

SAFETY FIRST



November 2023

SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN CONVENIENCE!



Upcoming Events

CISA Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar

📅 December 13, 2023

🕒 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ➔

Chapter Recognition



Check out local job listings on the Wichita ASSP Chapter website!

[Jobs – ASSP Wichita Chapter](#)

National Safety Council introduces MSD Pledge 2.0 to combat musculoskeletal disorders.

The National Safety Council (NSC) has unveiled its latest iteration of its MSD Pledge, which addresses workplace musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Described as a significant advancement, MSD Pledge 2.0 looks to tackle MSDs beyond 2025 by broadening access to safety technology, resources, and best practices, as stated by the NSC.

MSDs rank as the most prevalent workplace injuries and are the second leading cause of reducing employees' working years, surpassed only by mental illness and substance misuse, according to the World Health Organization. These injuries lead to nearly \$17 billion in lost wages and medical expenses for U.S. businesses annually.

Introduced in June 2022, the original MSD Pledge garnered support from almost 200 organizations, representing over 2.7 million employees. The new phase calls on organizations to commit to core goals, including analyzing the causes of MSD injuries, investing in solutions, sharing innovations, fostering a safety culture, and setting percentage-based goals to reduce MSD risks over the next five years.

Lorraine Martin, president and CEO of NSC, emphasized the importance of creating a workplace where safety is valued and highlighted how increased access to the MSD Pledge community can transform workplace safety, mitigate MSD risks, and improve the overall well-being of workers.

Pledge members will receive complimentary resources to aid in reducing MSD risks. They will participate in the MSD Solutions Index, an annual benchmarking survey evaluating pledge commitments regarding risk reduction, innovation, collaboration, and safety culture. This index aims to offer personalized feedback to organizations, highlighting areas of strength and opportunities for improvement in their MSD prevention efforts.

For additional details on MSD Pledge 2.0, visit this [link](#).

Prioritizing Employee Mental Health

For a long time, mental distress has lingered as an unspoken concern in the workplace. Employees often lack awareness of available resources, if any, to aid them, while employers may underestimate the impact of mental distress on safety and their financial bottom line.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has brought this issue to the forefront for many employers. More than 40% of Americans report heightened levels of mental distress due to the pandemic, with over 85% acknowledging that work affects their mental health. Employers are now recognizing the repercussions of employee mental distress, including increased absenteeism, negative effects on productivity and profits, and a surge in healthcare costs.

Encouragingly, organizations observe a return of \$4 for every dollar invested in mental health treatment in the form of improved health and productivity. However, supporting treatment alone is insufficient. Employers should place the protection of employee mental health and



Approximately 20,000 children have lost an active-duty parent in the military over the last 35 years.

97% of casualties are men, leaving behind single mothers to care for their families. Of those families, 60% report having trouble making ends meet.

Take time to enjoy the day!

It only takes a minute or two, so relax and check out the view.

Tune in the nature that you've been missing...

Chirps, tweets, a little hissing

Check out a sunrise or watch the sunset...

I haven't seen two alike yet.

Look for creatures they're all around...

In the air and on the ground.

Take a brisk walk or soak in some sun...

Life is too short not to have fun!



safety on an equal footing with physical safety.

To assist employers in comprehending the pivotal role they play in supporting their employees' mental health, NSC and NORC at the University of Chicago, funded by Nationwide, have developed the Mental Health Cost Calculator for Employers. This authoritative, user-friendly tool offers business leaders data-driven insights into the costs of employee mental distress in their workplaces, revealing that, on average, employers spend over \$15,000 annually on employees experiencing mental distress. It's important to note that this data reflects costs pre-COVID-19 and likely underrepresents the current expenses for employers due to the increase in Americans experiencing mental distress.

NSC encourages business leaders to take proactive measures to support their workers. They are prepared to collaborate with you, offering a comprehensive array of materials, consulting services, and additional resources to ensure employee safety at nsc.org/MentalHealth.

Explore the methodology behind the calculator and key takeaways, and consider ordering a special digital edition of Family Safety & Health® magazine focusing on mental health, substance use, and recovery for your workers.

NSC Recommendations for Employers

Recognizing that addressing mental distress in the workplace requires the involvement of the entire organization, including leadership, human resources, supervisors and managers, safety professionals, and employees themselves, NSC suggests the following key actions:

1. Understand how workplace conditions and culture can impact employee mental health and, in some cases, create or exacerbate mental distress.
2. Ensure leaders, managers, and supervisors prioritize employee mental health and well-being, working to prevent mental distress and supporting employees experiencing it.
3. Ensure human resources develops robust, compassionate, and clear policies, programs, and procedures to prevent mental distress and support employees experiencing it.
4. Provide employee education, increase awareness of mental well-being and distress, and promote awareness of workplace resources, supports, and policies.

Check out additional recommendations for employers, including NSC partners' resources and solutions on addressing employee mental health and distress.

Mental Health America offers a range of mental health resources for the workplace, including screening tools, research reports, and toolkits. View a full list of these resources [here](#).

The Wichita Chapter of ASSP meets on the first Monday of each month from September – May. If a holiday falls on Monday, we will move the meeting back one week. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact president@wichita.assp.org.

Wichita Chapter Meetings (unless otherwise noted) are hosted on the first Monday of each month.

iSi Environmental, Inc.
215 S. Laura St.
Wichita, Kansas
[Map and Directions](#)

Meetings start with a Luncheon at 11:30 am, followed by a technical presentation from 12:00-1:00 pm. All meetings cost \$10 to attend.

We hope you will be able to join us for the upcoming meetings! We have lined up excellent presenters and interesting topics, so we hope to see you at iSi.

