



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

COVID 19 Challenges – Construction and Demolition Operations

Panel Discussion

May 27, 2020

Our Panelists for Today?

ASSP is pleased to have a representative of NIOSH, the Chair of the ANSI/ASSP A10 Committee, and several COVID 19 subject matter experts from the NIOSH Construction Sector Council

Key Issues and Questions:

- **G. Scott Earnest, Ph.D., P.E., C.S.P.**
Associate Director for Construction
NIOSH
- **John Johnson, CSP**
Vice President
Black & Veatch
- **Lori Adams, RN, COHN-S**
Technical Director
Liberty Mutual
- **Richard M Newton, CIH®**
Technical Director
Liberty Mutual

What is our agenda, what are we talking about today?

Following the presentations there will be a question and answer period. Listeners can also submit questions and comments via the bottom of the ASSP COVID 19 webinar page.

Key Issues and Questions:

- Opening comments from ASSP
- Presentation from each panelist: Each panelist will speak for about ten minutes addressing significant issues addressing COVID 19 and construction and demolition sites.
- Discussion and Questions and Answers Impacting COVID 19 and Construction and Demolition Sites
- Information is specific for this moment in time
- The speakers are giving their perspective based on current circumstances and this approach might not be applicable to all

Our first
panelist:

Scott Earnest



Scott's Background

- Scott Earnest is the Associate Director for Construction Safety and Health at NIOSH. Prior to joining the Office of Construction Safety and Health, Scott was Engineering Branch Chief in the NIOSH, Division of Applied Research and Technology from 2005-2015. Scott has over 70 peer reviewed publications and technical reports. He began his career as an active duty, officer in the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers. He is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and Certified Safety Professional (CSP) with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

Key Issues and Comments



- COVID-19 Basics
 - Symptoms, transmission, etc.
- COVID-19 Construction Guidance
 - Sources, hierarchy of controls, mitigation
- NORA Construction Sector Council
 - COVID-19 Workgroup, COVID-19 Clearinghouse
- For More Information

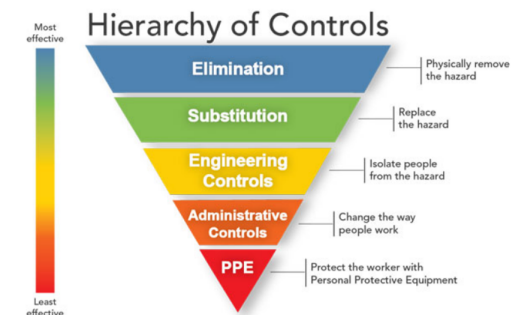
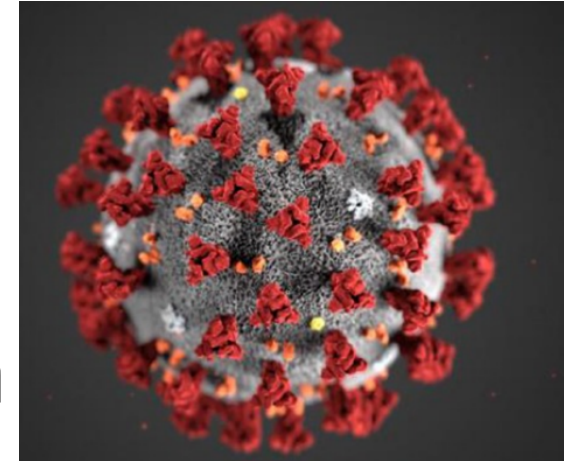


Image courtesy of NIOSH

COVID-19: Prevention & Treatment

Everyday preventive actions for respiratory illnesses

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with others, and people who are sick.
- Stay home as much as possible, especially when you are sick.
- When in public, wear a cloth face covering that covers your mouth and nose.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available.



Treatment

- No specific antiviral treatment licensed for COVID-19
- Supportive care to
 - Relieve symptoms
 - Manage pneumonia and respiratory failure



Mitigation Strategies



■ 3 Major Categories

- Physically separate and distance
 - Stay at home if sick, screen workers, min. distance of 6 ft, eliminate common areas
- Personal protective measures
 - Cough etiquette, frequent hand washing, face coverings
- Decontamination of environmental surfaces



For More Information



- CPWR COVID-19 Clearinghouse: <http://covid.elcosh.org/>
- CDC COVID-19 Construction: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/construction-workers.html>
- CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html
- CDC Prepare your Small Business and Workers for the Effects of COVID-19 website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-small-business.html
- NIOSH Directory of Construction Resources <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/default.html>
- OSHA COVID-19 website: www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html
- CDCINFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348 | website: www.cdc.gov/info



