

JANUARY

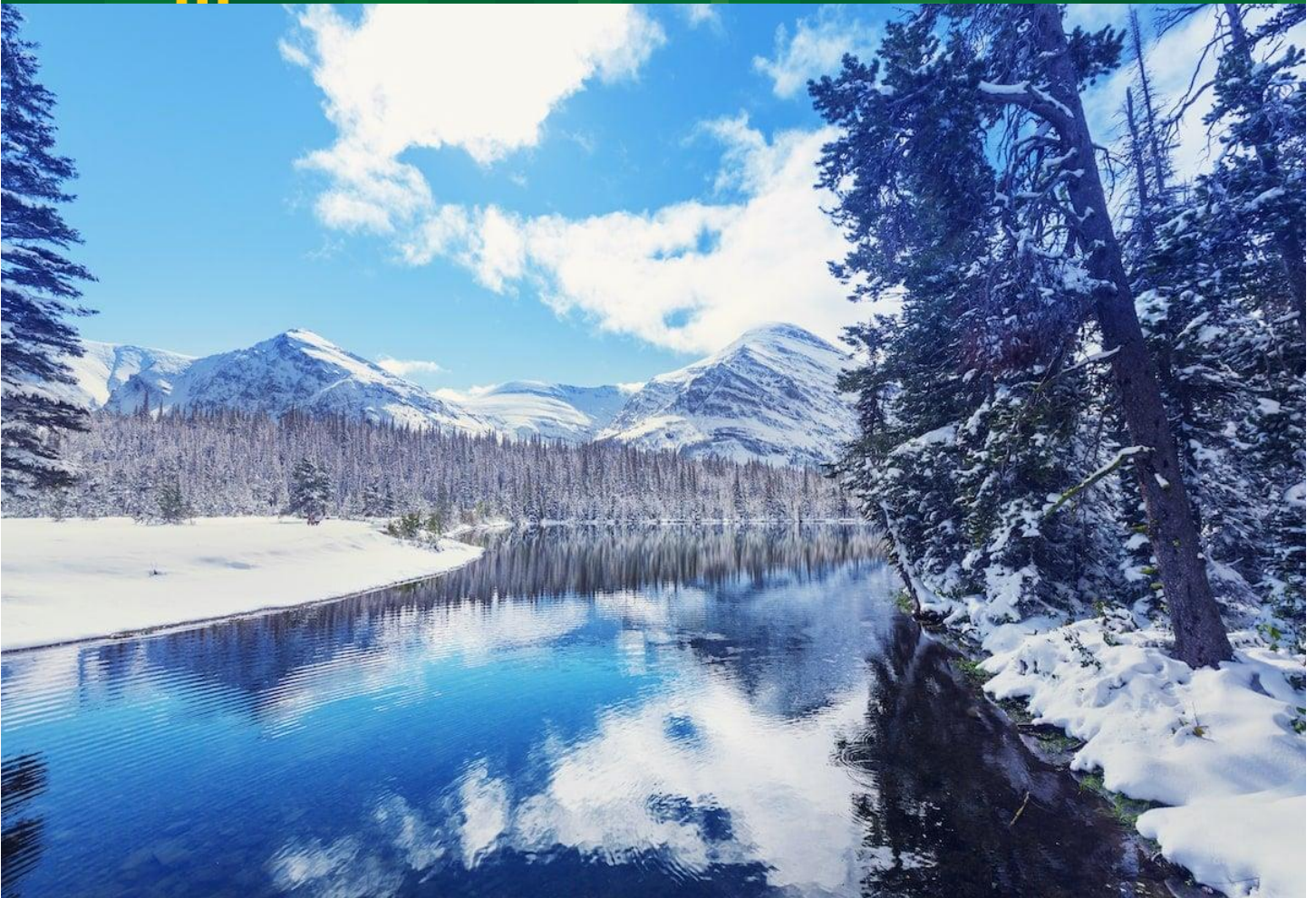
2025

NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter



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ASSP PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Mentoring Fosters Mutual Growth



Pamela Walaski, CSP,
FASSP, 2024-25 ASSP
President and ASSP
Foundation Chair
Jan 01, 2025

The new year is a time to reflect, set goals and look forward with purpose. When I reflect on those who have been guiding lights in my career, I can point to a group of extraordinary individuals who have shaped not only my career but also my outlook on life.

Through my involvement as an ASSP member, I have met and connected with people who have been vital in my career and personal growth. These individuals include Carol Keyes, Kathy Seabrook, Linda Tapp, Deb Roy and Fay Feeney, to name just a few. They have influenced my thinking and nurtured my growth as a safety leader.

