

Important Dates and Deadlines

STEM Education Day (Science and Engineering for Grades 6-12)	February 12
Synergist Webinar: The Selection, Use, Care and Maintenance of FR/AR Clothing	February 12
Workplace Health Without Borders Webathon	February 13
2019 AIHA Board Election	February 15–March 1
AIHA Seeks SMEs on the Field Use of Direct-Reading Instruments—Deadline	March 1
Webinar: Preparing the I/OH: Why Highly Hazardous Communicable Disease Responses Need Us	February 28
AIHce EXP Student Poster Abstracts—Deadline	March 4
Exposure Assessment Virtual Conference: Intro to Exposure Assessment Strategies and Statistics	March 4–7
AIHCE EXP Student and Early Career Professional Sponsorship—Deadline	March 6
Exposure Assessment Virtual Conference: Data Management and Data Statistics	March 11–14
AIHce EXP 2019 Early-Bird Registration Rates—Deadline	March 17
AIHce EXP 2019 Travel Contest—Deadline	March 17
Exposure Assessment Virtual Conference: Foundations of Exposure Modeling	March 19–21
Road Course: Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene	March 25–28
Open Call: Applications for AIHA Continuing Education Committee—Deadline	March 27

CALL TO ACTION

[Call for Questions: New Synergist Town Hall Webinar on Protective Clothing](#)

The second webinar in *The Synergist's* Town Hall series with Bulwark FR is planned for early May, and we're looking for AIHA members' help in creating the presentation—these webinars are built from questions submitted by AIHA members. Submit your questions via [Catalyst Open Forum](#) or email to synergist@aiha.org.

[AIHA Seeks SMEs on the Field Use of Direct-Reading Instruments](#)

AIHA is seeking 10 to 12 subject matter experts to participate in a project to update and revise the *Field Use of Direct-Reading Instruments Body of Knowledge*. To participate on this team, please complete the [participant application](#). **Deadline: March 1**

[AIHce EXP Student Poster Abstracts](#)

As a student, it's hard to find opportunities to let others in the field know that you're preparing to enter the workforce when you complete your studies. Displaying a poster at a major conference like AIHce EXP is a fantastic way to gain visibility for your research and your ideas. **Deadline: March 4, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**

[AIHce EXP Speaker Toolkit](#)

Speakers and presenters will find a wealth of information, guidelines and suggestions to help you to prepare and deliver a solid, visually stimulating, and informative presentation. Learn how to promote your session before the conference even kicks off! **Toolkit Review Deadline: March 4**

[AIHce EXP Student and Early Career Professional Member Sponsorships](#)

As an AIHA student or early career professional member, AIHA is offering you opportunities to expand your knowledge AND your network. To ensure your success, AIHA will be sponsoring a select number of student or early career professional members to attend AIHce EXP 2019! **Deadline: March 6.**

[AIHce EXP Call for Education Session Moderators](#)

A moderator's primary responsibilities will include introducing speakers and ensuring that all sessions proceed on schedule. Assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis and all applications must be received via our [online form](#). (All assigned monitors must be an active AIHA or ACGIH member.)

[Open Call: Applications for AIHA Continuing Education Committee \(CEC\)](#)

The CEC comprises 12 members who are asked to commit to participate in the committee for four years. The CEC's mission is to ensure the highest possible quality for AIHA training programs and educational opportunities for professionals in occupational and environmental health. **Deadline: March 27.**

STUDENTS

[NEW! Academic Track Added to AIHce EXP 2019](#)

Advancing worker health and safety depends on supporting the next generation of IH professionals. With that mission in mind, AIHA is pleased to announce the debut of a, brand new academic track specifically for students.

[NEW! Student Poll](#)

The Student Local Sections Council wants to know what degree programs are represented in our community, so we can better serve you.

[3M PSD Occupational Health and Safety Scholarship Program](#)

3M PSD will award three \$5,000 scholarships to outstanding students pursuing an education in a graduate occupational health and safety/industrial hygiene program at universities in the United States. **Deadline: March 15.**

[Volunteer with AIHA](#)

Are you motivated by a strong desire to improve things or help people? Develop skills, gain hands-on experience, broaden your network, build community awareness, and make an impact. Consider joining an AIHA technical or professional development committee or working group today!

AIHA NATIONAL

Get Your #IAMIH On

The #IAMIH Leadership Challenge is an easy way for you to inspire others, hone your own leadership and presentation skills, and be part of a larger, ongoing movement to raise the public awareness of industrial hygiene amongst our newest generation. [Click here](#) to learn how to participate!

