

THE PLEDGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE
December 2025 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 11, Issue 12)



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.

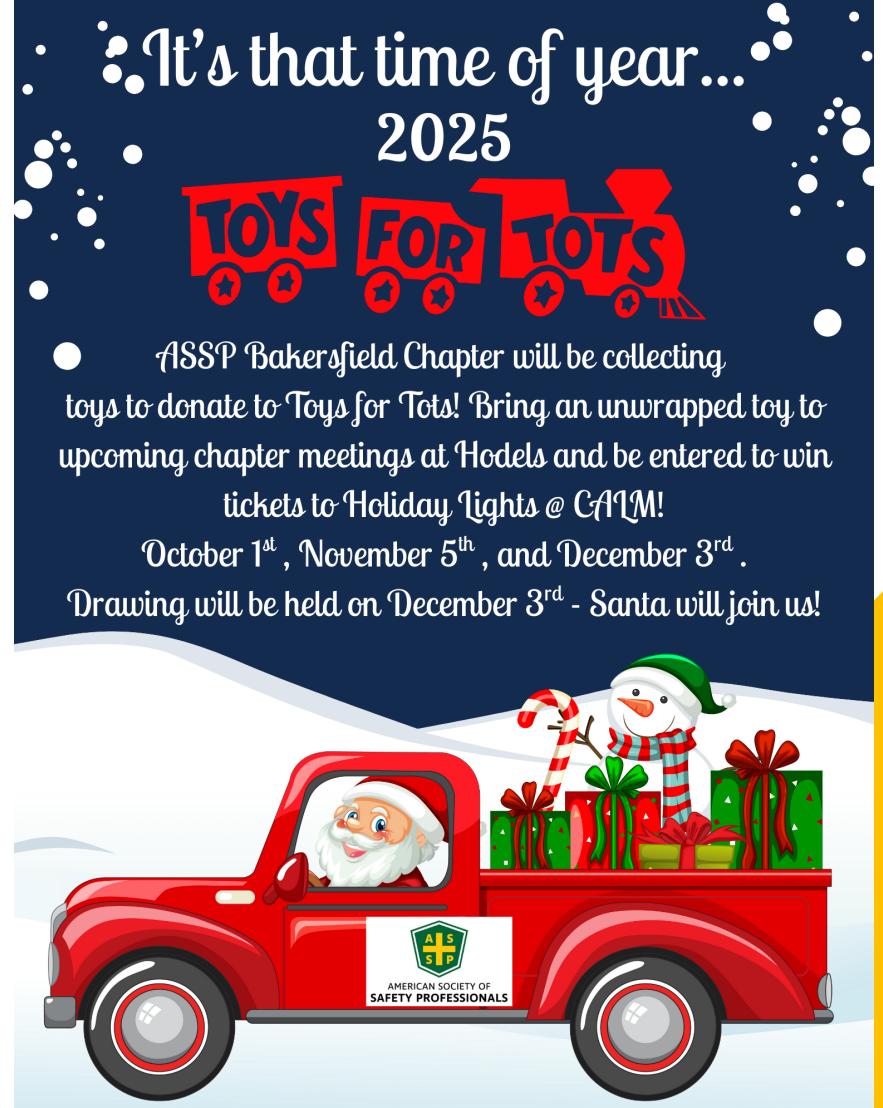
[Build Your Leadership Skills](#) →

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.



Bakersfield Chapter Scholarships

Deadline is January 31, 2026

Scholarships are intended to promote an education path that will lead to or support employment in the fields of environmental, safety, occupational health, risk management, or industrial hygiene. One of the ways we accomplish this is by awarding up to \$10,000 in scholarships every year for eligible students.



Your ASSP Bakersfield Chapter Scholarship Program

Please visit our [Scholarship Program](#) webpage for current information on the program, to download the application, and to learn about our [previous recipients](#).

Items to note:

1. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2026
2. Must fulfill the student requirements to be eligible.
3. Applicants must submit a [completed application](#).

Please feel free to contact [David Mersereau](#), Bakersfield Chapter Scholarship Chair with any questions.

ASSP – Out & About

Jose Perez, Isabel Bravo-Perez, Heath Taylor, and Sandra Monroy attended the National Safety Council (NCS) Conference & Expo in Denver.

The WISE community gathered to honor Dia de los Muertos, the beautiful tradition that reminds us to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have passed.

WISE hosted a learning session on The Introduction of AI for Safety Professionals.



