



TOP HEADLINES

California Issues Safety Guidance on Wildfire Cleanup and Recovery



www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com

California's Department of Industrial Relations has released a Wildfire Clean-up Training Tool for employers and workers involved in recovery operations...

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What to Expect on the Safety Front from the New Administration



www.jdsupra.com

In this article, we explore what, if any, changes we expect to see under the new administration that will impact employers on the MSHA and OSHA fronts...

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Well the month of March has come and almost gone. This has been quite a month. For the sports fan it is the Madness Fun. For the gardener Spring has sprung. But let us not forget the Leprechaun! Read on, fellow members, for the reveal of hidden treasure!

Over the next few weeks, you will find wonderful things of which to partake. First and foremost is the upcoming WOHC 2025 in Salt Lake City. Not only is this a world-class conference, it is set in one of the most family-friendly, outdoor enthusiast places in the western U.S. Not only will you hear top-notch presentations from top-notch presenters, you will be able to enjoy the most

beautiful Autumn heralded by a kaleidoscope of seasonal color. This is not to be missed on either account.

So speaking of accounts, we have secured for you a preconference financial presenter through Strategic Wealth Designers. We want to offer you something a little different to increase your financial health along with the intellectual. How about increasing your personal “pot of gold”!

Be looking to tap into the new WOEMA marketplace. There will be a plethora of items for you to ponder and bring home from our online offering. For those of you conference attendees who are, or will join, WOEMA, there will be a discount to you.

There will be a new “Loyalty” program beginning this year. When you register/attend three WOHC conferences, you as a WOEMA member will be entered into a lottery where you will have the opportunity to win a variety of rewards such as a free night in the conference hotel, gift basket, restaurant meal, marketplace item choice. There will be a variety of items that will be introduced over the following years. This program will retroactively apply to those who attended WOHC 2024. The entry requirements are that you are a WOEMA member and have registered/attended three conferences, which do not have to be in succession. The first Loyalty rewards will be available at WOHC 2026 in Hawaii! Who wouldn't want an extra free night in Hawaii?!

So the theme is come join us. The Leprechaun has developed some new and exciting treasures for you to enjoy. Dr. Eric Wood, your 2025 WOHC chair, his fabulous planning committee team, and I can't wait to see you!

April is coming and we will not be “fooling around”. WOHC registration is about to open. Don't miss out. More updates on our WOEMA future in the April newsletter. Until then, stay tuned. Wonderful monthly webinars ongoing, Legislative efforts continuing, and your volunteer Board and Committee members tirelessly working on YOUR behalf, the WOEMA family!

Lest you feel left out in any way, our Lucky Leprechaun has provided us with a “pot” that empty of gold for now. He has produced a QR code for all of us to use. Help fill the pot with whatever you may wish to contribute. This will go into our general fund and provide the financial sustainability for your organization and the ongoing efforts to make our occupational medical lives better through all the aforementioned efforts. As we grow our “pot” we will be able to channel \$ into different worthy endeavors. Think of what the future can bring. Perhaps we will be able to sponsor a resident in their program or offer a grant. Just think of it! What we can accomplish, but it starts with you. This QR code will allow you to contribute monthly, one time, or as a lasting legacy through estate planning. I pledge to you my fellow members that I will be among the first to contribute monthly. Come join me. I believe in you. Let's both believe in WOEMA, one of the best medical organizations in this country! And it's TAX DEDUCTIBLE!



Rosalie Banasiak, MD FACOEM
President WOEMA 2025

FEATURED ARTICLES

Third Phase of California Fire Hazard Severity Maps Released



www.kcra.com

The next phase of updated California Fire Hazard Severity Zones, which assess the likelihood of wildfire behavior in local responsibility areas, was released by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Cal Fire...

Study: Pain Levels Drive Workers' Opioid Use After Injuries



www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com


Severe pain is “the main factor associated with opioid use after a work-related injury,” regardless of the employee’s return-to-work timeline, a recent study out of Canada suggests...

