



*virtu*AIChE®

This month's meeting:

*Primary (with live discussion/live chat) Wednesday, Nov 18 at 9 pm ET (US) / 1 am GMT
Alternate 1 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Nov 19 at 6 am ET (US) / 10 am GMT
Alternate 2 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Nov 19 at 1 pm ET (US) / 5 pm GMT*

Protecting Lives and Livelihood

Presented by Sarah Eck, PE, CCPSC
Process Safety Development Engineer
DEKRA North America

The recent ammonium nitrate warehouse explosion in Beirut, Lebanon is just one in a series of tragic catastrophic incidents related to storing, transporting, and processing hazardous materials. Proper classification of the hazards of these materials is important to identify and understand how these materials should be handled throughout the supply chain to minimize the potential for harm to workers, the community and emergency responders.

This webinar will highlight hazardous materials case studies where improper classification or uncontrolled hazards led to an event in an organization's supply chain. It will summarize UN/DOT requirements for the classification of hazardous materials, explain how to navigate the differences between hazard classes, and how this information impacts your facility's shipping, warehousing, and processing operations. It will also offer common "watch out" topics that can be found during a walk-through or audit, and how to address related safety concerns.

Sarah Eck has a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University and is both a Professional Engineer and Certified Process Safety Professional (CCPSC). She is currently a Senior Process Safety Development Engineer at DEKRA North America, a global testing, consulting and certification company. Sarah's career includes roles in manufacturing, EHS, and Process Safety at Eli Lilly, Stepan Company, Hemlock Semiconductor, and Corteva Agrisciences. In addition, she serves as the Chair for the Chemical Division of the Michigan Safety Conference, contributes to CCPS Project 276, "Essentials of Safe Work Practices," and volunteers at the Antique Fire Truck Museum in Bay City, Michigan.

***Note that registration for VLS meetings is required.
Our meetings are still free to attend and open to all.***

November Meeting Registration Information

Primary	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
(Live Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)
Nov 18 at 9 PM EST / 1 AM GMT	Nov 19 at 6 AM EST / 10 AM GMT	Nov 19 at 1 PM EST / 5 PM GMT
Register in advance for the Primary Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 1 Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 2 Meeting

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions for joining the meeting, along with add-to-calendar links.

U. S. National Engineers Week – February 21-27, 2021

by Laura Gimpelson

Each year more than 70 United States engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies celebrate being an engineer during week of George Washington's birthday. In 2021, the week of February 21 – 27 had been declared "National Engineers Week" (Eweek) in the United States with the theme of "Inspiring Wonder".

Internationally, Ireland (<http://www.engineersweek.ie/>) will celebrate Eweek the week of February 27 – March 5, 2021. Canada will honor engineers and engineering during the entire month of March (<https://nem-mng.ca/>). The website, <http://www.wfeo.org/engineersdays/>, tracks Eweek celebrations around world.

The goal of National Engineers Week/Month is to promote engineering and the positive contributions engineers make to our lives especially at local schools and to the public. Depending on your location, events range from hosting competitions such Mathcounts, Future City, Robotics, Odyssey of the Mid, and Science and Engineering Fairs to honoring the top engineers, agencies and employers at banquets and dinners.

This year is extremely important for engineers to volunteer to help with the various virtual events that are scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beside my favorite event, Future City Completion (<http://discovere.org/our-programs/future-city>), other US programs include Global Marathon, virtual watch parties for films such Hidden Figures or Dream Big or becoming a virtual speaker at your local schools. Details are at <http://www.discovere.org/our-programs/engineers-week>.

In Canada, the Engineers Canada (@EngineersCanada) is asking the engineering community to post videos and/or pictures to their social media using the hashtag #NEM2020, or #NEGM2020 for National Engineering and Geoscience Month and add our National Engineering Month Facebook frame to their Facebook profile picture.