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ASSP – Out & About

Michael Garcia, Sandra Monroy, Javier Gonzalez, Michele Herstad, Robert Steele, Heminee Salinas, Rosanna Natividad, and JJ Jacinto volunteered their time to attend the Richland Junior High School College & Career Fair.



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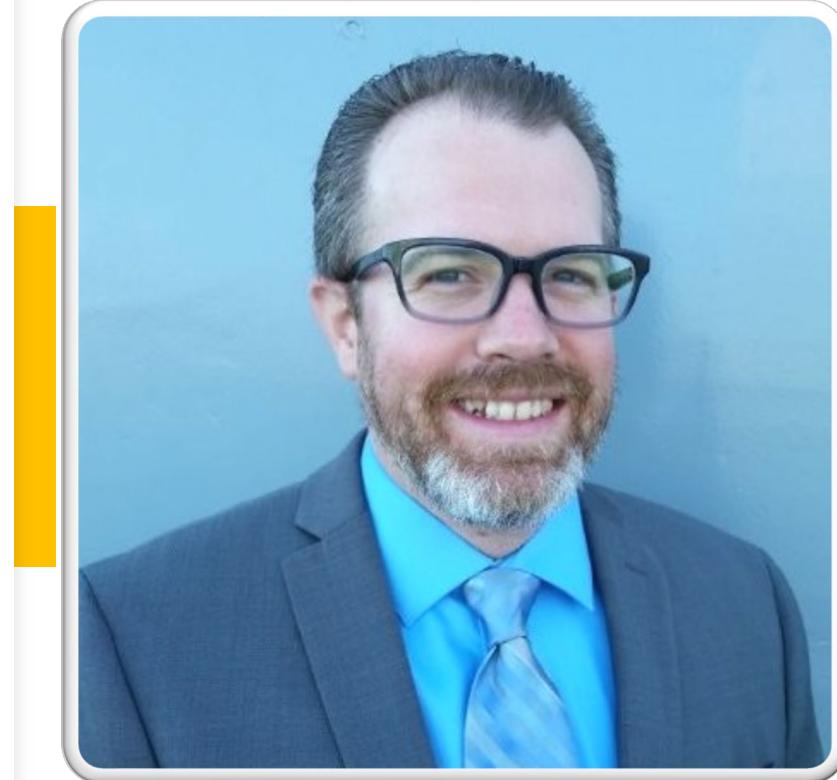
December 3, 2025 Chapter Meeting

**Scott Mitchell – Enterprise Risk Management
Principal Manager – Wildfire and Public Safety,
Southern California Edison**

Safety Practices for Downed Power Lines (including Incident and Hazard Reviews)

This session will cover crucial safety protocols for downed power lines, including how to assess hazards, respond to incidents, and perform effective reviews. Participants will learn to protect themselves and others from electrocution and other dangers.

Scott has over 20 years with SoCal Edison. In his current assignment, he manages risk management professionals who work with SCE's business units to provide risk identification, assess likelihood and impact, and develop mitigation plans. His focus areas include Wildfire and Public Safety.



