

SEPTEMBER

2025

NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter



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Embracing the Opportunity to Learn



Linda M. Tapp, CSP,
ALCM, CPTD,
2025-2026 ASSP
President and ASSP
Foundation Chair

Each fall, 70 million students of all ages return to school to continue their education. It is also a timely reminder for safety professionals that continuous learning plays a vital role in achieving success and meeting the challenges of today's work environment.

Have you heard the phrase, "What got you here won't get you there"? It is an acknowledgment that yesterday's tools and thinking won't be enough to tackle tomorrow's challenges. In a world of constant change, learning is no longer optional—it is essential.

Stephen Covey said it best: "Unless you are continually improving your skills, you are quickly becoming irrelevant." Chances are, the topics you studied when you first began your career are not the same ones critical in today's workplace.

The best EHS professionals are perpetual students, and ASSP offers a comprehensive, career-long education ecosystem. Whether you are an emerging professional or have many years of experience, there is always more to learn—and ASSP makes it easy to do so.

One of the most powerful learning tools at your disposal is the publication you are currently reading, *Professional Safety*, our award-winning journal and the top-rated member benefit. Each issue offers peer-reviewed content, practical strategies, case studies and techniques to help environmental, health and safety (EHS) professionals identify hazards, improve work environments and build the business case for safety. Published monthly, PSJ can help you stay on top of new issues and trends so you can identify where there may be gaps in knowledge and take purposeful steps to acquire this new information.

Want to specialize in risk assessment, safety management systems, incident investigation or safety leadership? ASSP's certificate programs offer structured learning paths that build deep expertise and elevate your professional credibility. These programs are ideal for leaders looking to master specific areas or enhance their strategic influence.

The "1% better" mindset is the philosophy that making small, intentional improvements can lead to significant results over time. You do not need to be away from work for weeks to learn something new. ASSP offers many bite-sized learning resources that can help you be 1% better, such as podcasts, webinars and case studies.

Whether you are commuting, working remotely or squeezing in study time between meetings, ASSP's online learning options are designed for flexibility. Options include instructor-led classes, self-paced courses, virtual classrooms and on-demand webinars. You can earn CEUs while learning on your own schedule from anywhere with an internet connection.

Following our highly successful Safety 2025 conference in July, thousands of safety professionals are heading "back to school" with fresh insights and renewed energy. I encourage those who attended not to let this new knowledge go to waste. It is easy to return to our daily routines without revisiting the pages of notes we took that are filled with ideas, action plans and inspiration drawn from keynote speakers, educational sessions, hands-on vendor demonstrations and peer discussions.

Make it a habit to revisit your takeaways. Even just 5 minutes a day can help you reflect, apply what you have learned and continue growing as a safety professional.

Finally, research from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business (2017) shows that learning something new not only enhances your skills but also reduces stress and improves well-being. Whether you are learning a new leadership framework, diving into a voluntary consensus standard or preparing for a certification exam, every bit of new knowledge strengthens your ability to successfully serve as an EHS professional—and is good for your health as well.

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 Program](#)

[Evaluation Workshops](#) –
September 2025 click
for details

[ASSP Big Sky Chapter
Virtual Coffee Hour](#) –
September 4th 9 am – 10
am (Click link to join
meeting)

[Trench Safety](#) –
September 25th 8 am –
noon

[Applied Suicide
Intervention Skills
Training \(ASIST\)](#) –
September 17-18 8:30 –
4:30



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Big Sky Chapter

Bigsky.assp.org

Communications@Bigsky.assp.org

WE ARE
ASSP

BIG SKY
CHAPTER



PRESIDENT
MacKensie Daily



PRESIDENT ELECT
Clay Brozovich



PAST PRESIDENT
Tim Barth



TREASURER
Doug McElderry



SECRETARY
Kayla Quinell



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR
Kellie Trudgeon



COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR
Tania Cherry



STUDENT ADVISOR
Lorri Birkenbuel



Chapter Recognition



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.

Safety Articles:

- [OSHA confirms investigation into worker death in Branson](#)
- [4 Flown to Hospital, 2 Injured after Ohio orphan oil well explodes](#)
- [2 Injured after industrial conveyor belt accident in Oceanside, NY](#)
- [Grosse Point Park Man critically injured in workplace Electrocution](#)
- [Worker Suffers burns in Ellwood City Forge explosion](#)
- [Weld County coroner identifies 6 people who died from suspected gas exposure at dairy farm](#)
- [One of two workers injured in downtown Branson water main break has died](#)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

Click each for more information or to register:

- [Smarter Safety Strategies: Using Risk Assessments to Drive Resource Allocation](#) – 9/11/25 11 am - Noon
- [Advanced Safety Management Methods](#) – 9/18/25 Noon – 10/16/2025 11:59 pm
- [ANSI/ASSP Z16: Using Safety Metrics to Drive Operational Excellence](#) – 9/18/2025 12 AM – 10/16/2025 11:59 pm
- [Stand-Up For Standards: City of Houston's Success with ANSI/ASSP Z10](#) – 9/18/25 11 am – 12:30 pm
- [Tackling Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace](#) – 9/24/2025 11 am to noon
- [Safety Management II](#) - 9/25/2025 12 AM – 10/23/25 11:59 PM
- [Prevention Through Design](#) – 9/25/2025 12 AM – 10/23/2025 11:59 PM
- [LVC: Managed Fall Protection Program Administrator](#) – 9/25/2025 8 AM – 9/26/2025 4 PM
- [Inside ASSP: Practice Specialty and Common Interest Groups](#) – 9/30/2025 Noon – 1 PM

PRIZE AT
EACH
LOCATION!