Special Section: AIHA Board Candidates' Forum

Each year, *The Synergist* asks candidates for the AIHA Board of Directors to participate in a candidates' forum. In the February 2019 edition (page 13–15), this year's candidates were asked the following question... **meet the candidates and read their responses [here](#).**

2019 AIHA Board Election

From February 15—March 1, 2019, AIHA members will use their last name and membership identification number to access eBallot. Paper ballots must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 22, to be counted in the election. **Read more about the [process here](#).**

AIHA Releases Its First-Ever Biennial State of AIHA Research Report

The [State of AIHA Research Report](#) is an analysis of the trends and issues affecting the field of industrial hygiene and occupational health, including the changing workplace landscape, big data, total worker exposure and exposure banding.

Two New Bodies of Knowledge (BoK) Now Available

The following BoKs are now available—[Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Industrial Hygienist Body of Knowledge](#) and [Occupational Exposure Banding Body of Knowledge](#). In addition, the [Indoor Air Quality Practitioner Body of Knowledge](#) has been updated.

AIHA Reacts to President Trump’s State of the Union Address

President Donald J. Trump delivered his State of the Union address, honoring one of the great traditions of our nation that peacefully brings together the three separate, co-equal branches of government for a shared moment that celebrates American... **read the full press release [here](#).**

AIHA Supports HazCom Registry Preparation Workshop

AIHA is pleased to support the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication’s professional development training, [HazCom Registry Preparation](#), a two-day course that will address both the knowledge and skills portions of the assessment by focusing on the eight rubrics defined as the Body of Knowledge and incorporating workshop activities for each rubric.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AIHA Member Testifies in Opposition to MD SB 66

AIHA member Scott Schneider testified today before the Maryland State Senate Finance Committee in opposition to SB 66. [Watch him](#) in action (starts 1:50:22).

AIHA's Public Policy Agenda for 2019-2020

AIHA issued its first-ever Public Policy Agenda. Covering the years 2019 through 2020, the agenda addresses 15 of the nation’s most important worker health and safety areas... **read more [here](#).**

OSHA Weakens Workplace Injury & Illness Reporting, Tracking Requirements

OSHA issued a [final rule](#) that rescinds the requirement for establishments with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA Forms 300 and 301. For additional information, please see our [comments to OSHA](#) on this rule from September 2018.

Updates on Notable and Key Bills

Interested in AIHA’s position on bills pertinent to IH/OEHS in Congress and various State Legislature sessions, read the weekly [State & Federal Government relations update](#) on *Catalyst*.

2019 Gubernatorial State of the State Addresses

Check out [this amazing resource](#), which provides links to the text of gubernatorial State of the State Addresses for 2019, as well as the upcoming dates for those that have yet to occur.

US House Passes Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019

The US House of Representatives approved the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (H.R. 269) by a bipartisan vote of 401 to 17. This is AIHA's first Key Bill of 2019 and we supported its passage ... [read more here](#).

NIOSH Releases Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report for Its Extramural Research and Training Program

NIOSH has released its Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report on its Extramural Research and Training Program. The 72-page report provides both high-level and detailed performance information on a number of areas and programs, including... [read more here](#).

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019

The US House voted to approve the bipartisan Pandemic and [All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019](#). This is a Key Bill for AIHA and we support its passage.

OSHA Issues Memo Clarifying Enforcement Actions for Respiratory Hazards Not Covered by PELs

For OSHA to take actions for employer violations of the general duty clause (5(a)(1)) under the OSH Act, for respirable hazards from exposure to an air contaminant not covered by an OSHA PEL, the following four elements must be proven ... [read the full guidance memo](#).

Comments Sought from OSHA on Revised Beryllium Standard for the General Industry

OSHA is seeking public comments on a revised beryllium standard for general industry. Comments on the 25-page rule are due by February 11, 2019 ... [read the proposal here](#).

LOCAL SECTIONS

Better Service for Local Sections

We rely on members of local sections to participate in AIHA volunteer groups and national advisory groups, and to provide assistance in local government affairs. Most previous and current AIHA Board members have been local section members. Our local sections' participation provides the grassroots support needed for our association and profession to be successful... [read more here](#).

Save the Date: AIHA Media Training for Local Section Officers

As part of AIHA's [2019—2020 Public Policy Agenda](#), AIHA will host a media training session on February 28 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern. When the press calls, no need to freak out! In this training session, Susan Marchese, Managing Director, Marketing & Communications at AIHA will provide you tips, talking points and tricks for keeping you calm, cool and collected while doing a successful interview

Upcoming Local Section Events

[Day at the Gold Dome: Learn how Georgia Laws are made](#)

02/12/2019 | 09:30 AM - 01:30 PM ET

[AIHA Chicago Local Section: Student Night](#)

2/27/2019 Crowne Plaza in Burr Ridge

[Alabama Local Section: AIHA Future of the Profession 2019](#)

03/01/2019 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (ET)

[St. Louis Local Section: Professional Development Conference](#)

03/04/2019 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (ET)

[Carolinas Local Section: Spring PDC Conference](#)

03/06-08/2019 Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort & Spa

[AIHA New Virtual Section](#)

AIHA members, living in regions without local section, can join an optional add-on virtual section for only \$25. Enjoy the benefits of networking, getting involved, joining in webinars and on one on one's with industry leaders. Call 703-849-8888 to join or [click here](#) to find out more.