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

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

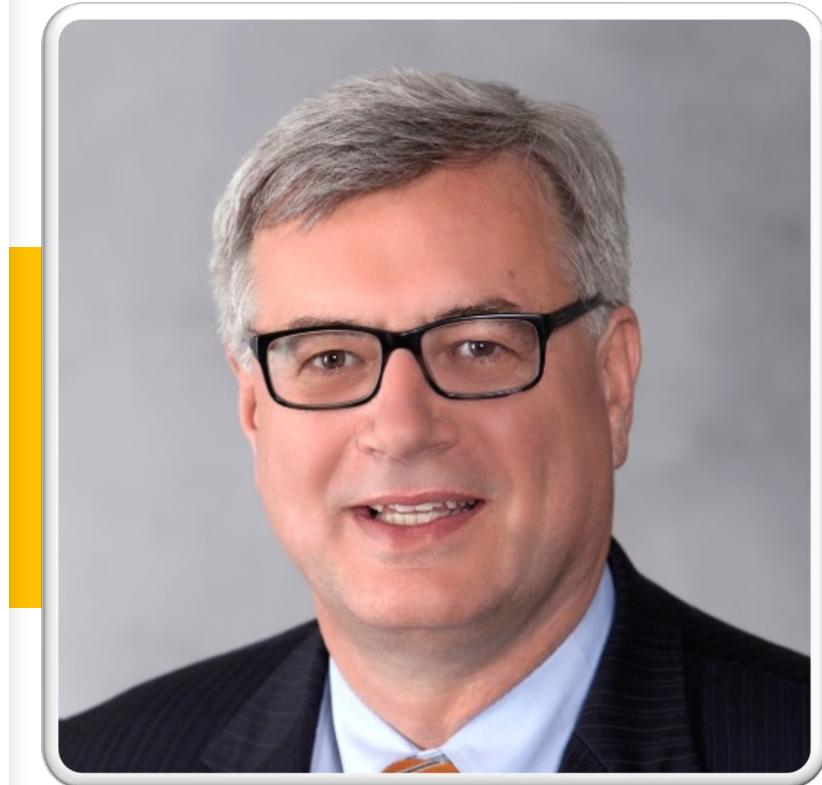
January 7, 2025 Chapter Meeting

**Daniel K. Klingenberger, Esq. Attorney at
LeBeau Thelen, LLP**

Regulatory & Employment Law Update

California Employment Law Update – With a new year comes new legal requirements for California employers. In 2025, several laws have been put into effect that impact California employers including new mandatory notice requirements for employees, changes to paid family leave, and efforts by the State to give jurisdiction to the Public Employment Relations Board over private sector employers. Minimum wage changes will go into effect on January 1, which will have a ripple effect on other compensation obligations. On the federal level, the One Big Beautiful Bill included changes that effect employers across the country.

Dan has more than 35 years of experience representing large and small companies in all forms of employment litigation, including wrongful termination, sexual harassment, overtime compensation, wage and hour violations, unfair competition/trade secret issues and many forms of discrimination. In addition, Dan works with employers on union/management issues, including union organizing, picketing and work stoppages. He represents employers in collective bargaining negotiations and labor arbitrations involving employee discipline and contractual disputes.



New Chapter Members

- Roger Redden – Senko Technologies
- Theresa Diaz - Taft College
- Matthew Arguello - Superior Court of California, County of Kern
- Alison Currie - BBSI



Professional Development

- Cole Cates with Sovereign Safety Consulting recently completed the requirements to become a CSP. As a member, he qualified for test reimbursement from the Chapter program.



MEMBERS UPDATES IN OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

EHS Professionals on the Move

- ✓ Virgil Smith – HSE Adviser @ Stantec
- ✓ Anthony Torres – District Manager @ California Department of Industrial Relations
- ✓ Jared Willingham – EHS Manager @ Largo Concrete, Inc.
- ✓ Jeff Eldridge – Senior Manager, HSE @ Chevron
- ✓ Luis Magallanes Jr – Regional EHS Manager @ SA Recycling
- ✓ Jeff Parker – Site Safety Specialist @ Braun Electric



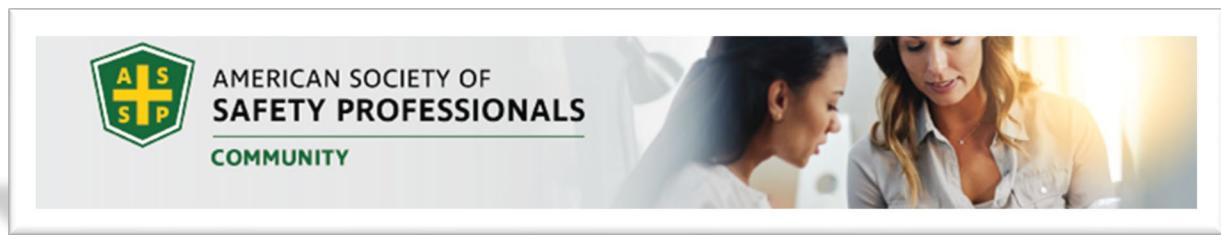
News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- [**What Are ASSP's Professional Certificate Programs?**](#) – Certificate programs are designed so safety professionals can take a series of courses related to certain occupational safety and health (OSH) topics or concepts and become experts. ASSP offers six certificate programs.
- [**ASSP Applauds Appointment of Longtime Member Keeling to Lead OSHA**](#) – ASSP enthusiastically welcomes the U.S. Senate's confirmation of David Keeling as the 14th Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. An ASSP member since 2002, Keeling brings nearly four decades of experience to OSHA.
- [**Apply for an Academic Scholarship**](#) – Since 1990, the ASSP Foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in academic scholarships and professional education grants to environmental health and safety students and professionals working towards their educational goals.
- [**Education, OSHA Training**](#) – ASSP is excited to offer online access to OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 courses built to deepen your knowledge of safety standards, strengthen regulatory compliance and support safer workplaces.

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





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.



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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](#).