THE PLEDGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE
November 2026 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 11)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Bakersfield Chapter



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 an unwrapped toy to the upcoming November or December chapter meetings at Hodels, and you'll be entered to win tickets to Holiday Lights at CALM! The Bakersfield Chapter is recommended a $20-$25 toy value.



November 4, 2026 – Chapter Meeting

Divina Jover, CIT, EHS Training Supervisor
The Wonderful Company - Wonderful Citrus

If They Ain't Learning, You Ain't Training:
A Learner-Centered Approach to EHS Training

Too often, EHS training centers on regulatory checklists and content-heavy presentations. In this session, we'll explore how a learner-centered approach can transform EHS training programs from box-checking exercises into effective, behavior-changing experiences. Attendees will be challenged to rethink their current training models by identifying real performance gaps and engaging learning teams to gather feedback directly from the employees who are in fact doing the work. This presentation will demonstrate how to shift the focus from what trainers want to teach to what employees truly need to learn. Participants will walk away with actionable strategies to improve engagement, retention, and on-the-job application, ultimately making their training not only compliant but truly effective.



Attend in person at Hodel's (7:00AM-8:45AM).
Zoom option available for January, April, July, and October meetings.

December 2, 2026 – Chapter Meeting

Heath Taylor, CIH, CS - The Wonderful Company
Sr. Manager – Environmental, Health and Safety

NFPA 70 E 2027 Updates

This session will explain how to comply with NFPA 70 E and review common questions and fears professionals have when addressing this topic. Mr. Taylor will provide industry best practices for personal protective equipment, risk assessments, training, skills evaluations, and program annual review. Learning objectives include NFPA 70 E noteworthy updates, how these affect your business, and bonus NEC 2026 safety updates.

Heath Taylor is the Safety Manager for the Wonderful Company, with his main roll in contractor safety. He has a 15-year background in electrical safety and passed the National Fire Protection Agency's Certified Electrical Safety Compliance Professional Exam. Heath teaches a class at Bakersfield College on Electrical Safety and has a passion for spreading knowledge in the electrical safety field.



ASSP – Out & About

The Bakersfield Chapter participated in the 4th Annual Richland Junior High College & Career Fair, held in Shafter on October 23. Michael Martinez and Ted Vandervert had the opportunity to speak with sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students about occupational safety and health careers.

Each student received a nine-question bingo card that encouraged them to visit different career booths and engage directly with professionals. Students asked what we liked and disliked about our jobs, what they could do now to prepare for a career in safety, and what types of math, reading, and technology skills we use. These conversations created some excellent opportunities to explain just how broad the safety profession really is.

We discussed how safety professionals work across virtually every industry and introduced students to scholarship opportunities, internships, and educational pathways that could help them pursue a career in occupational safety and health.





ASSP Advisory Group Feedback

Your perspective matters! Help ASSP focus on the role safety professionals can play in leading change and integrating safety into business decisions beyond compliance.

Scan the QR Code to share your feedback. It's three questions and takes about ten minutes to complete.

As you respond, please consider workforce experience, knowledge transfer, artificial intelligence, and automation.

Responses are limited to 200 words. Please respond by Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

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.

News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- **How Safety Leaders Are Thinking About and Using AI** – AI adoption in EHS is a multi-year journey, and organizations that start building experience now may be better positioned as AI takes a larger role in safety. ASSP surveyed nearly 1,000 safety professionals to benchmark how organizations are adopting AI in EHS, what they're gaining, and what moves them forward.
- **Putting People First: How One EHS Student is Preparing for a Career in Safety** – With a $6,000 scholarship from the ASSP Foundation, Millersville University student Brian O'Neill is pursuing a career grounded in human connection, shared responsibility, and worker protection. Learn more of his story today.
- **How to Take Standards from Words on a Page to Usable Guides on the Worksite** – In August of 2026, ASSP released its *Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) Prevention Convening Report*, highlighting key themes and insights to advance SIF prevention. To take a deeper look at those themes, this is the second installment of their blog series.

Have You Considered Serving in the Bakersfield Chapter of ASSP?

Voluntary Service in the Bakersfield Chapter of ASSP is easy! For many roles, you don't even have to be a member. The goal is to match your gifts and passion with where there is a need, so service is fun and doesn't feel like work! As you read through this and follow the action item suggestions, think about the answer to this question – "What would be the perfect volunteer position for me?" To introduce you to some of the things our volunteer leaders do, look at the partial list of Chapter volunteers. Almost every one of the folks on our webpage, could use some help.

You will see people working with students, working with numbers (Treasury Committee), coordinating people/events (Social Committee/Photographer), investigating potential speakers (Programs Committee), connecting with members (Membership Committee), running social media accounts, history gatherers (Historian), professional development (PD Committee), the public (Public Affairs Committee), the government (Government Affairs Committee). Now that we are back to in-person meetings, the list of volunteer opportunities gets even longer including computer/virtual and microphone set up, meeting check in, and welcome greeters to name a few. What do you enjoy? What are you interested in? There are many ways to serve so let me know what you would like to hear more about – no obligation.

Our #1 need each year is for folks to participate on the Symposium Planning Committee. This is our chapter's biggest event of the year happening in March. This committee meets approximately 2 times a month virtually until the event gets closer. It's a great networking and service experience.

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.



MEMBERSHIP

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.







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.

Is your company looking for a qualified safety professional? Contact membershipbakersfieldassp@gmail.com to have the opening sent via email to our members and mailing list.

You can find Chapter Documents, Member Updates, Newsletters, and Presentations on our Chapter Library page.

For comments or suggestions on ways we can improve this newsletter, please contact Dave Lee.

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