[Open Call: Local Sections Council Vice Chair](#)

The Local Sections Council is currently looking for an individual to serve as Vice Chair of the [Local Sections Council](#) (the position is a two-year term). Any AIHA member in good standing may run. [Nominations](#) must be submitted no later than **May 15**.

AIH Foundation

2018 AIHF Impact Report

What an amazing year 2018 was, thanks to all our amazing and generous donors! Read the [full report](#) and the impact you made advancing the profession last year. Secure the future of hundreds of IH students by [donating online](#) today!

2019 FunRun at AIHce

AIHF presents the [33rd Annual Fun Run/Walk](#). Have fun, get exercise, and support the AIHF! You don't have to be a marathon runner to participate; you can run the 5K or walk 2.5K and know that you are helping the Foundation serve IH/OH professionals in need. Not an early riser? Register as a "Sleep In" entry.

CATALYST

Top 5 *Catalyst* Discussion Posts —The IH/OEHS Online Community

1. [Coal's Deadly Dust](#) (by Gavin F. Burdge)
2. [Process for selecting an OEL for international use](#) (by Peter Weglinski CIH, CSP)
3. [Electric Soldering and OSHA Standard](#) (by John D. Kirby, CIH, CSP)
4. [In place testing of HEPA filtration systems](#) (by Lionel Reynolds CIH)
5. ["Qualified" electrical safety persons survey](#) (by Corey W. Briggs)

New Communities on *Catalyst*

Catalyst now features the following online communities that are open to all AIHA members. Introduce yourself and get the conversation started.

- [Big Data](#)
- [Business Case](#)
- [Changing Workforce](#)
- [Exposure Banding](#)
- [Global Standard of Care](#)
- [Sensor Technologies](#)
- [Total Worker Exposure](#)

Ready for all that *Catalyst* has to offer? First you need to be an AIHA member. [Join now](#) and begin creating connections and networking today! If you already are a member continue your conversations on *Catalyst* [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

STEM Education Day Stakeholder Event

Join the Board on Science Education on February 12, 2019 from 9-5pm, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., for a public event to discuss the recent reports... [read more here](#).

Talent Gap in Tech and Engineering Fields

When assessing candidates for open roles, decision makers reported that on average, 43 percent of candidates lack the technical skills required for the role... [read more here](#).

OSHA Rescinds Requirements of Electronic Recordkeeping Regulation

OSHA filed a final rule this morning that rescinds the requirement for employers with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA Forms 300 and 301 to... [read more here](#).

FAQs Help Employers Comply with Silica Standard for General Industry

OSHA posted answers to new frequently asked questions about its standard for respirable crystalline silica in general industry... [find out what here](#).

New Requirements for OSHA Outreach Training Program Take Effect April 1

Revised requirements for authorized trainers in OSHA's Outreach Training Program will go into effect on April 1, 2019... [read more here](#).

European Chemicals Agency to Provide Recommendations for OELs

The European Chemicals Agency, ECHA, will soon provide regular recommendations for occupational exposure limits that protect workers exposed to hazardous chemicals... [read more to find out](#).

Ensuring Protection of Postal Employees

In today's world, a fingerprint can be the difference between multiple deaths and a man locked safely away from the public... [read more here](#).

High Pesticide Exposure Among Farmers Linked to Poor Sense of Smell Later

A Michigan State University study is the first to show an association between unusually high pesticide exposure and poor sense of smell among aging farmers... [read more here](#).

OSHA Penalties Increasing Once the Government Reopens

On January 15th, OSHA issued a pre-published version of its Federal Register notice for the increase in civil penalties for violations of OSHA standards and regulations to adjust for inflation... [read more here](#).

ECHA Adds Six New Substances of Very High Concern

The European Chemicals Agency, ECHA, announced that six new substances have been added to its Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)... [read more here](#).

IRSST Examines Association Between Firefighting and Cancers

Researchers found that lung cancer is not as strongly associated with the occupation of firefighter; however, since lung cancer is known to be linked to the same exposures, researchers... [read more here](#).

NIOSH Develops Tools to Identify Dampness, Mold in Buildings

NIOSH has developed new tools to help employers identify and assess areas of dampness and mold in general buildings and in schools... [find out what they are here](#).