AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
Utah Chapter

# February 2026 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Committee

ASSP Utah Chapter Members,

Our annual Dinner and Silent Auction is less than a week away!

We kindly ask that you share this email with your company, colleagues, family, and friends to help us spread the word and increase support. See below for an event flyer with details.

Please RSVP so we can plan an accurate headcount for dinner. Let us know you are coming and register here.

We already have some great auction items thanks to the generosity of our members, and we would love to add a few more. If you would like to coordinate an auction item or sponsorship commitment, please contact Naomi Recendez at Naomi.Recendez@Okland.com.

Thank you in advance for your support. We truly appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you at the event!

## FUNDRAISING DINNER




Register here: https://utah.assp.org/events/annual-dinner-silent-auction/

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### Current Member Count

- 367

### Welcome New Members!

- Michael White, SMP
- Brock Allen, CHFP
- Derek Steiner, CSP
- Vaughn Bowles, CSP
- Jason Stevens, OHST
- Garett Colwell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February Chapter Event

February 19, 2026
5:30 PM
Okland Construction Office
1978 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84115
$10 per person
Kindly RSVP by February 16
RSVP: Annual Dinner and Silent Auction – ASSP Utah Chapter

### Region II PDC

March 10-11, 2026
The Palace Station Hotel & Casino
2411 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
Register: Region II ASSP Professional Development Conference

## Technical Article or Review

### Building Capability – A foundational system for safety programs

By: Trevor Hinckley

I work for a multinational organization supporting a large workforce organized into small work groups at many locations throughout the world. The workforce in many of these locations may be made up of volunteers whose primary responsibility is to run youth and other related programs. At other locations, facilities maintenance or production teams make up small work groups of paid employees. Due to the decentralized nature of the work, the need to standardize processes and to build capability at the local level is paramount to establishing an effective safety program.

This is especially true when a representative of the safety team at headquarters has limited resources that only allow for occasional site visits.

This article will demonstrate various methods that, when taken together, have been effective in building a culture of safety.

1. Identify leaders and safety advocates. Advocates for safety can be found at any level of the organization. Safety professionals should work closely with such individuals to further the cause. While it is true that every person is responsible for safety, organizationally, responsibility for safety program implementation can be assigned to a member of each work group such as to a safety advocate. An advocate can be a line member of each work group such as the group manager (i.e. facilities maintenance manager). The assignment can be effective if driven from director level leadership and if provided with clear key performance indicators that are not based on lagging metrics.

2. Establish key performance indicators based on leading metrics of performance. These performance indicators may vary based on the scope of work and level of inherent risk. The team should be held accountable to these indicators for them to be effective. For the maintenance teams referenced at the beginning of this article, various safety activities were identified as key performance indicators. These included monthly safety committee meetings, monthly safety training completed by each member of the team, monthly job safety observations, monthly site safety inspections, and preventive maintenance of safety critical infrastructure and equipment.

3. Safety programs are most effective when they are a natural part of the workflow. Continuing with the example of the maintenance crew, work orders relating to the key performance indicators were entered into the maintenance work order system. For example, a work order for the safety committee meeting is automatically generated once a month. The facilities manager assigns the work order to the committee chair who carries out the committee meeting and then uploads the meeting minutes to the work order and closes it out. The key performance indicators are then automatically generated which provides a leading indicator of safety for that site.

4. It is one thing to measure the timely completion of safety related work orders, and another to verify that such efforts are effective in helping the team establish an effective safety culture. This requires ongoing program audits. These audits are opportunities for the safety team to reach out to the workgroups, visit their workplaces, and provide guidance and direction.