SAFETY PROGRAM EVALUATION!



There are many safety requirements and best practices out there! As an employer, where do you even begin? Do you have a safety professional who can translate all these regulations and best practices for you? What do they even mean?

Safety and health programs should be assessed to make sure they work as intended and achieve the goals set by the organization. Periodic review of your programs ensures that they are working effectively, can allow for employee input and will drive continual improvement.

This FREE training will provide strategies, worksheets and resources to help fill any programmatic gaps and ensure your safety program is on the right track!

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



Workshop Dates/Locations

Billings, Monday September 8th 9 am – 11 am
Hampton Inn & Suites – 3350 Ember Lane
Kalispell, Thursday, September 11th 9 am – 11 am
Hampton Inn & Suites – 1140 US 2
Butte, Tuesday, September 16th 9 am – 11 am
305 W Mercury Butte MT
Bozeman, Wednesday, September 17th 9 am – 11 am
Hilton Garden Inn – 2023 Commerce Way
Great Falls, Wednesday, September 10th 9 am – 11 am.
Holiday Inn – 1100 5th Street South
Missoula, Tuesday, September 16th 9 am – 11 am
Best Western Grant Creek Inn– 528 Grant Creek Road
Helena, Thursday, September 18th 9 am – 11 am
Holiday Inn Express – 3170 North Sanders Street

LET'S TALK TRENCH SAFETY

COMPETENT PERSON TRAINING



NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO

ATTEND A TRAINING CLASS



CLASS DETAILS

Marsh McLennan, 3289 Gabel Road, Billings, MT 59102

September 25th, 2025

08:00AM–12:00PM

\$95/Person

Class will include appropriate classroom instruction on OSHA Subpart P regulations and trench safety best practices to assist the employer in designating the Competent Person

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

DAROL STAYNER

DAROL.STAYNER@SUNBELTRENTALS.COM

406-946-1216



**Marsh McLennan
Agency**



SUNBELT[®]
RENTALS

TRENCH
SAFETY

PRIVATE CLASSES AVAILABLE—PLEASE CALL



Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

Sponsored by FailSafe for Life and PRG Group

ASIST is a two-day intensive, interactive, and practice-dominated course designed by LivingWorks to help caregivers recognize and review risk, and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. It is by far, the most widely used, acclaimed, and researched suicide intervention training workshop in the world.

**September 17-18, 2025
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Williams Plumbing
& Heating
370 Companion Way
Belgrade, MT 59714**

LEARN HOW TO:

- » Recognize invitations for help
- » Reach out and offer support
- » Review the risk of suicide
- » Apply a suicide intervention model
- » Link people with community resources

TERMS:

- » Participation in the **full two days** is **mandatory**, please plan accordingly.
- » Lunch **will not** be provided.

COST:

- » This training is being offered at **no cost to participants thanks to a generous sponsorship by PRG Group**
- » Please note: Cost for one person to take part in ASIST Training and ASIST materials typically costs \$295.00.

REGISTRATION:

- » Space is limited. Registration is required
- » <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/applied-suicide-intervention-skills-training-asist-registration-1478440949679?aff=oddtctcreator>

QUESTIONS:

- » Sabrina Votava
- » e: sabrina.votava@failsafe4life.org

SABRINA VOTAVA

Sabrina Votava is an educator on suicide prevention and intervention who has worked with numerous individuals and organizations around the Pacific Northwest to help them recognize the signs of suicide and to give them the tools and resources to keep a person in crisis safe. Having worked in this field for nearly two decades, Sabrina's passion is evident in her trainings. Her personal experiences, coupled with years of research, gives her the ability to connect with a wide variety of audiences from youth to adults, non-experts to professionals. Sabrina has been featured in various media outlets throughout Washington state over the years and founded the non-profit organization FailSafe for Life to serve her community. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, certified as a QPR Master Trainer, ASIST trainer, and is a member of Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition. Sabrina holds a B.S. in Public Health from the University of Washington and holds her M.A. in Social and Behavioral Health from Whitworth University.

MELODY YOUKER

Melody Youker is the community outreach and volunteer manager for Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Center. Melody has applied her passion and education in serving justice-involved youth for over 22 years. Focused on the need for prevention and intervention programs to route youth away from the criminal justice system, she also serves as a leader on several committees including the Inland Northwest Human Trafficking Task Force, the West Plains Safety Alliance, Continuum of Care Youth Committee, and is a consultant on Student Threat Assessment for school districts across Northeastern Washington. Most notably, Melody has been at the forefront of suicide prevention awareness as a member of the Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition for over 20 years and currently serves as the committee chair. She is a certified ASIST trainer and part of the Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee. Melody received her B.A. in sociology with an emphasis in criminal justice from Montana State University.





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

Please send requests to:

CLICK HERE