Ethics of Safety and Health Professionals
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Special thanks for use of slides to:

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Photo courtesy JS Holdings, UK
My 3 objectives

1. Quickly review pertinent ethical issues
2. Review key elements in the ABIH code
3. Apply lessons learned to the Corona virus pandemic
Obj 1: Quickly review pertinent ethical issues
Stating my biases as recommended by Dr. Alan Lyles*

- I am liberal in my politics
- I consider myself a humanist
- I don’t believe ethics have to be rooted in religious principles
- This is pro bono

*Professor and Senior Fellow, Hoffberger Center of Professional Ethics, U of Baltimore
I also trust science, and have never seen it so undermined.
Our first challenge is recognizing ethical issues

Right versus Wrong (moral temptation)

Right versus Right (ethical dilemmas)

Rushworth Kidder,
How Good People Make Tough Choices
Al Capone was not known for facing ethical dilemmas.
What are the most pertinent right vs. right dilemmas?

- Truth vs. Loyalty
- Individual vs. Community
“The centre of ethics must be occupied by things we can reasonably demand of each other.” Simon Blackburn

“Anything more stringent might be saintly or admirable, but it is not demanded of us. It is above and beyond the call of duty.”
Obj 2: Review the key elements in the ABIH code
“First and foremost, ABIH certificants and candidates give priority to health and safety interests related to the protection of people...”
What are responsibilities to clients, employers, employees and the public?

1. Deliver competently services with objective and independent professional judgment in decision-making.
2. Recognize the limitations of one’s professional ability and provide services only when qualified.
3. Provide truthful and accurate representations to the public.
Obj 3: Apply lessons learned to the Corona virus pandemic
First lesson: we should always strive to be honest about what we know and what we don’t know
Second: We should strive to make our communications to workers (and the public) more direct and effective

Third: We should call-out falsehoods, particularly around COVID-19

In 1,267 days, President Trump has made 20,055 false or misleading claims

The Fact Checker’s ongoing database of the false or misleading claims made by President Trump since assuming office.

Updated July 9, 2020

Show claims about all topics

Cumulative Daily Monthly

Graph showing the number of claims over time with events such as First travel ban executive order signed, Tax bill signed into law, Midterm elections, Mueller report released, Trump impeached by House.
The WHO uses the term “Infodemic”

- So much information it becomes difficult to sort out legitimate sources
- “Doomsurfing” is a mental health issue
- One posting pushed the idea that the new 5G network and corona virus were linked (300,000 views)
Dr. Judy Mikovits, Ph.D. virologist, anti-vaxxer and star of *Plandemic*, has accused Dr. Fauci of creating the corona virus and sending it to China

- 9 million views on YouTube
- 16 million Facebook engagements
- Mandatory vaccines will ”kill millions.”
- “Wearing the mask literally activates your own virus”

Source: Media Matters
Fourth: we should defend credible organizations and information sources*

* There is no deep state
The AIHA’s Catalyst site can help IHs stay current
The scientific community's understanding of how the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreads is evolving. This COVID-19 Clearinghouse was established as a central resource for construction employers and workers to find the latest research, guidance documents, training and other resources to help prevent the spread of the disease as construction work continues in some markets and starts up in others. The information posted is accurate as of the date posted. Every effort will be made to include only the latest information, however, since the situation is evolving, please let us know if more timely information is available.

COVID-19 Webinar Series: Safety In Action – An Example from the Job Site
This webinar focused on the steps taken by the Oregon COVID-19 Joint Construction Task Force, which includes labor, management (union and non-union), and government, and BAC Local 1 Oregon/Washington/Idaho/Montana and its signatory contractors to identify risks and implement interventions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the job site.

Virginia Emergency Temporary Standard §16 VAC 25-220
“…This emergency temporary standard is designed to establish requirements for employers to control, prevent, and mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to and among employees and employers… and shall apply to every employer, employee, and place of employment in the Commonwealth of Virginia...”

Featured Resource

Virginia becomes first state to mandate COVID-19 precautions in all workplaces
Discusses the new Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers in the state, including requirements for jobs identified as “medium, high, or very high risk.” (July 15, 2020)

Featured Resource

FDA advises consumers not use hand sanitizer products manufactured by Eskbiochem

Johns Hopkins News & Events
Important information and updates from the experts and researchers at Johns Hopkins.
Fifth: We should apply the hierarchy as much as possible
Sources and Further Ethics Reading

- “Ethical Issues for Industrial Hygienists: Survey Results and Suggestions”, Laura A. Goldberg & Michael R. Greenberg, March 1993 AIHA Journal
- “Observations of Ethical Misconduct Among Industrial Hygienists in England”, Burgess G. L., Mullen, D., AIHA Journal (63) March/April 2002
Thank you for your time!

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