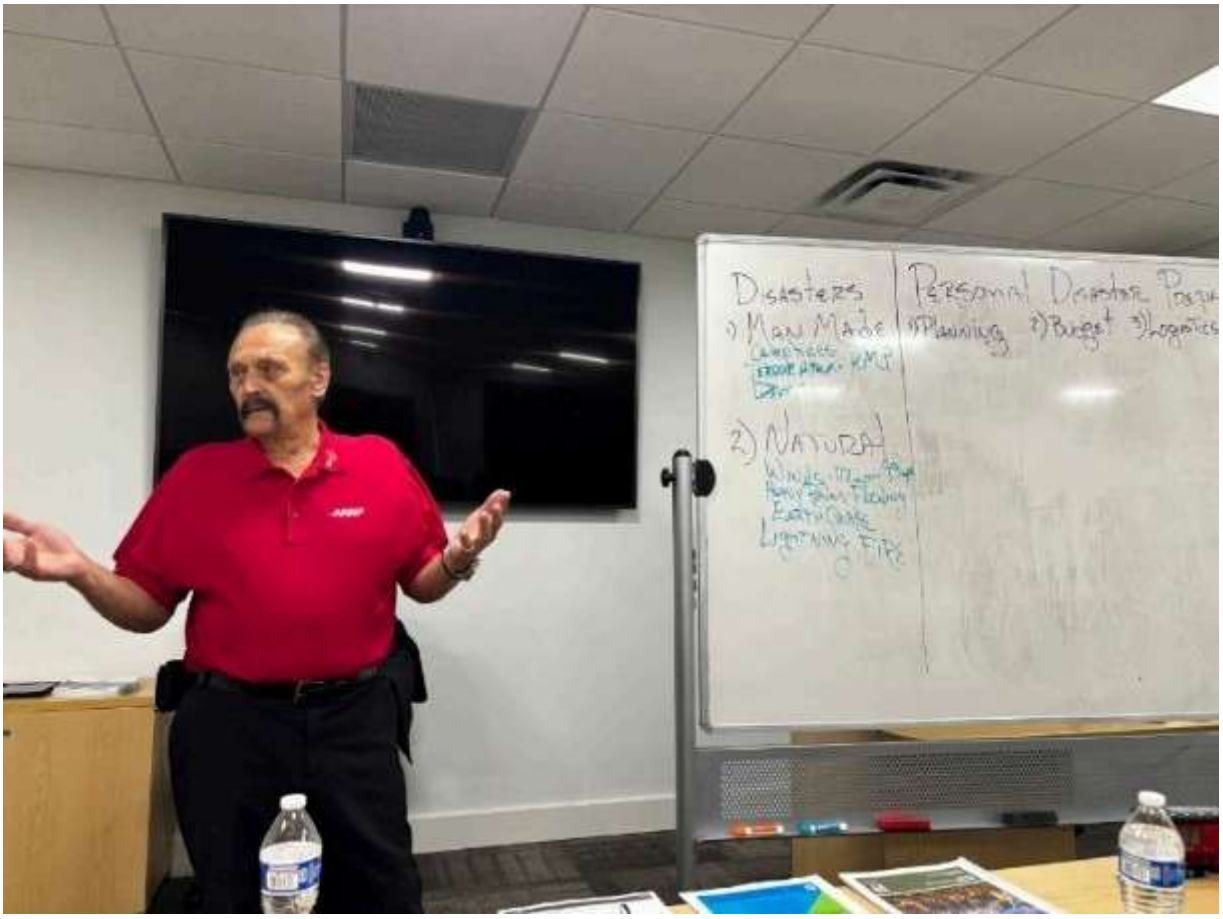
5. Technology has enabled our centralized team to reach out on a routine and regular basis to safety leaders in the field. This allows safety professionals to provide ongoing training and guidance.

By following the general process outlined above, historically weak safety programs among distinct work groups which are physically isolated from each other have been strengthened and, in some cases, established for the first time. This underscores the significance of building from what currently exists and developing personnel to become advocates for safety.

Trevor Hinckley

## Our Last Meeting

Thank you to Lowell Finney for his researched and timely presentation on emergency preparedness. It was cool to see how we can apply the same process as the State Ops team or FEMA to our own families. Lowell used personal stories to emphasize the need to think through your readiness so you aren't "huddled around a candle" when the worst happens. Great job sir!




## Would you like to host a chapter meeting?

We are looking for companies willing to host a facility tour as part of our chapter meetings. Is your organization interested in taking part?

Contact jchristiano@divalsafety.com to discuss further.

