

MAY  
2025

# NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ⇒ [Presidents Message](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter Information](#)
- ⇒ [2025 Workers Memorial](#)
- ⇒ [Safety Education](#)
- ⇒ [ASSP Professional Certificate Programs](#)
- ⇒ [ASSP Upcoming Webinars and Online Courses](#)
- ⇒ [Call for President Elect Nominations](#)

## ASSP PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Leading Through Change



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

Protecting worker safety, health and well-being is an operational necessity in every business. In our role as trusted advisors, we strive to help our members support their organizations' efforts to keep workers safe at all times. This takes on greater urgency during times of change and uncertainty.

With federal agencies like NIOSH being restructured and others like OSHA and EPA facing changes as well, there is the potential for a void in national leadership around workplace safety. Our role as an honest broker is critical in helping organizations adapt proven practices while navigating the changing landscape effectively.

As safety professionals, we know that compliance-based approaches have taken us as far as they can. While some leading organizations have implemented modern safety management systems or taken best-practices approaches to protecting workers, many companies still focus primarily on complying with rules and regulations. We must shift the conversation.

We know that safety is not just about regulations. It is about changing mindsets, influencing leadership and ensuring that safety is viewed as a business imperative rather than just a compliance checkbox. Our members provide us with the knowledge ecosystem to do that.

We have taken a step in this direction with a report we created with the Intersociety Forum, a group of like-minded safety and health organizations. In "Driving Business Growth and Profitability Through Modern Occupational EHS Practices," we have identified three core principles that reflect a shared commitment to protecting workers, advancing operational excellence and promoting sustainable businesses. You can learn more at [www.assp.org/coreprinciples](http://www.assp.org/coreprinciples).

The three principles provide an actionable framework organizations can use to integrate safety into their culture and strategy. Following these principles can help organizations protect workers while boosting performance and building resilience. Let's take a closer look at each principle and how each can help ASSP and our profession lead through change.

### Standards & Worker Well-Being

To go beyond simply complying with requirements, companies must adapt industry best practices and voluntary consensus standards as a way to protect their reputation while establishing uniform performance criteria. When companies value whole worker health, they achieve better employee engagement, lower absence rates and better long-term outcomes. Companies that invest in workplace safety and employee wellness retain more employees, increase operational output and maintain positive business relationships.

### Going Beyond Compliance

Modern environmental, health and safety (EHS) strategies promote a preventive mindset where safety is integral to all organizational decision-making. By adopting risk management and assessment frameworks, organizations can identify potential issues before they become critical so they can save lives while reducing expenses and protecting their image. Organizations that identify their risks at an early stage can reduce their liability, avoid costly operational stoppages and increase productivity.

### Revolutionizing Recordkeeping

Traditional recordkeeping methods document incidents after they occur. We all recognize the importance of using data to assess trends and evaluate patterns so we can help better detect and prevent emerging issues. This future-oriented method enhances safety performance and supports both operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

We know the damage caused by work-related incidents. It is alarming to know that one person died from workplace injuries in the U.S. every 99 minutes in 2023. But that statistic is more than just a number. Those are lives forever changed, stories not continued. They prove that compliance alone is not enough.

Businesses must make EHS practices their immediate imperative. These core principles provide them with a road map for protecting workers while also achieving competitive advantage, innovating solutions and implementing sustainable practices that drive growth and profitability.

As trusted advisors, we are dedicated to helping businesses adapt and improve. ASSP provides the community, education, standards and advocacy we need to ensure that business leaders understand the business role and value we provide as we help them work to achieve operational excellence. Through these collective efforts, we are leading through change and creating a safer, stronger future for 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

[Montana State Fund Engaging Your Workforce Through Safety Workshops](#) – June 2025 click for details

[Safety Fest](#) – Billings May 13-15

[Construction Safety Week](#) – May 5 – 9

[National Small Business Week](#) May 4-10

[National Stand-Down To Prevent Falls](#) - May 5-9

[Mental Health Awareness Month](#) - May



# 2025 MT Workers' Memorial Ceremony

Thank you to all who attended our Workers' Memorial Ceremony on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>







AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter

[Bigsky.assp.org](http://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



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:

- [Stand-Up for Standards: ANSI/ASSP Fall Protection and Restraint Implementation](#) – 5/8/2025 10 am – noon CDT
- [Preserving Safety & Mental Wellness in Changing Environments](#) – 5/12/2025 11 am – Noon
- [The OSHA Explorer: Tips & Tricks for Navigating the OSHA Website Efficiently](#) – 5/15/2025 11 am – Noon
- [ISO 45001 - The Gold Standard For Safety Management](#) – 5/22/2025 11 am – Noon
- [Refocusing Safety: Building a Sustainable Safety Future](#) – 5/29/2025 11 am - Noon
- [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:

- [Safety Management I \(25May15\)](#) – 5/15/2025 – 6/12/2025
- [Risk Assessment and Management for Safety Professionals \(25May15\)](#) – 5/15/2025 – 6/12/2025
- [Advanced Safety Management Methods \(25May15\)](#) – 5/15/2025 – 6/12/2025
- [Fundamentals of Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems \(25May29\)](#) – 5/29/2025 – 6/12/2025



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [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**





**PRIZE AT  
EACH  
LOCATION!**

**Montana**   
State Fund  
**Safety Workshops**

## Engaging Your Workforce Through Safety!

Organizations are realizing that simply responding to incidents and injuries just doesn't cut it anymore! Safety should run through the very fabric of your organizational structure through proactive programs, policies and culture. Not only is an engaged workforce safer, they're also more productive, which means big wins for the business. Additionally, actively engaged employees become more aware of potential hazards, develop a safety-conscious mindset, and take necessary precautions to mitigate risks.

By way of contrast, disengaged workers can be passive contributors. While taking training for granted, they may operate on auto-pilot or even participate in unsafe behaviors. They are often poorly connected to their jobs and disinterested in the safety and health program.

In this FREE training, we will look at the reasons why employees disengage from safety and provide strategies on how organizations can address their disengagement and take steps to turn it around.

Register online at  
[www.safemt.com/initiatives/safety-workshops/](http://www.safemt.com/initiatives/safety-workshops/)



### Workshop Dates/Locations

Billings, Thursday, June 12, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites – 3350 Ember Lane

Kalispell, Tuesday, June 17, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites – 1140 US 2

Butte, Tuesday, June 17, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

305 W Mercury Butte MT

Bozeman, Wednesday, June 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hilton Garden Inn – 2023 Commerce Way

Great Falls, Wednesday, June 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn – 1100 5th Street South

Missoula, Wednesday, June 11, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Best Western Grant Creek Inn – 528 Grant Creek Road

Helena, Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn Express – 3170 North Sanders Street





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Big Sky Chapter

### 2025 ASSP Big Sky Chapter Elections – Call for Nominations for President Elect!

Running for a leadership position with the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) allows you to drive impactful changes and advocate for the interests and growth of the Society and its Members. It also provides an opportunity to leverage your expertise to influence the future direction of the organization, contribute to its strategic goals, and shape the future of the occupational safety and health profession.

ASSP Big Sky Chapter is now calling for nominations for President Elect!

Please send nominations to: [updates@bigsky.assp.org](mailto:updates@bigsky.assp.org)

#### **President-Elect/Vice President**

**Purpose:** The chapter president-elect/vice president assists the chapter president in providing direction and support to the chapter to create a meaningful and high-quality experience for chapter members.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Support the chapter president in providing direction to the chapter that is consistent with the chapter's bylaws, as well as ASSP's mission and vision statements, goals and code of professional conduct.
- Work with chapter president and Executive Committee to develop and execute strategic activities related to succession planning and chapter sustainability
- Serve as acting president in absence of the chapter president (see chapter president position description), including representing the president as requested
- Assist with planning and attend chapter Executive Committee and general membership meetings
- Supervise the activities of chapter committees as agreed upon
- Recommend attendance at semiannual Area Operating Committee (AOC) and/or Regional Operating Committee (ROC) meetings
- Perform other duties as agreed upon with the chapter president or Executive Committee