

THE PLEDGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE
April 2026 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 4)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Bakersfield Chapter

Chapter Recognition

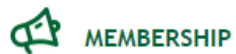


ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable!



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://www.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.

Bakersfield ASSP Chapter – Mental Health & Engagement Survey

Why This Survey Matters

The Bakersfield ASSP Chapter is gathering member feedback to better understand chapter engagement, mental health topic interests, and preferred learning formats. Your input will help guide future meetings, speakers, and resources focused on supporting safety professionals.

What Your Feedback Supports

1) improving monthly chapter meeting value; 2) identifying mental health and well-being topics of interest; 3) determining the best ways to deliver content (meetings, symposiums, workshops, webinars); and 4) strengthening member engagement and chapter impact.

All responses are appreciated and confidential.

Complete Survey between April 1-10

[Bakersfield ASSP Chapter Survey](#)

Bakersfield ASSP Chapter: 2026
Mental Health & Engagement
Survey



Congratulations 2026 Scholarship Recipients!



**Nathalie Larios: Former
Intern at Wonderful &
Graduate Student at UC Davis**

**Richard Gooden: Safety
Supervisor at Continental
Labor & Staffing Resources**



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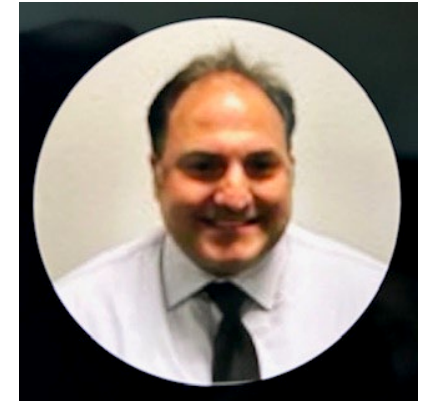
Bakersfield Chapter

April 1, 2026 Chapter Meeting

David Ungar, Attorney @ The Zenith Insurance

Navigating the Maze: Cumulative Trauma & The "Capper" Conundrum

Cumulative trauma (CT) claims are among the most complex and costly challenges in the workers' compensation system. These "slow-motion" injuries often involve intricate legal maneuvers and the influence of third-party "cappers" who can inflate claim frequency and severity. In this focused session, Mr. Ungar will break down the legal anatomy of CT cases. Attendees will learn high-level strategies to identify red flags early, mitigate exposure, and implement best practices to protect their organization from predatory litigation tactics. Key Takeaways: Understanding how cumulative trauma claims differ from specific injuries in a legal context; identifying the role of third-party "cappers" and how to spot suspicious claim patterns; best practices for documentation and early intervention to prevent CT cases from escalating; and a brief look at current California case law impacting how these claims are litigated and settled.



TheZenith[®]
A FAIRFAX Company

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

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

May 6, 2026 Chapter Meeting

Dan Hopwood, CSP, SMP, CPCU, ARM, FASSP

The Value of “Disruption” in Safety

Dan is a longtime safety professional whose career began at San Diego State University, where he earned degrees in Health Sciences and Occupational Health before moving into insurance loss control and corporate safety leadership. He has been deeply involved in ASSP for decades, holding numerous chapter, regional, and Society-level roles while also teaching safety courses for nearly 25 years and publishing extensively. Dan now serves as Senior Vice President of Multiline and Large Casualty Field Services for Sompo North America and has been widely recognized for his contributions, including being named an ASSP Fellow and being elected President of the Board of Certified Safety Professionals for 2026.



Bakersfield Chapter WISE Group

WISE (Women in Safety Excellence) is conducting its annual Heat Illness Prevention Initiative to reach out to street vendors and other outdoor workers to protect themselves against the heat. Consider donating cases of water, electrolyte packets, sunscreen, lip balm, fans, or wide-brimmed hats.



Partner with **WISE** (Women In Safety Excellence)

Beat the Heat
Protect Our Workers/Community

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE ~ MAY, JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST

WATER. REST. SHADE

- Drink 1 cup of water every 15-20 minutes.
- Take breaks in the shade to recover.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing

Symptoms to Watch For:



- Headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, confusion, heavy sweating, and high body temperature.
- Act Fast: Call 911 if someone is disoriented or stops sweating.



DONATION

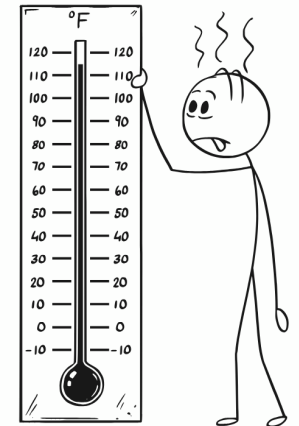
Donation Item Ideas:

- Bottled water (cases)
- Electrolyte packets/drinks
- Cooling towels or neck wraps
- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Fans
- Wide-brimmed hats

HELP BEAT THE HEAT!
Protecting our community from heat illness!

