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## GLOBAL EXPOSURE MANAGER

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# AIHA continues to offer COVID-9 resources to keep workers and communities healthy and safe

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## Sue Marchese

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The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) – the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) in the workplace and community – has announced that the second edition of *The Role of the Industrial Hygienist in a Pandemic* is now available for FREE. A revision of the 2006 version, this book provides resources, information and tools to advise and assist general workers, healthcare workers, and management to protect workers in the case of a pandemic. The guide identifies hazards, risk groups, and recommended controls; offers a communication plan; describes the impact of a flu pandemic on organisations; and lists key resources for further information.

The publication of the second edition of this book comes on the heels of the revisions to the AIHA's complete library of *Back to Work Safely* (BTWS) guidelines. AIHA's *Back to Work Safely Guidelines, 2nd Edition*, is now available for small to mid-size businesses in 27 sectors. The free guidance documents, available in both English and Spanish, provide clear and actionable steps towards the safe operations of a variety of workplaces through prevention, early detection, and control of COVID-19.

In its efforts to help businesses and communities operate safely amidst the pandemic, the AIHA recently held a [Healthy Schools Townhall Webinar](#), featuring experts in the occupational environment health and safety community. The webinar is available to view for free on the Synergist Webinars Archives website. We invite you to share the link to the AIHA's Healthy Schools Townhall Webinar with



your members via e-mail, your organisation's newsletter, and/or social channels. Please use hashtag #AIHAhealthyschools in the subject line.

### Apply for AIHA's Future Leaders Institute programme

Ready to focus on strengthening your leadership skills? Apply to participate in the Future Leaders Institute (FLI) programme! The programme is designed to help you leverage your strengths and learn the best practices that make effective managers and leaders.

From strategic decision-making to building networking skills, completing the FLI programme will bring you closer to meeting your personal and professional goals. [The Stephen C. Davis Future Leaders Institute Memorial Grant](#) provides up to USD 1 000 in travel assistance to a maximum of four participants to attend the FLI. To be eligible, attendees must live or work outside of the United States. If you have any questions, please contact [Thursa La](#), AIHA's senior manager for Local Sections and Foundation.

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# New secretary for the Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association

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**Hans Thore Smedbold:** NOHA president  
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From 1 December 2021, Knut Grove (certified industrial hygienist) will become the new secretary for the Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association (NOHA). He has more than 30 years of occupational hygiene and management experience within the working environment, mainly from Occupational Health Services and the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority. His competence and experience will be invaluable to our association.

The main work for our new secretary will be to support the activities initiated by the association and to actively foster the development of the profession in Norway. A good dialogue and interaction with the president, the board, the faculty, the local chapters of the association, and all individual members of the association are important. The secretary plays a key role in follow-up of our conferences (one-day spring conference, annual conference (two days with PDCs and three conference days)), webinars and our member newsletter, *Yrkeshygienikeren*.



**Knut Grove, new secretary of the Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association**

Photograph: Jan Henning Aase, Studio1 Fotografene AS



*"I want to contribute to the realisation of the purpose of the association; to stimulate exchange of experience and competence development among the members, to create an understanding of the importance of occupational hygiene in the society and to contribute to a better working environment", he said, and continued: "A key requirement to achieve this is to revitalise, strengthen and adapt a systematic competence building for professional hygienists in Norway, for both new and experienced professional hygienists. Here it is important to have an active dialogue both internally in the association and with other stakeholders in Norway. It is also important for a small association as NOHA, to strengthen the relation to IOHA, the other OH associations, Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA), Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB), The World Health Organization, and the International Labour Organization".*

Our profession plays a vital role in our society, focusing on safeguarding workforces. To strengthen our association, so that we can better enable our members to do their work, is essential. In changing times, our competence is more important than ever, as we contribute our expertise to identify, map and assess risks. Based on this, we must focus on preventive measures rather than trying to repair damage that has already occurred.

For more information, visit <https://www.nyf.no> or e-mail the association at [fagsekretar@nyf.no](mailto:fagsekretar@nyf.no).

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# BOHS general ventilation tool briefing

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**Kevin Bampton**e-mail: [kevin.bampton@bohs.org](mailto:kevin.bampton@bohs.org)**Development of the tool**

The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) is a scientific charity – the professional body for occupational hygiene scientists and the Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection. The tool was developed in partnership with society members who are ventilation experts in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The development of all society materials is funded by the society and is freely available to the general public.

In Spring 2021, a range of businesses and members of the general public approached BOHS, having identified a gap between the technical guidance available to ventilation specialists and the information needed by managers undertaking COVID-19 risk assessments. The BOHS COVID-19 Expert Group, which comprises industry and academic experts in health exposure control and monitoring, agreed that it was important to support the development of non-expert resources to help address this gap.

The COVID-19 Expert Group is a voluntary body, convened under the supervision of the board of the BOHS and the Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection, and includes experts from the Institute of Occupational Medicine, the British Medical Association (BMA), the Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation (CIBSE), and industry health and safety leaders. The approach was supplemented by technical feedback from ventilation specialists who are members of the enforcement and science divisions of the HSE. The tools were designed to work hand-in-hand with guidance and practical inspection findings from the HSE. It was felt that there were several related, but different, issues arising out of COVID-19 and ventilation. These included questions of why and how ventilation is linked to COVID-19 risk management, why and how CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring can help with ventilation management, and how to tell, quickly and easily, if ventilation is a problem in workplaces.



The Chartered  
Society for Worker  
Health Protection

**The tool**

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) was launched in June 2021 ([COVID-19-and-Ventilation-FAQs-v2.pdf \(bohs.org\)](https://bohs.org/COVID-19-and-Ventilation-FAQs-v2.pdf)). As the promotion of CO<sub>2</sub> monitors was rolled out, a simple fact sheet on CO<sub>2</sub> and COVID was produced and released in July 2021 ([CO<sub>2</sub>-Monitoring-and-Covid-19-Some-Basics.pdf \(bohs.org\)](https://bohs.org/CO2-Monitoring-and-Covid-19-Some-Basics.pdf)). Finally, the development of an app-style tool for the assessment of general ventilation and COVID was developed and shared ([Ventilation Tool – Breathe Freely](#)). The tool is hosted on the BOHS respiratory health hub.

**Feedback and roll out of the tool**

Feedback was sought from 14 health professional bodies, including the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association, the Institute of Paramedics, and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. The tool was also shared amongst a network of school head teachers. In addition, it was tested by ventilation specialists in the HSE. The BOHS and consultees are seeking to promote the tool as widely as possible; it is also linked to the HSE's website.

For additional information, please contact Prof. Kevin Bampton, CEO of BOHS, at [kevin.bampton@bohs.org](mailto:kevin.bampton@bohs.org).

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