

THE PLEDGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE
October 2025 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 11, Issue 10)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Bakersfield Chapter

Chapter Recognition



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2023-2024



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2022-2023



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2021-2022



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2020-2021



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2019-2020



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2018-2019



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2017-2018



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2016-2017



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2015-2016



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2014-2015



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2013-2014

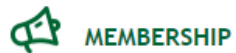


GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER
2012-2013

ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable!



ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable! As a member, you will elevate your career, gain knowledge, tools, and resources to prevent worker injuries, illnesses and fatalities, help improve your company's performance, and become part of a vibrant community of over 40,000 safety professionals working together for a safer, stronger future. Complete the membership application at www.assp.org.



Announcements

[Online ASSP Community](#) →

Our exclusive online member community connects you with great resources and great people to help you grow professionally and engage with colleagues on a global scale.

[Build Your Leadership Skills](#) →

Serving on an ASSP committee is a great way to build new skills, meet new contacts and make a difference in the OSH profession. We have opportunities in member communities, education, standards and advocacy areas.

Toys for Tots!

Join the Bakersfield ASSP Chapter in supporting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve **Toys for Tots** program by donating new, unwrapped toys for children in our community.

Bring a toy to the upcoming October, November, or December chapter meetings at Hodels, and you'll be entered to win a \$70 CALM gift card, which can be used for admission to the CALM Holiday Lights event! The Bakersfield Chapter is recommended a \$20 toy value. You'll receive one entry ticket for each toy donated.



October 1, 2025 Chapter Meeting

Officer Santiago Hernandez – California Highway Patrol, Commercial Industry Education Program

Free California Highway Patrol Resources and Insights on Distracted Driving (Part 2)

This meeting will feature Officer Santiago Hernandez with the California Highway Patrol. Mr. Hernandez will be presenting Insights on Distracted Driving & CHP Resources. In the presentation, Mr. Hernandez will explore distracted driving, CHP resources available to organizations, practical traffic insights including pavement markings for fog, how those pressurized traffic loops work at intersections, and Q&A.

Officer Santiago Hernandez has been with the California Highway Patrol for 16 years including 5 years in commercial enforcement. He and his wife have a foster home which includes four children.

Attend in person at Hodel's (7:00AM-8:45AM).

Zoom option [available](#) for January, April, July, and October meetings.



November 5, 2025 Chapter Meeting

***Dr. Jeff Freesemann MD, Medical Director at
ABC Occupational Medical Center***

Workplace Eye Injuries – Common and not so Common

This session will review common workplace eye injuries. Dr. Freesemann will also explain a few non-work-related eye issues, latest treatment options including cataracts, corneal transplants, and Lasik eye surgery.

Jeffery M. Freesemann, M.D., is the Medical Director and owner of ABC Occupational Medical Center (ABC) in Bakersfield and Delano. He has over 14 years of Occupational Medicine experience. His primary duty at ABC is to provide administrative support, and medical guidance, to the medical providers at ABC. Additionally, Dr. Freesemann provides medical treatment, and claims management, for patients that have suffered a work-related injury/illness. Freesemann is also a Medical Review Officer (MRO) and performs DOT exams as a member of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). Additionally, he performs medical-legal disability evaluations as a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME). Dr. Freesemann earned his medical degree at Georgetown University of Medicine and Internal Medicine internship at Oregon Health Sciences University. He is board certified in Internal Medicine.



OSHA – Did You Know?

OSHA has [Letters of Interpretation](#) to explain how to comply with OSHA regulations in specific workplace situations. Their subject matter experts write responses to questions from employers, employees, or other parties who want clarification about OSHA standards. Responses are posted to OSHA's website so that others in the industry can stay in compliance and keep workers safe. Recent letters of interpretation issued by OSHA addressed topics such as [preventing trips and falls on steps](#), [exposure to hazardous chemicals](#), and [forklift injuries](#). These letters are part of OSHA's longstanding commitment to [expand their compliance assistance outreach to America's employers and workers](#).



We can help your workplace understand and comply with OSHA standards.

"Did You Know?" messages are issued on occasion to subscribers of *QuickTakes* and *Información Rápida*. *QuickTakes* is emailed free monthly to more than 360,000 subscribers. You can receive it faster and easier by subscribing to OSHA's QuickTakes newsletter series. [Visit this webpage to subscribe](#).