UC's WorkStrong Program Positions Workplace Injury as an Opportunity for Growth



ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu

Developed collaboratively with the expertise and support of staff who lead UC’s campus wellness, occupational health, and recreational services programs, WorkStrong supports participants in improving...



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EXCITING NEWS FROM THE WOEMA EDUCATION COMMITTEE!

Due to the overwhelming popularity of our educational webinars, we’re thrilled to announce the addition of more webinars to our schedule. These engaging and informative sessions are designed to keep you connected, informed, and inspired.

Stay tuned for updates, and we hope to see you at an upcoming webinar!

All webinars are at 12:00 pm PT and are followed by a 30 minute Link and Learn Session wherein attendees are invited to share comments, experiences and feedback.

We hope you will join us for these upcoming sessions.

March 28

- **What is the Value of Occupational Health? Increasing our Scope and Value via Technology with Dr. Peter Connaughton**

April 11

- **Final Workers' Compensation Report: A California Perspective (Part 1) with Dr. Steve Wiesner**

April 25

- **Advances in Pain Management with Dr. Steven Feinberg and Dr. Alex Sable-Smith**

May 9

- **Update on Silica Cal/OSHA Requirements with Dr. Robert Harrison**

May 30

- **Traumatic Brain Injury with Dr. Diana Kraemer**

June 13

- **Emergency and Disaster Response with Dr. Gina Solomon**

June 27

- **Regenerative Medicine with Dr. Yusef Sayeed**

July 25

- **Final Workers' Compensation Report: A California Perspective (Part 2) with Dr. Steve Wiesner**

August 29

- **Lifestyle Medicine with Dr. Aisha Chaudhry**

October 31

- **Space and Space Medicine with Dr. Ronak Shah**

November 14

- **Functional Medicine Approach to Pain with Dr. Ionela Hubbard**

December 5

- **Flu/COVID/RSV Update with Dr. Christian Sandrock**

If you are interested in participating in the Education Committee, please contact Chair [Aisha Chaudhry, MD](#).

INDUSTRY TRENDS

Occupational Health Market to Hit USD 7.45 Billion by 2032

How to Leverage AI and Avoid the Pitfalls



www.globenewswire.com

The increasing prevalence of occupational diseases and injuries significantly propels market demand...

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www.thesafetymag.com

Industry experts explored the role of artificial intelligence in workplace safety, discussing its potential, limitations, and ethical challenges...

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HONORING WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

As we celebrate Women's History Month, WOEMA recognizes the remarkable achievements of women in occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) and beyond. Women have long been at the forefront of medical advancements, advocacy, and leadership—shaping policies, improving workplace safety, and paving the way for future generations.

This month, we spotlight the resilience and innovation of women in OEM. From researchers identifying workplace hazards to clinicians championing worker health, women continue to play an essential role in advancing occupational and environmental medicine. Their contributions have not only improved health outcomes but have also shaped the broader fields of public health and workplace safety.

WOEMA is proud to celebrate the women who have led our association, served as mentors, and inspired the next generation of OEM professionals. At the Western Occupational Health Conference (WOHC) 2024, we hosted a dedicated Women in WOEMA session, fostering discussions on leadership, mentorship, and career development for women in OEM. Additionally, a recent WOEMA webinar expanded on this session to explore pearls of wisdom and lessons learned for women leaders in OEM.

This year, International Women's Day falls on March 8, 2025, with the theme **"#AccelerateAction"** (<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>.) This year's theme "emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres." We encourage our members to participate in activities and initiatives that promote and support women's advancement in all areas of society.

As we continue to work toward equity and inclusion in medicine, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting women in leadership, research, and clinical practice. Let's take this opportunity to reflect on the progress made, recognize the challenges that remain, and uplift the voices of women in OEM.

Join us in celebrating and supporting the continued contributions of women in occupational and environmental medicine!

WOEMA JEDI Committee



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