



| Alberta
LOCAL SECTION

2025 Fall Technical Conference

November 19, 2025 (Registration Closes November 12, 2025)

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Sponsored by:



CONCEPT CONTROLS

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Identifying Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace

Speaker: Renee Hartsook, PhD, DABT



Dr. Hartsook is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology with 25 years of experience in toxicology and risk assessment. Her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Toxicology and doctorate in Pharmacology and Toxicology are from the University of California, Davis. A nonclinical toxicologist with extensive training and experience in pharmaceutical development, medical devices, pulmonary toxicology, GLP audit process and product stewardship, Dr. Hartsook's consulting practice focuses on occupational toxicology. The past Chair of the AIHA Toxicology Committee, Dr. Hartsook is committed to providing quality toxicology education content to OEHS professionals.

Presentation Description

Impacts on reproduction from workplace exposures may involve reproductive function (fertility) and/or effects on development of the unborn child. An OEHS professional

charged with performing reproductive hazard assessments for workers, including but not limited to pregnant females, may find it challenging to reliably identify reproductive hazards and estimate acceptable exposure limits for them. This session will involve a brief review of reproduction and include examples of prototypical toxicants and a hands-on exercise intended to teach skills necessary to identify and manage reproductive hazards in the workplace.

This presentation will be accompanied by a workbook. The workbook will be made available for download to attendees by November 14, 2025. If there's any issues with downloading, those attendees will still be able to participate but the experience will be enriched by hands-on activities in the workbook.

Exposure Control Banding

Speaker: Alex Mercer, MSc, CIH, ROH



Alex Mercer is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) with a strong academic foundation in medical microbiology, immunology, and occupational health and safety. With over a decade of experience, Alex currently serves as the Senior Occupational Hygienist and Canadian Technical Area Lead for Stantec, where she oversees occupational hygiene-related work throughout Canada, advising on occupational hygiene, indoor air quality issues, noise concerns, and other health and safety related concerns.

Alex is a recognized thought leader in occupational hygiene, having presented at major national and international conferences, including AIHA Connect and the Health and Safety Professionals Canada. Her work spans chemical risk assessment, respiratory and auditory hazards, and control banding strategies. Alex is also a published author in *The Synergist*.

In addition to her professional practice, Alex contributes to the advancement of the field through her role on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Registered Board of Occupational Hygienists (2024-2025) and as a course/content developer at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and the University of Alberta. Her commitment to education, technical excellence, and promotion of the health and safety profession makes her a respected voice in occupational hygiene and safety.

Presentation Description

In today's complex chemical landscape, traditional occupational exposure limits are often unavailable or insufficient for the vast number of substances in use. This presentation explores alternative strategies for managing chemical risk in the workplace through the application of



hazard banding (HB) and occupational exposure banding (OEB). These systematic approaches categorize chemicals based on intrinsic hazards and potential exposure scenarios, enabling proactive, tiered risk assessments even in the absence of formal exposure limits or exposure data.

Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the principles behind HB and OEB, including their respective methodologies, strengths, and limitations. Real-world examples will illustrate how qualitative risk assessments and control banding can be used to prioritize controls and guide decision-making. The session also highlights publicly available tools and resources that support implementation and discusses the practical applications of banding strategies across various industries, providing attendees with effective, scalable tools for chemical risk management.

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Critical Case Study in Confined Space - Triple Fatality

Speaker: Robert Waterhouse, B.Sc, CIH



Robert Waterhouse is a seasoned professional at Energy Safety Canada. Known for his deep thinking and storytelling approach, Robert brings a wealth of experience from diverse backgrounds ranging from corporate environments to consultancy roles. He is dedicated to guiding others to recognize and navigate the complexities of their environments that can lead to new perspectives and transformative change.

Presentation Description

This presentation is tailored specifically for decision-makers and leaders. We will explore the tragic triple fatality in a confined space involving nitrogen, the factors that led to the incident, Alberta's approach to sentencing and lessons learned.

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Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control & The Power of Odor Thresholds in Health & Safety

Speaker: Cheryl (Cheri) Lynn Marcham , PhD, CIH, CSP, CHMM, FAIHA



Cheri is an Assistant Professor and Program Chair for the Master of Science in Occupational Safety Management program from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She holds a B.Sc in Biology from Arizona State University, and a M.Sc and PhD in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Department of Occupational and Environmental Health.

She has served on the board of directors of AIHA, BCSP and is currently serving as the Director on the Board for Global EHS Credentialing (formerly ABIH). She has served as the AIHA Local Sections Council Chair, the IEQ Committee Chair, and the Fellows SIG Chair. She is an AIHA Distinguished Lecturer, the 2018 AIHA Henry F. Smyth Jr. Award recipient and received the 2018 Embry-Riddle Worldwide Campus Latitude Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research.

Presentation Description

Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control

Bioaerosols include airborne substances such as fungi, bacteria, spores, pollen, mites, viruses, but can also include cell membrane components, metabolites, and byproducts of cells that may or may not be viable. International interest in bioaerosols has increased rapidly since the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, but the assessment and control of bioaerosols is a much broader

discipline than just mold and viruses. This presentation is a general overview of the topic of bioaerosols and begins with a review of potential health effects, a discussion on hazard and risk



assessment, the establishment of a hypothesis regarding the potential presence or absence of bioaerosols, purpose and development of a sampling plan, an overview and limitations of interpretation of environmental sampling data, and a discussion of controls.

