AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
Utah Chapter

March 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Committee

ASSP Utah Chapter Members,

March is National Ladder Safety Month, and it serves as a great reminder of why the work we do matters. Ladder-related injuries remain among the most preventable in the workplace, and as safety professionals, you are on the front lines of making that prevention a reality.

Whether you are conducting a site walkthrough, training a new employee, or simply leading by example, the expertise you bring to your organization makes a difference. Take a moment this month to reinforce the basics with those around you: inspect before you climb, maintain three points of contact, and always select the right ladder for the job.

Thank you for your dedication to keeping Utah's workers safe. We are proud to serve alongside each of you.

Jim Christiano

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Current Member Count

- 373

Welcome New Members!

- Michael White
- Blake Gross
- Vaughn Bowles
- Megan Gardner
- Jason Stevens
- Rick Roby
- Craig Bean
- Garett Colwell
- Troy Davidson
- Andrew Scharff
- Derek Steiner
- Brock Allen
- Kaylee Packer

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Chapter Event

Humans and automation
April 16th 11:30 - 1:30
TBD
Register: Coming Soon

Technical Article or Review

Ensuring the Safe Use of Portable Ladders

By: Roberto Gomez

March is National Ladder Safety Month, providing an important opportunity for safety professionals to reinforce proven ladder safety principles within their organizations. Falls from ladders remain a leading cause of serious injuries and fatalities in both general industry and construction. These incidents are most often linked to improper selection, inadequate inspection, poor setup, or insufficient training, areas squarely within the influence of effective safety leadership.

Safety professionals play a critical role in establishing expectations for ladder inspection and maintenance. Portable ladder programs should require routine pre-use inspections to identify cracked rails, bent or missing rungs, damaged feet, or loose components. Ladders must be properly rated for the intended load, including personnel, tools, and materials. Any ladder showing signs of damage or excessive wear should be removed from service immediately and replaced or repaired in accordance with manufacturer guidance.

Equally important is ensuring that crews are trained and supervised on correct ladder setup. Extension ladders must be placed on firm, level surfaces and positioned using the recommended 4:1 ratio. Where feasible, ladders should be secured at the top to prevent displacement. Stepladders must be fully opened with spreaders locked, and ladders should never be placed on unstable objects or used near unprotected edges without appropriate controls.

Safe use practices must be consistently reinforced through training, field observations, and leading indicators. Workers should be instructed to face the ladder when climbing, maintain three points of contact, and avoid overreaching or side loading. Policies should prohibit carrying tools or materials while climbing and encourage the use of tool belts, hoists, or alternative access methods. Environmental conditions, such as high winds, storms, or slippery surfaces, should be addressed in job planning and hazard assessments before ladder use is permitted.

National Ladder Safety Month serves as a reminder that strong programs, clear expectations, and visible leadership commitment are essential to reducing ladder-related incidents. By emphasizing inspection, proper setup, training, and accountability, safety leaders can significantly reduce risk and reinforce a culture where traditional fundamentals are consistently applied. A renewed focus on ladder safety this March, sustained throughout the year, demonstrates a commitment to protecting people and strengthening overall operational excellence

Roberto Gomez

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.

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 of the following is the correct angle for positioning an extension ladder to ensure stability?

A) 45 degrees from the base to the wall

B) 75 degrees from the base to the wall

C) 60 degrees from the base to the wall

D) 90 degrees from the base to the wall

Solution

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

This follows the 4-to-1 rule: for every 4 feet of ladder height, the base should be placed 1 foot out from the wall.

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 has closed for this year. Stay tuned for next year's information. 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.

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

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