The **WISE** Team will be collecting the donations and putting together bags to deliver to outdoor workers, vendors, and community in need during **May, June, July, & August.**

"Drop-off Location" ~ Monthly ASSP Meetings at Hodel's



WISE

Women in Safety Excellence

New Chapter Members

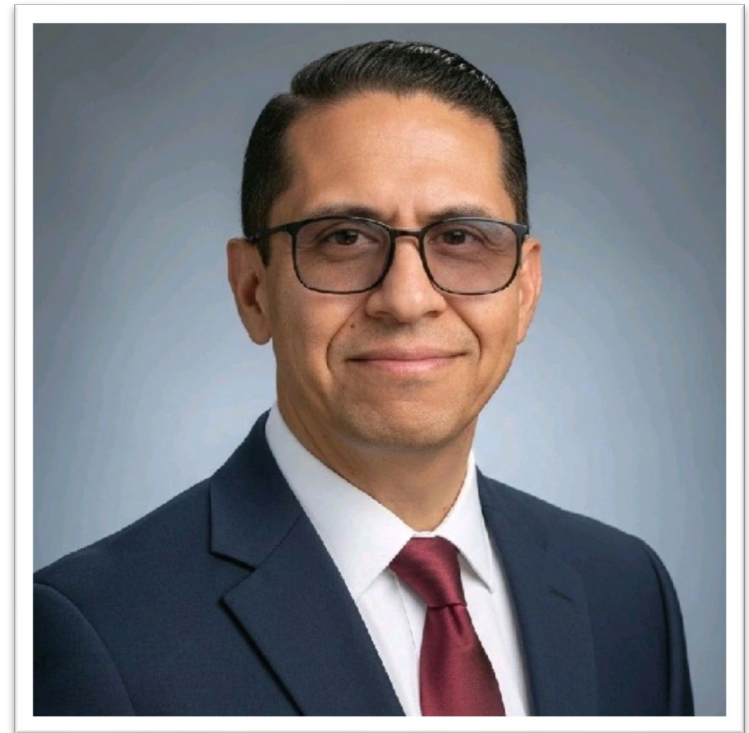
- Juan Gonzales – Bakersfield College
- Justin Thompson – Centre for Neuro Skills
- James Landeros – Montrose Environmental
- Miguel Roman – CSUB Student Member
- Justin Arias – Kern County Human Services
- Miguel Roman – CSUB Student Member
- Trey Jamar – City of Bakersfield
- Jennifer Weaver - Mammoth Resorts/Student Member
- Evelyn Chona - Student Member



NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

- Isidro Ramirez with Olam Food Ingredients was recognized as the 2026 Outstanding Safety Professional of the Year at the 2026 AgSafe Conference. And Isidro recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional.
- Austin Witt with Safety Management Systems completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional.
- Shawn Holloway with Eli Lilly and Company recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional.
- Chris Stokes with Duncan Electric recently completed the requirements to become a Construction Health & Safety Technician.

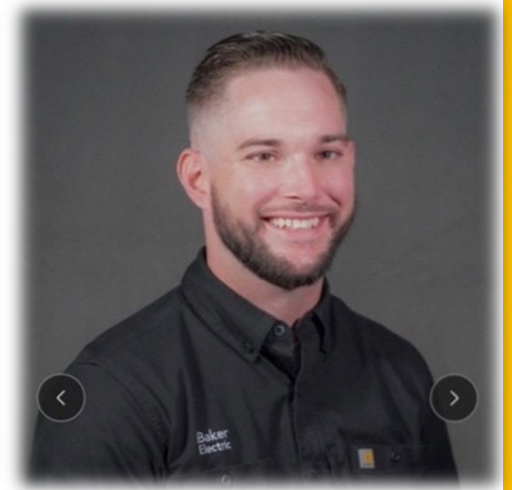
Professional Development



Isidro Ramirez with Olam Food Ingredients

EHS Professionals on the Move

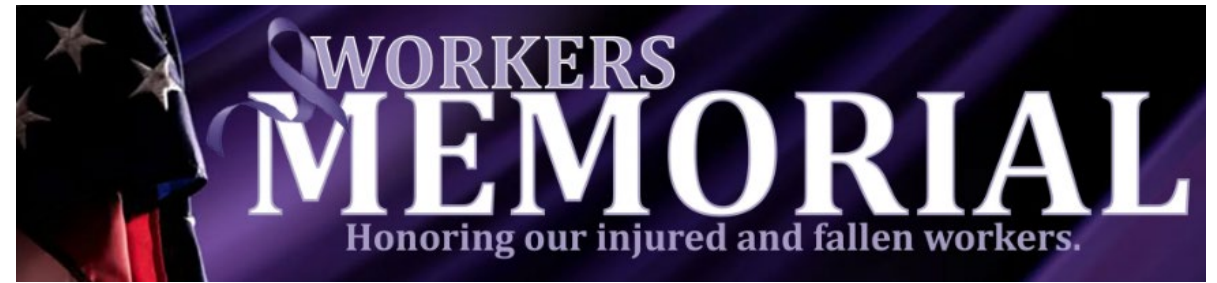
- ❖ Kris Campbell, Business Owner – Aegis Safety Company
- ❖ Steve Bowen, Project Safety Manager – Megawatt Construction
- ❖ Jose Quevedo, SOLV Energy – MV/HV Safety Manager
- ❖ Seth Ellebracht, Pro Safety Solutions – Safety Consultant