Their incredible support also inspired me to start formal peer-to-peer mentoring groups for women who are 5 to 8 years into their OSH careers. The goal is to help them chart their leadership path. We have created cohorts through which participants get to know each other over an 8-month period, then use those connections as they move through their careers.

This peer mentoring project has been rewarding because it involves sharing knowledge with other safety professionals. An inherent characteristic of our profession is that we share knowledge and embrace collaboration because we know that by learning from and working with each other, we continue to raise the bar in our profession. By rethinking long-held “golden rules” and embracing innovation and change, we can deliver higher value to our organizations.

When we support one another, we not only grow as individuals but also strengthen our entire profession. Building a sustainable pipeline of competent OSH professionals and promoting our profession as a rewarding career ensures a safer future for all workers. Contributing to this process is our duty to this profession and one another. These interactions allow us to experience the many ways mentoring influences our growth, learning and success.

Growing as professionals extends beyond acquiring technical skills. Mentoring helps us build skills such as emotional intelligence and active listening; enables us to become more adaptable and resilient; and teaches us to think and act more strategically. In a world of rapid technological advancements and constant change, mentorship plays a crucial role not only in transferring knowledge, but also in making connections that inspire change, support growth and drive continuous improvement. Mentoring also can help bridge generational gaps while promoting representation and belonging, all of which can improve organizational culture, performance and innovation.

Whether you are looking to share your expertise or seeking guidance, now is the perfect time to take the next steps:

- **Become a mentor to share your knowledge, refine your leadership skills and create a lasting impact.** As a mentor, you can help others build confidence and develop a sense of belonging. You can also learn how to listen actively and offer constructive feedback, essential abilities in any leadership role. And by engaging with a mentee, you will likely hear new perspectives that help you challenge conventional thinking and spark creativity. Mentoring is also a chance to give back and leave a lasting impact on our profession.
- **Find a mentor to gain new insights, build confidence and accelerate your career growth.** Sharing your aspirations with a mentor can help you develop an action plan for your career journey. By being open to learning from a mentor and sharing personal challenges and success stories, you take part in a continuous growth process that can help you become more resilient and future focused.

Several of our common interest and practice specialty communities offer formal mentorship programs that can help match mentors and mentees. You can learn more about these programs at <https://assp.us/2MPfd98>.

One of the most powerful steps you can take for your professional and personal growth is engaging in mentorship, whether as a mentor, a mentee or both. Mentorship is more than a professional development tool. It is a transformative relationship that drives growth and success for all involved.

As we step into a new year, I encourage you to explore the life-changing journey of mentorship. Whether you are just starting out or a seasoned professional, mentorship has something profound to offer us all.

Working together for a safer, stronger future



Advance Your Career



Expand Your Network



Grow Your Knowledge

BIG SKY CHAPTER

The Big Sky Chapter serves safety professionals in the entire State of Montana, Northern Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park. We provide accessible, face-to-face opportunities for ASSP members to get involved with their local professional community and reach their highest level of performance. By joining our chapter, you'll have opportunities to gain leadership skills, expand your network and grow your technical knowledge to become a better safety professional.

American Society of Safety Professionals

For more than 100 years, ASSP has been at the forefront of helping occupational safety and health professionals protect people and property. Our global membership of over 37,000 professionals covers every industry, developing safety and health management plans that prevent deaths, injuries and illnesses. We advance our members and the safety profession through education, advocacy, standards development and a professional community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[MCA Safety Bootcamp](#) – 2/11-2/12/2025. [Registration link](#)

[North Dakota Safety Council](#) – 2/25 – 2/27/2025 Click link for details

[Montana State Fund Safety Culture check Workshops](#) – March 2025 click for details

Worker Memorial – 4/28/2025 at the Capital in Helena – More details to come



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter

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**WE ARE
ASSP**

BIG SKY
CHAPTER



PRESIDENT
Tim Barth



PRESIDENT ELECT
Kirby Fugle



TREASURER
Doug McElderry



SECRETARY
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COORDINATOR**
Taunia Cherry



STUDENT ADVISOR
Lorri Birkenbuel



PAST PRESIDENT
Doug McElderry

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ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Chapter Recognition



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2023-2024



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2022-2023



SILVER LEVEL CHAPTER
2019-2020



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2018-2019



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2017-2018



SILVER LEVEL CHAPTER
2016-2017



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2015-2016



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2014-2015



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2013-2014



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2012-2013

SAFETY EDUCATION

Accessible. Practical. Impactful.

INVEST IN YOURSELF by continuing education! ASSP offers safety education for every level of your career, from Beginner (B) to Intermediate (I) to Advanced (A). ASSP courses are carefully curated to help you exceed safety standards and immediately put what you learn into practice!

CLICK ON A TOPIC TO JUMP TO THAT SECTION!