For information on the events in your location, check some of the websites listed below or contact your local engineering societies, school districts and private schools and governmental agencies for more information.

www.aiche-metrony.org/Engineers/Week.html

<https://www.facebook.com/EngineersWeek>

www.futurecity.org

www.discovere.org/our-programs/girl-day

<https://msachievers.mdek12.org/2020-national-engineers-week-nasa>

www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/calendar/event-details/?eventID=2187

<https://www.ashrae.org/government-affairs/grassroots-advocacy/national-engineers-week-eweek>

www.engineeringfamilyday.org

www.dvewc.org/about

www.new-sandiego.org/awards/outstandingengineer.html

<https://www.army.mil/article/120306>

www.wfeo.org/engineersdays (International Dates and host organizations)

Australia: <https://www.facebook.com/EngineersAustralia>

Canada: <http://www.nem-mng.ca/>

India: <https://www.ieindia.org/en>

Ireland: www.engineersweek.ie

We're in this Together

The ongoing COVID-19 situation has provided us with a reminder that even in uncertain times, AIChE is a diverse community of people who lead, create, inspire and learn—together. AIChE is here to help. Knowing that many of our members are working virtually, AIChE has created this page to act as a hub for online content, access to communities, and communication updates. [Learn more](#).

University of Delaware designs HensNest mask to help fight COVID-19

In the pursuit to find and provide more face masks to those in need, staff at University of Delaware's Department of Mechanical Engineering designed the HensNest. [Review here](#)

Biogen employees, are being asked to help create a COVID-19 biobank

Employees of Biogen, the company whose managers' meeting in February became a super spreader event for coronavirus in Massachusetts, is now asking employees who were infected with COVID-19 to contribute blood samples for a biobank. [Review here](#)

Georgia Tech researchers create COVID-19 tool to help doctors spot 'false negative' patients

To help doctors figure out when to retest a “negative” patient, Dr. Keskinocak and her team took a paper-based algorithm created by Piedmont Healthcare doctors and turned it into a digital tool that walks physicians through a series of questions about the need for retesting. [Review here](#).

Past VLS Meetings

The VLS records its monthly meetings and archives them on the AIChE Academy website in case you missed a meeting or are looking for a particular topic. See below for current recordings.

Date	Event
Sep 2020	September VLS Meeting - Internships and Undergraduate Education
Aug 2020	Physical Property Models to Design Better Chemical Products
Jul 2020	Julia - A Fresh Approach to Technical Computing
Jun 2020	The Next Digital Leap to AI (An Interactive Webinar)
May 2020	Challenges and Benefits of Remote Operator Training using Cloud-Deployed High-Fidelity, First-Principles Based Standard Operator Training Simulators (SOTS)
Apr 2020	NASEM Chemical Engineering in the 21st Century Study: Give your input!
Mar 2020	Is Your Focus Your Magic!
Feb 2020	DIERS data/standards in HAZOPS of two phase flow
Jan 2020	A Brief History of Measurement
Nov 2019	Using Thermal Imaging to Guard Industrial Facilities
Oct 2019	Python for chemical engineers: Getting started
Aug 2019	Reactive Chemical Hazards
Jul 2019	Should I Py or Should I Fortran?
Jun 2019	Design Considerations for Organic Electronic Materials and Devices
May 2019	Why Can't You Compete Without Virtual/Augmented Reality in Your Plant
Apr 2019	The Chemistry of Bourbon: The "spirit" of molecules
Mar 2019	Demystifying Professional Engineering Licensure and How to Put it to Work for you
Feb 2019	Municipal Wastewater and Sludge Are a Resource, Not a Waste: Coping with Tightening Water Supplies and Limited Landfill Availability

Upcoming VLS Meetings

The VLS has monthly meetings. The following meetings have firm dates and speakers.

Dates	Topic
December 2020	State of the Section
January 2021	DIERS Technology Fundamentals 2 - Runaway Reactions

AIChE News

The AIChE hosts technical conferences around the world. Check www.aiche.org/conferences for registration and presentation information for this year's events.

