

THE PLEDGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE
May 2026 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 5)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Bakersfield Chapter

Chapter Recognition

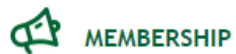


ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable!



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.

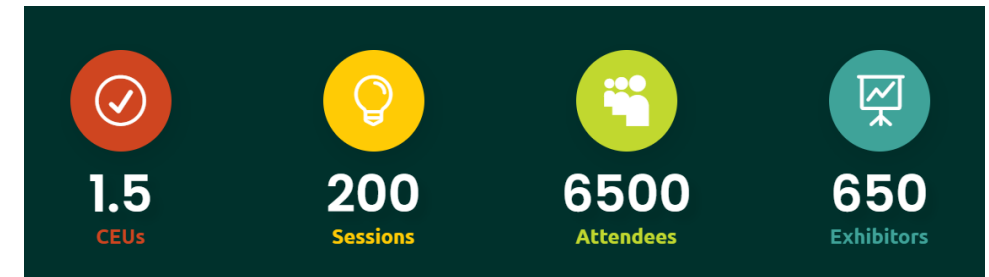
Safety 2026 – Anaheim, CA

June 15-17

Registration for [Safety 2026](#) is now open! For more than 60 years, the ASSP Professional Development Conference has been and will continue to be the direct reflection of what is taking place in the occupational, safety and health industry.

Workplace safety and health will continue to evolve, and the American Society of Safety Professionals will continue to connect you with industry expertise, a network of like-minded peers and the latest innovations. 2026 is shaping up to be a historic year, so be sure to stay tuned as we unveil what's in store for the 65th annual Conference and Expo.

Discount registration rate ends May 14, so register as soon as possible - [Register for Conference and Expo](#).





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

SAFE KIDS SAFE FUTURE

The Bakersfield Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals [ASSP] is hosting a Safety Poster Contest for kids! Three lucky winners will receive an Art Basket to explore their creativity over the summer.

Contest Rules:

- **Eligibility:** Open to children ages 5-13 who are associated with ASSP members or meeting guests. One entry per child.
- **Submission Requirements:** Submit an 8.5" x 11" poster promoting safety in the community, featuring key safety tips and visuals.
- **How to Submit:** Entries must be submitted via the linked Google Form [[CLICK HERE](#)] or by scanning the QR Code below.
- **In-Person Submissions:** Entries may also be dropped off at 4250 ASHE RD, Bakersfield, CA 93313 [Health, Safety and Wellness Office] between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon.- Fri., through May 27, 2026.
- **Entry Information:** All entries must include the adult's name, phone number, child's name, and age category.

ENTRIES MUST BE
SUBMITTED BY:

MAY 27, 2026

Get creative and share your vision of safety in the community!

AGE GROUP PRIZES:

- **5-7 YEARS OLD**
- **8-10 YEARS OLD**
- **11-13 YEARS OLD**



A panel of independent judges will select the three winners based on creativity in illustrating the theme, "Safety in the Community." Once the winners are announced, selected entries may be shared on the ASSP's social media channels, newsletter, and/or website. The winners will be officially announced at the Bakersfield Chapter ASSP meeting on June 3, 2026, in celebration of Safety Month.

The Bakersfield Chapter is once again hosting a safety poster contest for kids - Safe Kids Safe Future. Kids from three different age groups are eligible to submit with a chance to win an art basket to continue exploring their creativity over the summer break.

Scan the QR Code or [visit this link](#) to submit. Entries can also be dropped off at 4250 Ashe Road, Bakersfield CA 93312. Entries must be submitted by May 27, 2026. Please see poster for all the details related to this exciting and fun safety poster contest.

A panel of independent judges will select the three winners based on creativity in illustrating the theme, "Safety in the Community." Once the winners are announced, selected entries may be shared on the ASSP's social media channels, newsletter, and/or website. The winners will be officially announced at the Bakersfield Chapter ASSP meeting on June 3, 2026, in celebration of Safety Month.

May 6, 2026 Chapter Meeting

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

Disruption in Safety – A Critical Dimension to Our Success

Though being disruptive is often considered in a negative light, there is a positive side to being a disruptor, or being disruptive. In fact, thinking in terms of disruption is more essential now than ever for safety professionals. The natural follow-on question is – why? This presentation will address that question and presents the case for positive disruption. As an important dimension in safety leadership, disruption (along with Imagination and Innovation) underpins vision, alignment, articulation and aspiration in our field. A positive disruptor who challenges convention, organizational trends and habits is one who looks to new ways of thinking and helps influence safety behaviors as well as how we manage the business of safety. Focusing on disruption as an approach that feeds our safety vision, we strengthen both alignment and articulation of that vision. In addition, being disruptive helps develop an aspirational spirit for safety and safety leadership in our organizations. Join this presentation to learn about disruption and how you can best leverage it at the personal and organizational level.



