

FEBRUARY

2025

# NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ⇒ [Presidents Message](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter Information](#)
- ⇒ [Safety Education](#)
- ⇒ [ASSP Professional Certificate Programs](#)
- ⇒ [ASSP Upcoming Webinars and Online Courses](#)

# ASSP PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Your Voice Drives Our Future



Pamela Walaski, CSP,  
FASSP, 2024-25 ASSP  
President and ASSP  
Foundation Chair  
Feb 03, 2025

Elections are not simply a routine event. They are a defining moment that helps shape the future of our profession and our community in ASSP. As members of this organization, each of our voices means something and helps propel our progress toward achieving our mission and vision. By coming together to consider the future, we ensure that our elected leaders uphold our community's values, priorities and aspirations.

## Your Vote Supports Our Progress

When we elect our volunteer leaders, we are doing more than simply checking boxes on a ballot. We are helping to set the direction of our organization and influencing how it leads our profession. Your vote supports a collective effort to shape organizational policies, initiatives and strategies, advance industry standards, and address critical issues that will directly impact the challenges we face and the opportunities we embrace. Through your vote, you help influence the course of our profession and contribute to our mission as the community of professionals dedicated to protecting people, property and the environment so that all workers can return to their loved ones at the end of the day.

## Why Every Vote Matters

We often underestimate the power of a single vote even though history has shown that elections often come down to just a few ballots. Your vote signifies your investment in the future of ASSP. As a community, voting demonstrates commitment to our values and the power of our unified voice in advocating for a strong future. It also ensures that our shared purpose remains at the heart of everything we do.

## Our Responsibility as Members

Being an ASSP member means more than belonging. It also means contributing. Voting is an easy but powerful way each of us can fulfill that responsibility. It is an opportunity to help shape our Society to ensure that we meet our strategic goals, advance our profession and improve workplace safety. As you think about voting this year, I encourage you to imagine the association you want ASSP to be, then play an active role in its creation.

## Your Vote Speaks Volumes

Casting your vote sends a strong message. It reflects your deep commitment to our profession's progress and continued prosperity. It shows that you are invested not only in your own success but also in the collective well-being of our members, our profession and the workers we serve.

As our world continues to change at a rapid pace, we need to stay engaged to make sure our profession remains a leading force for improvement, a champion of engagement and an agent for change. By voting, you demonstrate the resolve and dedication necessary to help ASSP navigate the future with purpose.

## It Is Easy to Participate

Voting is simple. It only takes three steps to make sure your voice is heard:

1. **Learn about the candidates.** Take time to review candidate profiles and platforms at [www.assp.org/elections](http://www.assp.org/elections). Understand their visions and how they align with your priorities for ASSP.
2. **Cast your ballot.** Ballots are distributed by Survey & Ballot Systems to all eligible members on Saturday, March 1. Our process is conducted online so you can access and cast your vote securely any time through March 31. If you do not receive or cannot find your ballot, please send an email to [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net).
3. **Encourage your colleagues to vote.** Share why voting matters to you. As a champion of the process, you can help generate engagement and representation.

## Help Build a Safer, Stronger Future

Members are the strength of ASSP. By voting in our upcoming election, you will help shape our Society to ensure that we achieve our collective goals and aspirations and secure the continued success of our profession. Your participation demonstrates your commitment to the shared purpose that defines our community. It is a simple yet meaningful way each of us can make sure ASSP remains the leading voice in advancing our profession for years to come.

## 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

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

[Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#) – 3/24, 3/25/2025 8:30 – 4:30 pm

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

[Safety Fest](#) – Billings May 13-15



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Big Sky Chapter

[Bigsky.assp.org](https://Bigsky.assp.org)

[Communications@Bigsky.assp.org](mailto:Communications@Bigsky.assp.org)

**WE ARE  
ASSP**

BIG SKY  
CHAPTER



**PRESIDENT**  
Tim Barth



**PRESIDENT ELECT**  
Kirby Fugle



**TREASURER**  
Doug McElderry



**SECRETARY**  
Kayla Quinell



**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR**  
Kellie Trudgeon



**COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR**  
Taunia Cherry



**STUDENT ADVISOR**  
Lorri Birkenbuel



**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Doug McElderry

*follow us*

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:

- [ANSI, OSHA & Evolving Online Training: New Regulations & Liabilities](#) – 3/27/2025 11 am – noon CDT
- [Stand-Up for Standards: ANSI/ASSP Fall Protection and Restraint Implementation](#) – 5/8/2025 10 am – noon CDT
- [Stand-Up For Standards: ANSI/ASSP Heat Stress Standard](#) – 6/19/2025 10 am - Noon



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

## UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [Management Systems Auditing](#) – Start Date 3/13/2025 CDET
- [Fundamentals of Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems](#) – Start Date 3/13/2025 CDT



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [Certified Safety Professional \(CSP\) Exam Prep Course \(25MAR25\)](#) – 3/25 – 3/27-2025 8 am – 4:30 pm CDT
- [Associate Safety Professional \(ASP\) Exam Prep Course \(25MAR25\)](#) – 3/25 – 3/27 8 am – 4:30 pm CDT
- [Executive Safety Forum Academy](#) – 7/21/2025 7 am – 3:30 PM CDT



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/](http://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