Dates	Event
Nov 2	PD2M Emerging Modalities
Nov 3 – 4	SPE/AIChE Workshop: Improved Field Development Economics Enabled by Flow Assurance
Nov 4 – 6	3 rd Food Innovation and Engineering (FOODIE) Conference
Nov 4	November 2020 TSC Meeting
Nov 4	Marketing your Value
Nov 5 – 6	PD2M Singapore Conference
Nov 12 – 14	2 nd Emerging Meat Alternatives Conference (EMAC)
Nov 13 – 16	2020 Virtual AIChE Annual Student Conference
Nov 15	2020 AIChE K12 STEM Showcase
Nov 16 – 20	2020 Virtual AIChE Annual Meeting
Nov 16 – 20	RAPID@Annual
Nov 17	AIChE K-12 STEM Outreach Competition
Nov 18 – 20	3 rd Annual Space Travel: Adaptive Research and Technologies from Biological and Chemical Engineering (STAR Tech 2020)
Nov 18	3 rd Middle East Process Safety Conference Virtual Pre-Event
Nov 23 – 24	2 nd Food Innovation (FOODIE) Asia Conference
Nov 30	PD2M Germany Conference
Dec 1 – 3	2020 Regenerative Engineering Society Symposium
Dec 1 – 3	3 rd Annual Water Conference
Dec 2	Don't Experiment with your Safety – Choosing the Right Lab Coat
Dec 3 – 4	Renewable Natural Gas Summit
Dec 3 – 4	Biosecurity, Biosafety, and Bioethics Conference
Dec 7 – 9	3 rd International Conference on Microbiome Engineering
Dec 7 – 8	International Mammalian Synthetic Biology Workshop (mSBW)
Dec 9 – 11	Food-Energy-Water Nexus 2020
Dec 10 – 11	2020 Chemical Ventures Conference, Germany
Dec 10	Business Case for Resilience by Design
Dec 10	2020 AIChE Virtual Gala
Dec 15 – 17	2 nd Engineering Sustainable Development Conference
Dec 15	RAPID Technology Showcase: StenCo, LLC

The Virtual Local Section's Executive Committee

Officers

Chair:	Dan Lambert
Senior Vice Chair:	Paul Adamson
Vice Chair Pro Tem:	Aaron Sarafinas
Immediate Past Chair:	Kirsten Rosselot
Secretary:	Laura Gimpelson
Treasurer:	Jennifer Brand

Directors

Member Care	Louis Mielke
Publicity	Paul Shuey
Newsletter	Mario Arredondo
Programming	Richard Evans
	Scott Clarke
Member Feedback	Paul Wissmann

Did You Know?

You can visit [the VLS website](#) for more information on the Virtual Local Section's mission, activities, and membership. Also at this website, AIChE student members and VLS members can watch previous webinars for free.

Best Voter Turnout Ever!

by Kirsten Rosselot, Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the Nominating Committee

This year, we had the best turnout ever for a VLS election. Thanks to everyone who voted!

It was a nail-biter, but all of the candidates who ran for VLS election this year won their seat. They are Aaron Sarafinas, current Vice Chair Pro Tem, who ran for Senior Vice Chair; Steve Treese who ran for Vice Chair; Jennifer Brand, who was reelected to Treasurer; and Kirsten Rosselot and Fred Fischl, who ran for Director. These positions begin in 2021.

A big welcome to Fred Fischl and Steve Treese, who are joining the VLS Executive Committee for the first time.

We have Paul Wissmann, Director and Chair of Member Feedback, to thank for the high turnout. He ran the ballot.

Subscription Information

Current fully paid members of the Virtual Local Section receive this newsletter. If you wish to update your email address, contact the AIChE's New York Office for Permanent Address Corrections at xpress@aiche.org or 1-800-242-4363

Continuing Education Credits

Members of AIChE can receive 1 hour of continuing education/professional development credit for attending Virtual Local Section webinars. Send your name, the certificate number on your professional engineer's license, and the licensing entity (state or country) in which you are licensed to our Secretary, [Laura Gimpelson](#), to receive one hour of continuing education credit for attending this meeting.