

# THE PLEDGE

*WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE*  
*January 2026 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 1)*



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



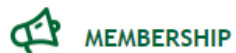
GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2012-2013

# 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 [ASSP.org](https://assp.org).

Use the coupon code 2512BAKERSFIELD and the \$25 application fee is waived!



## 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.

# ***January 7, 2026 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.*



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

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

# ***February 4, 2026 Chapter Meeting***

***Darci Combs, Director of Business Relations  
The Grossman Burn Centers, LLC***

## ***Comprehensive Overview of Burn Injuries & Care***

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of burn injuries, including the classification of first, second, and third-degree burns. It will outline essential first aid procedures for minor burns and offer guidance on when to consult a burn specialist. After this presentation, participants will be better equipped to – classify and assess different types of burns, recognize the factors that influence the severity of burn injuries, implement initial burn care principles, and understand the burn recovery process.

Burn injuries can be traumatic and painful, significantly impacting an individual's life. The skin plays a vital role in our identity and function, and prompt, effective treatment is critical at the time of injury to prevent or minimize unnecessary scarring. Scarring not only alters appearance but can also restrict skin functionality and range of motion. Given the specialized nature of burn care, it is essential that these injuries are managed by a qualified burn specialist.



# 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.



# Bakersfield Chapter WISE Group

WISE would like to share some wise safety tips during the holiday season! The holiday season poses various safety risks around the house, in the office, and on the road.

Happy Holidays from the WISE group. And remember these are great tips to consider throughout the year as well!



# WISE

Women in Safety Excellence

## New Chapter Members

- Michael Storie – Clark Bros Inc.
- Kerri Davis – A-C Electric Company
- Lance Baird – The Wonderful Company
- James Carver – CSI Electrical Contractors
- Miranda Vega – Columbia Southern



## Professional Development

- Abigail Lewis with Caterpillar recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®)



# MEMBERS UPDATES IN OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

## News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- [Beyond the Checklist: Elevating Safety with ANSI/ASSP Z359](#) – Compliance is the baseline. Hear from the ANSI/ASSP Z359 Committee Chair on building fall protection that saves lives.
- [Cognitive Bias in Safety Decision-Making](#) – Cognitive bias can have a major impact on how you interpret information and make choices in your workplace. Explore how safety and health regulations can unintentionally contribute to cognitive biases in decision-making.
- [Safety 2026 Registration Now Open](#) – Join thousands of EHS professionals and leaders for three days of powerful learning, fresh insights, and meaningful connections. If you're looking to elevate your impact and grow your professional community, ASSP hopes to see you in Anaheim! June 12-14 are pre-conference courses and June 15-17 is the conference and expo.
- [Leadership Opportunity: Committee Appointments](#) – There are mid-year volunteer opportunities available for ASSP members, including new task forces. If you are interested, please complete the Leadership Connection form. Appointments will be confirmed in January 2026.



# Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA

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OSHA welcomed David Keeling as their Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. Mr. Keeling brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in workplace safety and health and has a strong vision for protecting the nation's workforce.

Throughout his career, he has championed stronger safety practices and innovative approaches to injury and accident prevention so every worker can go home safely at the end of the day.

Prior to joining OSHA, Keeling spent more than 30 years in the field of workplace health and safety. Most recently, he oversaw global transportation safety with Amazon, and before that, managed global health and safety at UPS. He is a long-standing member of the National Safety Council, American Society of Safety Professionals, and other valued safety organizations.





# 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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