

"Conversation Commitment" Challenge

Conversation Starters and Talking Points

Starter: Encouraging Students to Pursue a Career in Industrial Hygiene

There's a profession I'd like to tell you about. It's an exciting profession that helps protect workers and their communities from a wide array of hazards. Do you have a minute?

Talking Points and Resources

- AIHA's award-winning free online comic book series: <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/IH-Heroes/Pages/Tales-from-the-Field.aspx>
- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "Meet the IH Heroes." <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/IH-Heroes/Pages/home.aspx>
- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "What is 'I AM IH'?" <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/I-am-IH/Pages/I-am-IH.aspx>
- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "Discover Industrial Hygiene." <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/Pages/default.aspx>

Starter: Young Worker Health and Safety

Every minute, a young worker is injured on the job, and every day a young worker dies as a result of a workplace incident. This is a big problem. Young worker health and safety is really important to me and my colleagues. Can I tell you about how IH and OH professionals, such as myself are helping protect young workers?

Talking Points and Resources

- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "Safety Matters Center." <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/SafetyMattersCenter/Pages/default.aspx>
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Safety Matters Program." <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/safetymatters/default.html>
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Youth@Work - Talking Safety Program." <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/talkingsafety/default.html>
- US Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "My Safe Summer Job Campaign." <https://mysafesummerjob.org/>

Start a Conversation and Tell Your Story!

Stories are powerful. They inspire people to start career journeys, take actions to protect their communities, and improve our understanding of the important roles that each of us plays in society. Below are resources to help you start a conversation about your IH/OH story.

Starter: Hearing Protection

Did you know that every year, approximately 22 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work? I'm an Industrial Hygienist, and people like me help protect workers from occupational hearing loss, in addition to a lot of other things. I'd like to tell you more about how IH/OH professionals help protect the health and safety of workers and their communities; is that OK?

Talking Points and Resources

- Tell them a personal story about work you've done to help protect workers and their communities.
- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "What is 'I AM IH'?" <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/I-am-IH/Pages/I-am-IH.aspx>
- American Industrial Hygiene Association. "Discover Industrial Hygiene." <https://www.aiha.org/about-ih/Pages/default.aspx>
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention." <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/default.html>
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Occupational Hearing Loss (OHL) Surveillance." <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ohl/default.html>
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). "Age-Related Hearing Loss." <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/age-related-hearing-loss>
- Information on AIHA's Noise Committee can be found at <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Pages/Noise-Committee.aspx>

Starter: Disasters

Wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and other severe weather events impact a lot of people throughout the US and around the world. IH/OH professionals play important roles in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Can I tell you about how IH/OH professionals help protect people and their communities?

Talking Points and Resources

- Functions of IH/OH professionals in Emergency Preparedness and Response: (from AIHA White Paper on Industrial Hygienists' Role and Responsibilities In Emergency Preparedness and Response)
 - Participate in Pre-Planning for an Incident
 - Define the types of disasters likely to be encountered
 - Identify the specific hazards that may arise from those disasters
 - Identify immediate responses from government and other actors, and what hazards may arise from those responses
 - Develop and Implement Exposure Assessment Methods to Identify and Prioritize Hazards During the Incident Response and Consequence Management Phases of an Operation
 - Identify and prioritize hazards. Characterize those who may be exposed and group them together for planning purposes
 - Use models to estimate potential exposures on a timeline and for different populations
 - Determine appropriate methods to control hazards
 - Collect Data. Develop and Implement Monitoring Methods to Track Response Personnel's Exposures During the Incident Response & Consequence Management Phases of an Operation
 - IH/OH professionals understand complexities associated with various monitoring methods, such as direct read equipment and when to use which
 - Interpret Data from Sampling Activities and from Direct-Reading Instrumentation Appropriately
 - All data are not the same. When, where, how and many other factors matter
 - IH/OH professionals know how to use standards, exposure guidelines and other resources to interpret data and provide further guidance
 - Advise, Develop, and Implement Personnel Decontamination Procedures
 - Effectively Develop Site Safety Plans and Execute Key Incident Command Staff Functions
 - IH/OH professionals can serve as technical liaisons with medical and other specialists on OEHS issues, including providing advice on potable water, food service sanitation, waste management etc. for responders and support staff engaged in extended operations

- Advise, Develop, and Implement Remediation Activities for a Facility
 - IH/OH professionals using monitoring, sampling, modeling and risk assessment can advise, develop and implement effective remediation plans to address concerns of facility owners and communities
- Effectively Communicate Risks Based Upon Complex Scientific and Field Data
- Incident Investigations Involving Safety or Acute Chemical, Biological or Physical Agent Exposures
- AIHA White Paper on Industrial Hygienists' Role and Responsibilities In Emergency Preparedness and Response. (PDF) <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Documents/IPRWG-EPRWhitePaperFinal.pdf>
- Additional information and resources can be found on AIHA's Incident Preparedness and Response Working Group webpage at <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Pages/Incident-Preparedness-and-Response-Working-Group.aspx>

Starter: Opioid Epidemic

The opioid epidemic is affecting millions of people in the US. I'm a member of a little-known profession called Industrial Hygiene that's helping to protect people from the dangers of this epidemic. I'd like to tell you more about the work of my profession in this area; is that OK?

Talking Points and Resources

- The opioid epidemic and the abuse of other substances represent significant workplace hazards that must be addressed on multiple fronts, including:
 - Workplace impairment
 - Occupational exposure to opioids
 - Occupational injuries, which result in a prescription for pain relievers that may lead to misuse
- 75% of employers have been directly impacted by the opioid epidemic, but only 17% feel extremely well-prepared to address this issue.
 - National Safety Council. "Poll: 75% of Employers Say Their Workplace Impacted by Opioid Use." <https://www.nsc.org/in-the-newsroom/poll-75-of-employers-say-their-workplace-impacted-by-opioid-use>
- US Department of Health and Human Services. "What is the U.S. Opioid Epidemic?" <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/index.html>

What Story Did You Tell?

We want to hear from you! How are your conversations going? What stories are you telling? As you have conversations about IH/OH, what lessons and tips are you learning that may be able to help others in your profession? Please send your feedback to Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org.