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## June is National Safety Month

By Drew Hinton, President/CEO of Arrow Safety, LLC

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Now, more than ever, safety is crucial both inside and outside the workplace, which is why the National Safety Council (NSC) will be recognizing the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Safety Month<sup>®</sup> throughout the month of June. Observed annually by the NSC, the nation's leading nonprofit safety advocate, National Safety Month<sup>®</sup> focuses on saving lives and preventing injuries, from the workplace to anyplace. Each week during the month of June, the NSC will shine a spotlight on pressing topics, such as risk assessments, COVID-19, psychological safety, and continuous improvement.

### National Safety Month 2021 an **NSC** program

#### **Week 1 – Prevent Incidents Before They Start**

Identifying risks and taking proactive safety measures to reduce hazard exposure on important topics from ergonomics to chemical management is crucial to creating a safe workplace. A properly conducted hazard assessment can pave the way for safe behaviors and actions in the future. Are you familiar with the requirements to conduct documented hazard assessments? Below are just a few to help give you an idea of the requirements within various work environments:

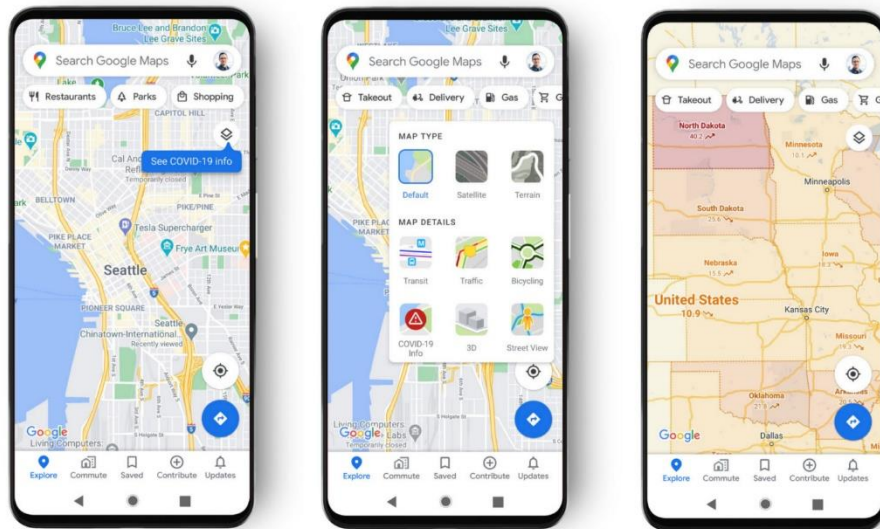
- [OSHA 1910.132\(d\)](#) – The employer shall assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall:
  - Select, and have each affected employee use, the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment;
  - Communicate selection decisions to each affected employee; and,
  - Select PPE that properly fits each affected employee.
- [OSHA 1910.146\(c\)\(1\)](#) – The employer shall evaluate the workplace to determine if any spaces are permit-required confined spaces.
- [NFPA 70E:2021, 110.5\(H\)](#) – The electrical safety program shall include a risk assessment procedure and shall comply with 110.5(H)(1) through 110.5(H)(3).
  - The risk assessment procedure shall address employee exposure to electrical hazards and shall identify the process to be used before work is started to carry out the following:
    - Identify hazards
    - Assess risks

- Implement risk control according to the hierarchy of risk control methods
  - The risk assessment shall address the potential for human error and its negative consequences on people, processes, the work environment, and equipment relative to the electrical hazards in the workplace.

### **Week 2 – Address Ongoing COVID-19 Safety Concerns**

As the pandemic continues, employers play an important role in expanding operations and returning remote workers to physical workspaces, building trust around vaccines, supporting mental health and so much more. Many states across the country are relaxing COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with the [CDC’s latest updates regarding people who are fully vaccinated](#). However, this doesn’t eliminate your requirement to protect your workers from recognized hazards, especially if you have workers who are still vulnerable. When deciding to revise your organization’s COVID-19 policies and procedures, be sure to consider the following (at a minimum):

- Are there still local, state, and/or regional mandates or executive orders in effect that require your organization to continue to go above and beyond the CDC’s current recommendations? Even though a state’s governor may say that masks are no longer required, it is still up to the individual establishment to make the decision of whether to follow the state’s guidelines or to continue to require protective measures in the workplace.
- Do you have workers who are considered “high risk”? Do you need to offer reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?
- What is the anticipated exposure level(s) to SARS-CoV-2 within your organization? Be sure to account for field service and sales employees who may travel to other areas. Even though your establishment may not be highly susceptible to spreading the virus, other areas may be. When traveling, be sure to check out the latest Google Maps update that shows local COVID-19 case information and trends (shown below).



### **Week 3 – It’s Vital to Feel Safe on the Job**

Being able to be one’s self at work without fear of retaliation is necessary for an inclusive safety culture. Leading organizations focus not only on physical safety, but psychological safety as well. When it comes to psychological safety, it’s more than simply telling employees to report everything and assuming that they will feel comfortable to do so. Is your organization’s safety incentive program tied to lagging metrics, such as OSHA recordables? If so, workers may not truly feel safe speaking up about workplace incidents out of fear of retaliation, whether that be awkward situations with their supervisor(s), losing their safety incentive, or a number of other issues. [29 CFR 1904.35\(b\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) clearly states that employers cannot “*discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee for reporting a work-related injury or illness.*” If you are utilizing a safety incentive program, ensure it’s based on proactive, leading metrics, such as:

- Completing job safety analyses (JSAs);
- Completing required safety training(s); and/or
- Achieving a passing score on shop and/or field safety audits

Be sure to register for our upcoming webinar on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM CST where Sospes and Arrow Safety will discuss psychological safety and how to increase reporting like a forward-thinking safety pro! Register here:

<https://bit.ly/3i3T84f>

#### **Week 4 – Advance Your Safety Journey**

Safety is all about continuous improvement. Whether organizationally or individually, you should never be satisfied with the status quo. Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, resulting in new or revised processes, automated systems, and new hazards. How do you ensure you're properly prepared to face these new hazards? By continuing your journey!

If you're an individual safety professional, what are your future aspirations?

- A professional certification such as the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), and/or Certified Instructional Trainer (CIT)?
- Complete a college or university degree program?
- Get a promotion?

If you're an organization:

- How often do you set goals and objectives pertaining to safety-related operations? If you reach your goals, how do you establish new ones? If you don't reach your goals, are you evaluating why?
- Have you established a vision and/or mission statement not only for the organization, but also for your organization's safety department?

In order to keep moving forward, you have to establish a clear picture of where you want to be. Arrow Safety can help you and/or your organization by creating site-specific plans to get you where you want to be. Not sure where to start? We'd love to help paint that picture for you!

#### **Summary**

If you would like to find more information and/or materials on National Safety Month, visit the following website: [www.nsc.org/workplace/national-safety-month](http://www.nsc.org/workplace/national-safety-month).

If you have any questions about how Arrow Safety can help your employees stay safe and keep your business headed in the right direction, contact us and we'll be glad to help! We travel nationwide and all new customers receive **10% off** their first quote, regardless of the scope or size!



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