Our second
panelist:

John Johnson



John's Background

- John Johnson is the Vice President and Director ESH&S at Black & Veatch. Black & Veatch is a global engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) and consulting company specializing in infrastructure development in power, oil and gas, water, telecommunications, government, mining, data centers, smart cities and banking and finance markets. John is a professional member of ASSP and serves as the Chair of the ANSI/ASSP A10 Committee for Construction and Demolition Standards. A10 is known as one of the largest construction safety and health standards bodies in the world and currently has over fifty standards, technical reports, and proposed projects.

John's Key Issues and Comments

1. Methods to keep our workforce home if they are ill or in the care of family members that are ill.
2. Health questionnaires and temperature screening protocols prior to project/office entry.
3. Social distancing practices on jobsites.
4. Contact tracing protocols.
5. Technology to support our efforts to keep our people safe (wearables, mobile applications, temperature screening devices)



Our third
panelist:

Lori Adams



Lori's Background

- **Lori Adams is a Registered Nurse who joined Liberty Mutual Insurance in 1984 and is currently with Liberty's Risk Control Technical Services. In this role, Lori provides leadership and integration around our continued understanding and impact of the psycho-social factors of work and the potential for health disorders related to co-morbidity and fatigue. Lori works to support strategies for enhancing risk control consulting skills and products and broaden the department capabilities in substance abuse, disability management, work-related disease/illness and to support our growing business vertical investment in healthcare.**

Lori's Key Issues and Comments

1. Recognize worker concerns about returning to the jobsite
 - A. Health and well-being of the workers
 - B. Routine and interactive communication with workforce
 - C. Designate an individual or taskforce to monitor and adapt to changing events
2. Workplace Screening Practices for employees and visitors
 - A. Educate workforce and visitors to stay at home if sick
 - B. Symptoms screening can be a self-assessment or completed by screeners; if doing temperature screens, protect the screener through barrier guards or use PPE
 - C. Consult with Human Resources on how health screening information will be used
3. Managing employees with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
 - A. Isolate and identify those who may have been exposed
 - B. Follow return to work criteria established by CDC and Public Health authorities on when to [discontinue home isolation](#) Confirmatory testing will not always be available
 - C. Remember to protect confidentiality of health information and review practices with legal counsel



Our fourth
panelist:

Richard Newton



Richard's Background

- Richard Newton is a Technical Director responsible for the technical oversight, program and product development, and employee training and technical development for industrial hygiene services delivered by the industrial hygiene (IH) consulting specialists, and field consultants to Liberty Mutual National Insurance policyholders. He has 34 years' experience providing technical consulting to Liberty Mutual customers on occupational disease (OD) related issues and exposures.

Richard's Key Issues and Comments

1. The use of facial coverings and the need for PPE
 - A. Selection of replacement N95 style respirators for use at the jobsite.
 - B. Care and maintenance of facial coverings and PPE
 - C. Changes to the make and model of Filtering Facepiece Respirators require qualitative or quantitative fit testing to assure proper seal against the worker's face
2. Cleaning and disinfection of high contact surfaces, tools, etc.
 - A. Develop and maintain a disinfection plan for the jobsite
 - B. Disinfection using [EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19](#)
 - C. Provide hand washing and sanitizing stations
3. Ventilation and Air Quality Concerns
 - A. Increasing air changes and filtration in the enclosed job spaces
 - B. Restarting HVAC systems and increasing filtration efficiencies

For additional guidance and resources on COVID-19 please see:

<https://viewpoint.libertymutualgroup.com/article/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>



Additional Questions and Answers

These are all questions submitted to ASSP by OSH Professionals and interested stakeholders. ASSP has received hundreds of questions and comments on COVID 19 and many do address construction and demolition operations.

Key Issues and Questions:

Additional Questions and Comments

- Reminder - Information is specific for this moment in time
- Reminder – The answers and perspectives are based on the panelist's experience and this approach might not be applicable to all
- Submit questions via the question section at the bottom of the ASSP COVID 19 webinar website
- Refer to the applicable COVID 19 websites for additional technical information

Final Comments and Conclusion

- Final comments from our panelists
- Reminder - Information is specific for this moment in time
- Submit questions via the website
- We thank you for your time and attending