QuickTakes Did You Know?
English/ Español

New Chapter Members

- Joe Alvarado Jr. - California BioEnergy
- Michele Herstad - MSC Industrial Supply Company
- Juan C. Suarez - Lyles Services Company
- Ryan Smith - Holmes Western Corporation
- Guillermo Tamayo - Legacy Staffing Solutions
- Nicole Bejsovec - Bakersfield College
- Fernando Montes - Bakersfield College
- Arthur Reyes - Bakersfield College
- Emma Zamora - Bakersfield College



New Member Promotion

[Complete the application](#). Use code 2508Bakersfield to waive the \$25 App Fee & receive a \$25 R.com gift card

MEMBERS UPDATES IN OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

Professional Development

- Andrew Stephens with PCL Construction recently completed the requirements to become an Associate Safety Professional®
- Jose Martinez with Pavement Recycling Systems recently completed the requirements to become a Construction Health & Safety Technician®
- Lance Baird w/Wonderful Company recently completed the requirements to become an Associate Safety Professional®



MEMBERS UPDATES IN OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

EHS Professionals on the Move



- ✓ Tyler Payne, Expert Safety Specialist - Pacific Gas & Electric
- ✓ Juan Velasquez, Safety Consultant - Trinity Safety Company
- ✓ Virgil Smith, Safety Director - Sturgeon Services International
- ✓ Sammy Salcedo, Electrical Field Safety Specialist – PG&E

News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

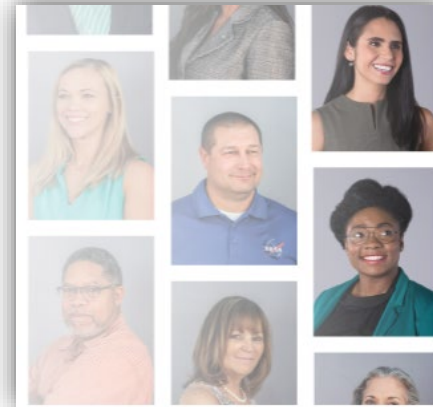
- [Safe, Seen & Supported: Building Psychological Safety for Hispanic & Immigrant Workers](#) – In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, this webinar explores how to create psychologically safe workplaces for Hispanic and immigrant workers while addressing barriers like language, culture, and immigration stress. Dr. Martha Acosta, author of *Safety Capacity: Leadership Practices for Failing Safely* will share strategies to build trust, inclusion, and resilience – equipping attendees with tools to foster equity and strengthen culture.
- [Embracing the Opportunity to Learn](#) – For safety professionals, the classroom doesn't close. ASSP President Linda Tapp shares why continuous learning matters and how ASSP can help.
- [4 Keys to Safe Emergency Response](#) – September was National Preparedness Month, but that doesn't mean preparedness, emergency response, and plan development can take a back seat. Follow four steps to ensure your organization is ready.
- [Professional Conduct & CLEAR Values - Upholding Ethical Behavior in ASSP](#) – Gain a deeper understanding of ASSP's CLEAR Values, the the Code of Professional Conduct, and how embodying these values supports ethical practice & personal accountability in the profession.

As an ASSP member, did you know you there is an exclusive online membership community that connects you with great resources and great people to help you grow professionally and engage with colleagues on a global scale?

Go to the [Online ASSP Community](#) main page to:

- ✓ Connect and network with a vibrant community of 36,000 OSH professionals
- ✓ Gain exclusive access to member-only conversations sharing expert knowledge and best practices that can help you solve a workplace challenge
- ✓ Establish yourself as a thought-leader within the OSH profession by sharing content and participating in group discussions
- ✓ Become more involved in ASSP and connect with volunteer opportunities to grow your leadership skills

The ASSP Community



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
COMMUNITY





A Little About ASSP

ASSP publishes the [Professional Safety Journal](#): a flagship monthly journal and top member benefit covering the latest safety management and injury prevention trends.

Our more than 40,000 members are dedicated to making their workplaces safer and healthier, and the Bakersfield Chapter shares in their commitment.

ASSP members create safer work environments by preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. Safer organizations enjoy increased productivity, higher employee satisfaction, and a better reputation while recording less lost time, and lower workers' compensation and healthcare costs.

If you are looking for job postings, find current opportunities shared with the Chapter on the [Chapter website](#).

You can find Chapter Documents, Member Updates, Newsletters, and Presentations on our [Chapter Library page](#).

Is your company looking for a qualified safety professional? Contact [Chris Vochoska](#) to have the opening sent via email to our members and mailing list.

For comments or suggestions on ways we can improve this newsletter, please contact [Dave Lee](#).



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