



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Utah Chapter

# November 2018 Newsletter

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## Message From the Board

I hope everyone is having an amazing fall season. It's a great time of year with changing weather, football in full swing and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays on the horizon. In the coming months, we will likely be challenged with workers who could be distracted by all of these events. With that in mind, I wanted to share a quick thought on safety.

"You see it, you own it". It's a simple phrase that has a lot of meaning. From early in my career as a safety professional, I realized one of my responsibilities was to make sure hazards were corrected, whether they were caused by my company or by others. To me, it didn't matter who created the hazard as long as it was corrected and made safe. Over the years, I've tried to instill this same idea in all levels of workers. The idea being we are all at-risk when there are hazards on the jobsite, and that everyone should take action to eliminate them.

“You see it, you own it” is more than a catchy slogan. It means you commit to take action when you see unsafe situations. Whether you fix the problem or escalate the issue up through the ranks doesn’t matter. What’s important is the hazard gets corrected and we all go home safe at the end of the day.

I’m grateful that in the Utah chapter of the ASSP, we have so many talented safety professionals that exhibit this mentality of “You see it, you own it”. I challenge all of you to interact with your workforce and develop this trait in them as well.

Thanks for all that you do for your companies, the ASSP and the community. Be safe.

Dave Holland

President Elect, ASSP Utah Chapter.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Eric Johnson

- Occupational Safety & Health Solutions, LLC
- 32 years in Occupational Safety and Health
- M. S. Industrial Safety – University of Central Missouri

#### **Why did you become a safety professional?**

I was raised by a professional firefighter and for some time I thought I might pursue a career in that line of work. However, there was a turning point in my life that caused me to reconsider that choice. While working my way through college, I witnessed a serious injury that happened due to my neglect. That incident caused me to earnestly evaluate what had happened and it prepared me to make a course correction that would lead me to the completion a

master's degree in the field of industrial safety. I've never regretted that decision.

**What do you like most about your profession?**

The safety profession is full of challenges and rewards. The most enjoyable part of my career is meeting, working with and helping all kinds of people to realize the importance of safety in their lives. Helping people to understand why they want to work safe is a difficult, yet wonderful and rewarding challenge that never grows old.

**What are you most proud of in your career?**

The proudest moments of my career is when I receive a thank you from the individuals whose life I have touched from the moments of influence that I don't let pass me by. Whether it comes from the times I am teaching, or just from our visits with individuals in the work environment – it still means the world to me just to hear a simple thank you Eric, I appreciate it. Those moments provide a continued spark of gratitude that adds a greater level of satisfaction to my career as a safety professional.

**If you could be anything other than a safety professional what would you be?**

Although I truly enjoy my career in the world of safety, the next occupation that would be near and dear to my heart would be as a professional golfer. Traveling the world to enjoy all the beautiful golf courses with their breathtaking vistas would be awesome. However, since I am just an average golfer, with no time to practice, I will continue to work in the wonderful world of the safety professional and get as much golf in as time allows.

**What do you like to do when you're not working?**

I love to do things with my family. Hiking, picnics, golfing, boating, movies, traveling to fun places together, etc. Sharing all this with my best friend and sweetheart of 39 years is what life is really all about.

**LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

Each year at this time ASSP recognizes our members who have been members who have been with the Society for 25, 40 or 50 years. We appreciate their contributions to the ASSP and the safety community.

Paul C Cannon, CSP, 40 years

Shelley J Balback, 25 years

James J Weiler, CSP, 25 years

Scott R Nordstrom, 25 years

Douglas R Handy, CSP, 25 years

David A Daniels, 25 years

Kenyon John Brenish, CSP, OHST, 25 years

## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

### **Risk is the New Safety Fashion!**

Fashions come and go, many times without us even knowing or realizing it – until maybe it is too late. We found out too late. For example - how about, going out all dressed up with a 'wide' tie? Or maybe being observed wearing a Levi jacket, or a collarless dress shirt? What about my 'bell bottom' jeans with a sports polo shirt? What were we thinking? Can you just imagine people wearing leggings, etc...? The gossip and stories can go on endlessly.