Compliance



**Safety
Management
Systems**



**Fall
Protection**



**Risk
Assessment
&
Management**



**Total
Worker
Health**



**Business
&
Leadership**



**Certification
Prep**



**Math
Toolbox**

DID YOU KNOW... ASSP has professional certificate programs??? Click on the title below to learn more about each!

[Risk Management Certificate](#)

The **Risk Management Certificate** prepares occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals who seek to learn the fundamentals of risk assessment and management and explores tools and strategies for implementing and evaluating a risk management program. Learn how to apply risk management principles that can help you proactively reduce risk, advance risk analysis and drive a return on investment from your safety programs.

[Safety Management Certificate](#)

The **Safety Management Certificate** is designed for occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals who want to learn fundamental concepts and processes for implementing recognized approaches to safety management. This program is ideal for OSH professionals with fewer than three years of experience or seasoned professionals who have recently taken on more safety management responsibilities.

[Leadership in Safety Management Certificate](#)

Our **Leadership in Safety Management Certificate** is a natural extension of our Safety Management Certificate. Learn to apply contemporary safety management methods and use influential leadership strategies to achieve the highest level of performance.

[Occupational Health and Safety Management System \(OHSMS\) Certificate](#)

The **Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) Certificate** is designed for occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals who want to learn the key elements of an effective OHS management system, gain practical techniques to implement ANSI/ASSP Z10 or ISO 45001 and develop a deeper understanding of the auditing process and best practices.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [Top 10 Safety Trends to look for in 2025](#) – 1/15/2025 11 am – noon CST
- [Moving Forward in HSE Leadership](#) – 1/22/2025 11 am – noon CST
- [Stand-Up for Standards: ANSI/ASSP Safety Management Systems](#) – 1/23/2025 11 am – 1 pm CST
- [Stand-Up for Standards: ANSI/ASSP Fall Protection and Restraint Implementation](#) – 5/8/2025 10 am – noon CDT



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [Advanced Safety management Methods](#) – Start date 2/13/2025
- [Influential Leadership Skills](#) – Start date 2/13/2025
- [Safety Management II](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Safety Management I](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Corporate Safety Management](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Risk Assessment and Management for Safety Professionals](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Prevention through Design](#) – Start date 2/27/2025
- [Enterprise Risk Management for Safety Professionals](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Integrating ISO 45001 to Manage Occupational Health & Safety](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Integrating Z10 to Manage Occupational Health & Safety](#) – Start Date 2/27/2025
- [Management Systems Auditing](#) – Start Date 3/13/2025
- [Fundamentals of Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems](#) – Start Date 3/13/2025



Suggestions for newsletter topics or requests for specific information in our monthly news letter???

Please send requests to:

CLICK HERE



Montana
State Fund
Safety Workshops

SAFETY CULTURE PULSE CHECK

It's no secret that having a strong safety culture can catapult your safety performance. With everyone invested in protecting one another, employees will feel a greater sense of accountability for creating a safer work environment.

But how can you truly evaluate the current status of your organization's safety culture? And beyond that, once you do evaluate your organization's safety culture, how do you then manage the opportunities?

Safety Culture =



In this free course we will review the different stages of a company safety culture, discuss and share tools to evaluate the current status of your safety culture and evaluate areas of opportunity. We will review and provide a 'safety action plan' that you can utilize moving forward to make improvements, communicate the plan and set goals.

Register online at
www.safemt.com/initiatives/safety-workshops/



Workshop Dates/Locations

Billings, Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Hampton Inn & Suites – 3350 Ember Lane

Kalispell, Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Hampton Inn & Suites – 1140 US 2

Butte, Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
NEW LOCATION: 305 W Mercury

Bozeman, Thursday, March 13, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Hilton Garden Inn – 2023 Commerce Way

Great Falls, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn – 1100 5th Street South

Missoula, Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Best Western Grant Creek Inn – 528 Grant Creek Road

Helena, Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn Express – 3170 North Sanders Street



Executive Summary

Safety Bootcamp Introduction

This safety boot camp is built with the objective of guiding Managers, Supervisors, and joint Health and safety members to ensure a successful implementation of their Health & Safety Management. The Montana Safety Boot Camp has been assembled to re-energize the core values of safety and bring to light the overall importance of safety at its fullest. This allows attendees to hear from others in the construction industry and gives a fantastic opportunity to share and compare safety program structure, leadership skills, and training. The goal of the boot camp would be to build a strong foundation that issues worker safety, job production, a high-quality finished product, and a more skilled work force.

Audience

The target audience would be all frontline members, supervisors, and safety coordinators/leaders/managers and directors. (Snapshot of our audience for now)

Future of the Program

Safety systems and processes in the beginning seminars that can help organizations improve their safety, build an effective safety strategy, and transform their current Montana safety environment for universal construction practices. Plan for tomorrow.