developed through the cooperative efforts of the OSHA/Joint Commission Resources Alliance.