2026 Workers Memorial Day

Each year, OSHA recognizes Workers Memorial Day on April 28 to honor thousands of workers who lost their lives due to workplace injuries, illnesses, and diseases. This year, OSHA will host events throughout the week leading up to the observance, including training sessions, a memorial ceremony, a candlelight vigil, and panel discussion, to remember fallen workers and support the families they left behind. These events highlight the importance of strengthening workplace safety so that every worker can return home safely at the end of the day. Join OSHA for their Workers Memorial Events: Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24, 2026

[2026 Workers Memorial Day | OSHA](#)



Stand up for Safety and Health In-Person Training

Date: Monday, April 20 - Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Location: Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building

[200 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC](#)

Monday, April 20, 2026 - Day 1
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - Day 2
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - Day 3

[Learn more about our in-person session.](#)

Workers Memorial Safety Summit

Date: Tuesday, April 21 - Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: 9:30am-3:00pm ET

Location: Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building

[200 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC](#)
- Great Hall

[Register](#) to join us and connect in person with U.S. Department of Labor agencies, alliances and families of our fallen workers to discuss and learn about workplace safety and health by visiting with our exhibitors and presenters.

Stand up for Safety and Health Virtual Training

Date: Monday, April 20 - Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time: Schedule Listed Below

Location: Virtually

[Monday, April 20, 2026 - Day 1](#)
[Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - Day 2](#)
[Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - Day 3](#)

[Learn more about each instructor.](#)

Please continue to check back for updates and information regarding the upcoming training/awareness sessions and registration to join virtually.

Workers Memorial Ceremonies and Vigil

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Workers Memorial Ceremony and Wreath Laying Ceremony:

Location: In-Person and Virtually
Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building

[200 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC](#)

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

[Register today and reserve your in-person spot at the ceremonies and/or vigil.](#)

Workers Memorial Candlelight Vigil

Location: Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool

[2 Lincoln Memorial Cir NW, Washington, DC 20037](#)

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Please continue to check back for updates and information regarding the upcoming Ceremonies and Vigil.

Workers Memorial Panel Discussion - Voices of Those Left Behind

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

Location: In-Person and Virtually
Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building

[200 Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC](#)

Time: 9:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET

[Register today](#) and join us in-person or virtually as we sit down with families that have been directly impacted by a work related incident and share with us their loss and the impact it has had on their family.

Please continue to check back for updates and information regarding the upcoming panel discussion and registration.

OSHA QuickTakes

QuickTakes DYK?
English/ Español



The [Safety Champions Program](#) is a new program for employers to develop and implement an effective safety and health program. The main goal of safety and health programs is to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

The program incorporates the seven core elements of [Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs](#).

Watch this [short video](#) to learn about OSHA's new Safety Champions Program that meets employers where they are and helps them strengthen their safety culture.

The Nominations Committee proudly announces the nominees for election to the 2026-2027 Chapter Executive Committee. Chapter elections will take place at the monthly Chapter meeting on May 6, 2026.

*Per chapter by-laws, any fifteen (15) chapter members may submit a signed petition nominating one or more individuals for elective office. The petition shall be accompanied by a written acceptance by the nominee(s) and shall be submitted to the chairperson of the nominations and elections committee 30 days in advance of the election. The name and qualifications of such nominees shall be published and distributed to the membership at least 15 days prior to the election.



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Nominees for Election 2026-2027

President – Jason Kibbey

President-Elect – Lisa Marriott-Smith

Secretary – Michael Martinez

Treasurer – Javier Gonzalez

Advisory Group Members – Michael Garcia & Albert Lopez

News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- [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. The scholarships are available for students within the environmental health and safety field, preparing for their careers, or looking to supplement their careers with additional college coursework.
- [Position Statements](#) – ASSP’s data-driven and solutions-based policy positions are developed by members and used for educating government officials and other critical stakeholders. Learn about ASSP’s key position statements related to the role of government in EHS.
- [Government Affairs](#) – Find the latest news on OSH legislation and updates on our member-driven initiatives to ensure that safety professionals are part of the conversation.
- [Training and Education for Safety Teams](#) – Maximize employee time and your training budget through our group and on-site professional development programs.



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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