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

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

June 3, 2026 Chapter Meeting

James Boretti, CSP – President/CEO of Boretti, Inc

Influencing to get Buy-in from the C-Suite

Safety professionals often struggle with the perception of safety as a "cost center" rather than a driver of business value. To gain executive buy-in, you must bridge the communication gap between technical safety requirements and the strategic priorities of the C-Suite. In this session, James Boretti—a seasoned business owner and board consultant—shares proven strategies for engaging executives by speaking the language of the business. Participants will learn how to frame safety initiatives such as investments that improve operational efficiency, reduce hidden costs, and protect long-term financial sustainability. Key Discussion Points: 1) The Executive Mindset: understanding how C-Suite leaders think differently about risk, performance, and resource allocation. 2) Framing the Business Case: moving beyond compliance to demonstrate how safety adds to profits and enhances productivity. 3) Quantifying the Unseen: using financial motivators, such as calculating the number of "units sold" required to cover claim costs, to drive action. 4) Overcoming Communication Bottlenecks: becoming the conduit that aligns safety goals with the organization's mission to build respect and trust.



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.



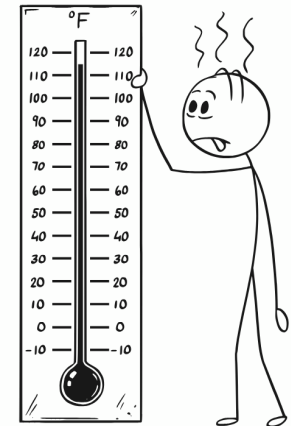
Donation Item Ideas:

- 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

- Don Reimer - Continental Labor & Staffing Resources
- Mike Castillo - The Brock Group
- Mario Gonzalez - Crystal Geyser Water Company
- Lite Saeita - Crimson Resource Management



Professional Development

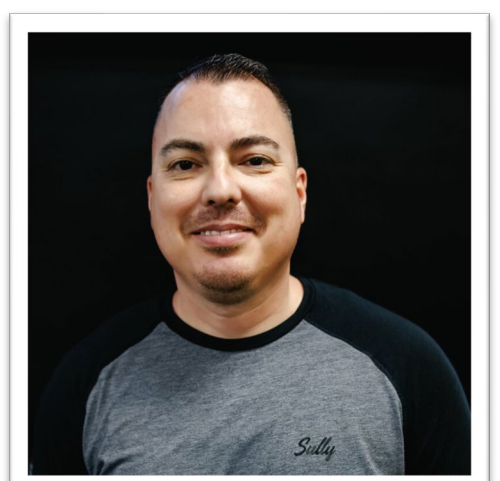
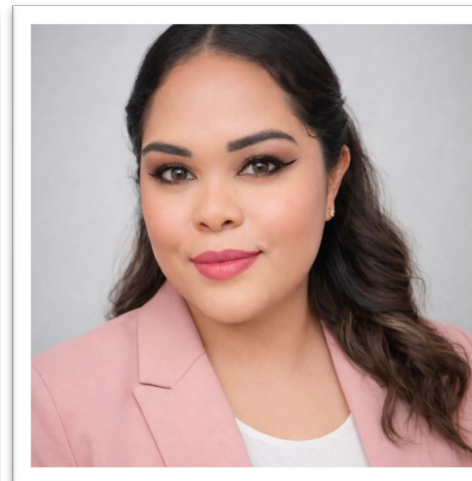
- Shawn Holloway with Eli Lilly and Company recently completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional (CSP)
- Chris Stokes with Duncan Electric recently completed the requirements to become a Construction Health & Safety Technician (CHST)



NEW MEMBERS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EHS Professionals on the Move

- ❖ Alma Alvarado, Safety Administrator – Wonderful Company
- ❖ Donald Sullivan, Senior Regional WHS Manager – Amazon
- ❖ Kevin Gall, Regional Manager: Safety, Risk & Compliance – SME Steel
- ❖ Juan De La Torre Jr., Safety Manager – Clark Brothers, Inc.
- ❖ Jason Kibbey, Corporate Director of Safety & Risk – A-C Electric Company
- ❖ Danny Soto & Josh Sweaney, Associate Manager EH&S – Wonderful Company



News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- [What OSHA's Updated Heat Emphasis Program Means for Employers](#) – OSHA recently updated its [National Emphasis Program](#) (NEP) on outdoor and indoor heat-related hazards, reinforcing that heat illness prevention remains a top enforcement priority. While a final federal heat standard is still under review, this update provides a clear signal of how OSHA is approaching heat hazards right now and what employers should expect moving forward.
- [ASSP Names 2026-27 Board of Directors](#) – ASSP today announced its new volunteer leaders following the Society's 2026 elections. The incoming board represents diverse safety expertise across a wide range of industries and will help advance the profession by addressing emerging and ongoing environmental safety and health priorities.
- [ASSP Supports Federal Investment in Worker Safety Through OSHA and NIOSH](#) – ASSP recently joined a broad coalition of safety and health organizations in urging Congress to maintain strong federal investment in worker safety and health. In a [joint letter](#) to the House and Senate Labor Appropriations Subcommittees, the coalition called on lawmakers to provide no less than FY 2026 funding levels for OSHA and NIOSH in FY 2027.

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.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
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Bakersfield Chapter

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



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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