AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
Utah Chapter

April 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Committee

ASSP Utah Chapter Members,

Every cone, every sign, every flagger standing at the edge of moving traffic represents a person who deserves to go home. That's what National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 20–24, asks us to remember.

Work zones are unforgiving. Workers can do everything right and still be at the mercy of a driver who looked down for three seconds.

The 2026 theme, *Safe Actions, Save Lives*, puts the focus where it belongs: on decisions made in the moment, by real people, under real pressure. If you work in or around work zones, this is a good week to review your traffic control plans, talk to the workers who actually stand in those spaces, and ask whether your program reflects what's happening out there today.

This chapter is proud to stand alongside the workers and safety professionals making work zones safer every day. Your vigilance keeps people going home.

ASSP Utah Chapter Executive Committee

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Current Member Count

- 378

Welcome New Members!

- Samantha Lynn Garong
- Caroline Olsen

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Chapter Event

Humans and Automation
April 16th 11:30 - 1:30
Utah Safety Council Office- Sandy

11075 State St, STE 28, Sandy, Utah, 84070, United States
Registration: Humans in Automation – ASSP Utah Chapter

May Chapter Event

Lock-out Tag-out: The Origin of Checklists & Lock-out Procedures
May 21st 11:30 - 1:30
Thrive Foods
691 South Auto Mall Drive, American Fork, Ut 84003
Registration: Coming Soon

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you pioneering a new approach to workplace safety or uncovering insights that could redefine industrial hygiene standards?

We are officially inviting industry experts, researchers, and safety practitioners to submit session proposals for our upcoming Conference on Safety and Industrial Hygiene, taking place this October 8–9. This is your platform to share technical expertise, case studies, and innovative strategies with a dedicated community of professionals.

SPEAKER FORM

INTERESTED?
FILL OUT OUR SPEAKER FORM HERE

SESSION FORMATS

Standard Sessions: 45 Minutes
Deep-Dive Lessons: 90 Minutes

OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2026

University of Utah
Ray Olpin Student Union Building



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL
SHAYLENEBARUFFI1@WEBER.EDU

Technical Article or Review

Emergencies Never Happen to us!

For those of us that are more experienced in life (older), we can likely remember the hype, planning and potential panic during the last few months of 1999, going to the year 2000 where there were many unknowns for the computer and systems changing from 1xxx to 2xxx. This was known as the Y2K crisis. I was in charge of helping my local company and our entire corporation in planning for how we would continue to run our businesses, if the systems did not work. We planned for almost everything from how we would be able to operate the business if there were no power or supplies. How would be able to communicate with our customers and sister companies, much less deliver for our customers. We considered even down to could we get port-a-potties for our employees to be able to work. Those were the good old days.

Over my almost 7 decades of living, I have been fortunate to live in and/or visit various countries and areas around the world. This world is truly beautiful and really amazing. I have been able to see, witness and be involved with so many of the wonders and beauties of the world, and meet and work with some of the most amazing people. What a Blessing! I hope you have some of the same opportunities as you enjoy the world.

My experiences have also included surviving multiple earthquakes of 7.2 or greater, Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, various fires, many floods, and a Tsunami. These mostly natural disasters, have created instant emergency situations and circumstances, and have resulted in much loss of life and destruction of property, things and even nature.

One of the amazing and interesting things in my reality is that so many of these things happen unexpectedly and without warning, and the impacts and results are immediate and devastating for so many. When I am training regarding safety and emergencies, one of my questions to those involved is: ‘When does an emergency happen’? After a minute we all agree that we most always do not know when an emergency is going to happen. I tell them that it is not likely that someone is going to be able to tell you “next Thursday at 8:15 am there will be an earthquake or tornado” and have it come to reality.

Emergency planning is critical. Just like so many say – “That won’t happen to me” when it comes to being injured, the same is true for so many when it comes to emergencies. These end up being not famous, yet infamous last words for many.

The best answer for almost all emergencies is ‘Emergency Planning and being prepared’.

· What does ‘being prepared’ look like for your organization, and in your environment?

· What are the steps you and your organization need to take?

· What training do you need to have for your organization?

· What equipment do you need to have on hand?

· What resources do you have or which can/should you use for your operations?

All basic questions that we have likely all seen and reviewed many times. So, the Real Question is: Am I truly prepared or is there some checklists SOMEWHERE that SOMEONE might find and use? What do I need to set up to improve my organizations ability to preserve, life, protect property, and hopefully stay in or regain operational status.

Here are a few ideas and resources to help you in your **ANNUAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** review. (If annual is not a current reflective word for your Emergency planning reviews – time to be forgiven and make this a reality for your organization).

10 Steps for Developing the Emergency Response Plan

1. Review performance objectives for the program.
2. Review hazard or threat scenarios identified during the risk assessment.
3. Assess the availability and capabilities of resources for incident stabilization including people, systems and equipment available within your business and from external sources.
4. Talk with public emergency services (e.g., fire, police and emergency medical services) to determine their response time to your facility, knowledge of your facility and its hazards and their capabilities to stabilize an emergency at your facility.
5. Determine if there are any regulations pertaining to emergency planning at your facility; address applicable regulations in the plan.
6. Develop protective actions for life safety (evacuation, shelter, shelter-in-place, lockdown).

7. Develop hazard and threat-specific emergency procedures using the Emergency Response Plan for Businesses.
8. Coordinate emergency planning with public emergency services to stabilize incidents involving the hazards at your facility.
9. Train personnel so they can fulfill their roles and responsibilities.
10. Facilitate exercises to practice your plan.

Good basic emergency kit should include:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlights
- Can opener (a good multi-tool or pocket military P38)
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting, scissors and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications. Good to have on hand 3-10 days supply (potentially segregated and ready to just grab & go.
- Non-prescription medications: pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

- Cash or traveler's checks – cash should be in smaller bills as in emergencies the vendors may not have change for anything above $10.

- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher

- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

While living on the Northeast shores of Hawaii during Tsunami Warnings, etc., we planned on a minimum of 72 hour supplies for emergencies – as it would likely be 2-3 days minimum for any outside aid and relief to get to us. Your location can help you plan for your needs.

Consider the need to potentially shelter in place at your business or home, especially if there is an earthquake or other emergency where the roads may not be passable or driving/leaving the premises may not be an option. What are your plans then?

Here is a good link for checklists from OSHA that you can use in developing your processes.

· https://www.osha.gov/etools/evacuation-plans-procedures/eap/develop-implement/checklists

Don't wait until another Y2K opportunity. Plan **NOW!!** Just in case an EMERGENCY DOES HAPPEN TO YOU!!

Douglas R. Handy, CSP Retired, AOE Recipient.

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

According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which component of a temporary traffic control zone provides the transition from normal traffic flow to the reduced or shifted lane configuration?

A) Termination area

B) Activity area

C) Buffer space

D) Transition area

Solution

Correct Answer:

D — Transition area

The temporary traffic control zone consists of four areas in sequence: advance warning, transition, activity, and termination. The transition area is where traffic is redirected out of its normal path using tapers. The activity area contains the work space and buffer zones. The termination area returns traffic to normal flow.

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.

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

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

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