All of these items have happened to someone I know or to myself. Did we not know the "Fashions" had changed? Did we really care? As for me, I mostly did not know or care about many of the fashion changes. In clothes, etc... I really do not always pay attention to the 'new fashion', the 'revisited fashion', and there are plenty of the so called fashions that I do not like nor understand.

In the realms of Safety, we do not necessarily have fashions, yet we do have past, current and future philosophies, trends and areas of focus. You can think of these as 'fashions' if you would like. These areas of focus change, evolve, and sometimes are revisited – just like fashion statements.

In my more than 35 years' experience in the fields and endeavors of Safety, I have seen quite a lot of changes to our 'Safety Fashions'. Some of these have included direct focusing on: Safety Compliance; Safety Reporting; Use of Safety Committees; Managing Safety; Lots of Employee involvement; Management mandates with little Employee involvement; Trend analysis; Loss Reporting; Lost Time Focus; Behavior Based Safety; Severe Injury & Fatality Focus; Safety Culture, Risk Analysis/Review, etc... And the list can go on and on. Any and all of these can definitely be major impact players for organizations, committees, Safety Professionals and for the safety of our people. I have used all of these, with many of these all at the same time as I have built Safety processes and cultures over the years.

The current Safety Fashion, so to speak, revolves around Risk, Risk Analysis and Risk Reductions. In my current way of thinking and my current mindset – I think Risk is the Safety Fashion that should never go out of style.

Risk by itself, is a stand-alone element. Risk is integrated into almost every type of Safety Processes, Programs and Fashions – including all of those listed above and likely to the others you have used or studied which were not listed.

Could we or should we say that Risk is King and begin the coronation?

Risk is what we are all involved with in our lives, whether it is getting out of bed, taking a shower, getting something to eat/drink on the way to work, going to work, working, playing sports, chasing our grandchildren or just trying to relax. As you already know, there is Risk involved in everything we do, and with everybody and everything.

Our plans in life and our goal as a Safety Professional is to find ways to minimize the risks in all our behaviors, tasks, and actions. The risks really are never at 'zero'. We just work to get as close to this mythical number as we can.

Just recently I was having a conversation with a top grade Safety Professional, one in whom I have great confidence and respect. Our discussion led us to review the fact that **“even if we have the proper environment, training, methods and people – that does not guarantee that there will not be some type of incident or injury”**.

Think about it. Have you or someone you know had an incident or suffered an injury even when the task is performed almost flawlessly? Have you experienced back pain, even when you lifted something that was a reasonable weight and used the prescribed methods? I am sure this is the case somewhere in your life.

Over the next few years, and hopefully forever going forward, a review of Risks, Risk Analysis and Risk Reduction will be in our Safety future. This is a fashion, like combing your hair or washing your hands, which I hope we always will embrace. Risk and reducing it will never go out of fashion for Safety Professionals. Can you list right now 10 items where risk can be reduced in your life?

So go ahead, make Risk Reduction the Safety Fashion Statement for you, your family, your people and your organization. **Or can you Risk it?**

Douglas R. Handy, CSP

Utah Chapter ASSP Board Member

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Chapter Meeting - November 2018

- **Chapter Meeting- November 2018**  
November 15, 2018  
11:30 am - 1pm

Location: AGC of Utah, 2207 South 1070 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119  
Technical Presentation and Lunch –

Speaker: Eric Johnson

Topic: Establishing a Safety Culture and Gaining Management "Buy-in"

Lunch will be provided (we ask for a donation for our scholarships).

RSVP at <https://utah.assp.org/>

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

We will post the jobs to our website at [utah.assp.org](https://utah.assp.org). This is done currently at no charge, but the chapter is always accepting donations to help establish our scholarship fund. Your contribution is appreciated.

[Visit the Utah ASSP Chapter Webpage here.](#)



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