## Treasurer's Report

| Utah ASSP Treasurer's Report | |
|---|---|
| Q3 - October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 | |
| | |
| **Beginning Balance** | $43,498.52 |
| | **Cash Receipts (+)** |
| Chapter Dues | $ 1,270.00 |
| Savings Account Interest | $ 160.70 |
| Scholarship Donations | $ 25.00 |
| | **Cash Disbursements (-)** |
| Lunch/Dinner Meetings | $313.71 |
| Conferences | $485.43 |
| **Ending Balance** | $44,155.08 |

## Local Authors

**Chris Johnson** of Salt Lake City was published in the PSJ magazine.

Article: ADDRESSING COMPLACENCY BIAS in Film & Television Production

**Eric Lewis** of Cedar Hills, UT was a guest on ASSP's National Podcast to discuss the collaborative group he helped run at last year's conference.

Podcast: https://www.assp.org/resources/the-case-for-safety-podcast/episode-177-providing-effective-training-to-every-generation-of-the-workforce

## ASP/CSP Monthly Question

Which practice is most effective in preventing vehicle-related incidents on snowy or icy job sites?

A. Maintaining normal driving speeds to stay on schedule
B. Braking suddenly when approaching intersections
C. Reducing speed, increasing following distance, and performing pre-trip vehicle checks
D. Using hazard lights at all times while driving

### Solution

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Snow and ice reduce traction and increase stopping distances. Slower speeds, greater following distance, and thorough pre-trip inspections of tires, brakes, and lights help prevent vehicle incidents in winter conditions.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Our local chapter has scholarships available to members for advancing in the field of safety. This can be for a degree, the CSP exam, travel to an ASSP event, and more.

Please use our contact us form to request a scholarship: Contact Us – ASSP Utah Chapter.

**National ASSP Foundation Scholarship**

This year's winners of the ASSP Foundation Scholarship, funded by the ASSP Utah Chapter for $1000 are Thalia Garcia Gedeon, a master's degree student pursuing Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health at the University of Utah and Willow Snow, a bachelor's degree student pursuing Environmental and Occupational Health at Brigham Young University.

The application period for the ASSP Foundation scholarship program opens today, October 15, and runs through February 15, 2026. There is only one application needed for students to be considered for upwards of 100 different scholarships each year. We encourage you to promote the program to your chapter members and local EHS students.

The online application can be found here.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking to network and find out if there are job openings. The jobs must be in an Environmental, Health, and Safety function. For example: Fleet Safety Manager, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety, Risk Manager, etc.

EHS Coordinator: EHS Coordinator | ALIGN PRECISION – Cedar City

Please use our contact us form to submit an opening: Contact Us – ASSP Utah Chapter.

**Visit the ASSP Utah Chapter Jobs Website Page**

## JOIN THE BOARD

**Would you like to make a difference in your Utah ASSP Chapter?**
We could use your help! Your board is made up entirely of volunteers who believe in the ASSP mission: to be a member-driven association that provides representation, promotion, and support for those engaged in the safety, health, and environmental professions as they work to protect people, property, and the environment.

Plus, we have a lot of fun doing it!

Please use our contact us form to inquire about joining the board: Contact Us – ASSP Utah Chapter.

## OUR VALUES

**Our CLEAR values guide our behavior, decisions and actions.**

- **Community:** We provide a welcoming and collaborative environment that creates belonging and inclusivity for all.
- **Leadership**: We exemplify integrity and empower others.
- **Excellence:** We strive always to deliver our best.
- **Accountability:** We are ethical, reliable and trustworthy in all we do.
- **Respect:** We act with humility, listen to others and foster strong working relationships.

Learn more: How CLEAR Values Guide Our Behavior, Decisions and Actions

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The ASSP Chapter Newsletter is published monthly. If you have comments or contributions that you would like included in the newsletter, please send to jchristiano@divalsafety.com. Contributions will need to be submitted by the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

Jim Christiano, SEE

**Working together for a safer, stronger future**

If you do not wish to receive these emails, please click here
to unsubscribe from ASSP Utah Chapter messages.

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