The Power of Odor Thresholds in Health & Safety

This presentation will help OEHS professionals better understand and apply the AIHA Odor Thresholds for Chemicals 4th edition publication in real-world practice. The presentation explores the complexities of odor detection, recognition, and irritancy thresholds with an emphasis on how these values can support exposure assessments, risk communication, and odor complaint investigations. The physiological, demographic, and methodological factors that influence odor perception and detection variability across individuals and populations are discussed. With the latest (4th edition) updates to the publication, including simplified tables, threshold estimation tools, and expanded compound listings, this session equips practitioners with practical tools for navigating the challenges of using odor thresholds in a variety of workplace and community settings.

Occupational Exposure to Infectious Disease - A Cross Industry Perspective

Speaker: Sam Akinsiku, MPH



Sam Akinsiku is an accomplished Occupational Health and Safety Specialist (Infection Control) with the Government of Alberta, bringing over 11 years of multidisciplinary experience across Health and Safety - in construction, manufacturing, healthcare, and public health - infection prevention and control sectors. Sam is recognized nationally for his leadership in Health & Safety, earning him a place among OHS Canada's Top 25 Under 40 recognition in 2022. He is also an active member of

IPAC Canada.

He holds a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences, a Master's in Public Health, and a Postgraduate in Environmental Public Health Practice and Infection Prevention and Control.

His work focuses on integrating infection prevention and control in workplace safety programs, developing evidence-based approach for regulatory review, and leading initiatives that reduce the risk and severity of occupational infectious diseases. Beyond his technical expertise, Sam is a passionate educator and thought-leader dedicated to advancing workplace safety culture, building organizational resilience, and translating complex public health principles into practical solutions for workers and employers alike.

Presentation Description

Infectious diseases remain a significant occupational hazard across all sectors — from healthcare and laboratories to construction, manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation. This session explores occupational exposure through a cross-industry lens, highlighting how different work environments, tasks, and practices influence the risk of infection. Participants will learn



how to assess exposure pathways, risk factors, apply effective control strategies, and integrate infection prevention and control principles into occupational health and safety programs. Real-world examples and relevant OHS regulatory considerations to support evidence-based decision -making in the workplace will be included in the presentation.

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ASHSP Updates

Speaker: Brent Chopping, BSc, CIH, ROH, CRSP



Brent Chopping is a seasoned Occupational Health & Safety professional with over 15 years of experience in Industrial Hygiene, Safety, Risk Management, and Regulatory Compliance. He holds a B.Sc. and is triple-certified as an ROH, CIH, and CRSP. Brent currently serves as Corporate Industrial Hygiene Advisor at Canadian Natural Resources Limited, overseeing worker health protection across diverse oil and gas operations.

He has actively contributed to the profession through leadership roles with AIHA Alberta, CAPP initiatives, and Energy Safety Canada. Since 2018, Brent has supported the ASHSP in various capacities, now serving as Chair of the Board. A dedicated mentor, he champions professional development and governance to elevate worker and public health standards in Alberta.

Presentation Description

The Alberta Society of Health and Safety Professionals (ASHSP), established in 2017 is committed to advancing occupational safety, occupational hygiene, and occupational health nursing as recognized professions in Alberta.

ASHSP is actively pursuing legal title and scope of practice protections to ensure only qualified professionals can claim expertise in these OHS disciplines. Currently, the absence of such protections allows anyone to self-identify as an OHS professional, regardless of qualifications.

ASHSP aims to address this gap by establishing a *Professional Regulatory Organization* (PRO) to uphold standards, protect public safety, and serve the health and safety needs of Albertans.

Professional regulation in occupational health and safety is essential to protect public interest and uphold the integrity of the profession by ensuring that only qualified individuals practice in this critical field. Recognizing OHS as a fully regulated profession will provide assurance of competency and ethical standards. ASHSP is advocating for a unified regulatory model, consolidating various OHS sub-disciplines under a single provincial body for cohesive and consistent regulation. The primary purpose of the PRO is to protect the public interest and the interest of public safety. Regulatory oversight of the OHS profession is required to protect the public interest.

This presentation will provide an update on ASHSP activities, timelines, and seek to engage the AIHA-AB membership in a discussion about support for professional regulation.

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Pricing & Registration

The PDC will be presented virtually via Zoom.
Link to be provided a week prior to the event.

Registration at <http://www.aiha-ab.com> and **closes on November 14, 2024.**

Registration requests after this date will not be available.

Costs	
Alberta Local Section Member	\$ 250
Non-Member	\$ 400
Student	\$ 100
BC / Yukon Local Section Member	\$250

Maintenance Points

Certificates of attendance will be emailed out approximately 2 to 3 weeks post event.

This conference will provide 6.75 hours of educational/technical hygiene and health focused content. This translates to approximately:

1.04 CM points for ROH or ROHT designations

1.08 CM points for CIH designations

AGENDA

Timeslot (MST)	2025 Fall Virtual Technical Conference
7:30 - 8:00	Opportunity for Speakers & Attendees to test mics, cameras, speakers.
8:00 - 8:15	Welcome notes to the Conference. Local Section Bylaw Votes.
8:15 - 9:45	Identifying Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace - Renee Hartsook
9:45 - 9:55	Coffee Break
9:55 - 10:10	Gold Sponsor Session - ElectroGas
10:10 - 11:10	Control Banding - Alex Mercer
11:10 - 12:10	Energy Safety Canada Confined Space Study - Robert Waterhouse
12:10 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 13:00	Gold Sponsor Session - Concept Controls
13:00 - 14:00	Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control - Cheri Marcham
14:00 - 14:10	Coffee Break
14:10 - 15:10	The Power of Odor Thresholds in Health & Safety - Cheri Marcham
15:10 - 16:10	Infection Control - Sam Akinsiku
16:10 - 16:35	ASHSP Update - Brent Chopping
16:35 - 16:45	Conference Closing Remarks.

Sponsors

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If you would like to be a sponsor at future events, please reach out to Lisa Marinic at public_relation@aiha-ab.com.