



NORTHERN PLAINS
SECTION

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Upcoming Events

December 10: Fall Hazards and Fall Protection for Construction and General Industry

Join us December 10 from 11:30am to 1:00pm for our monthly program on Fall Hazards and Fall Protection for Construction and General Industry. The program will be presented by Marty Breimhurst at The Builders Group and offered virtually. For more information and to register, please visit our [Northwest Chapter Website](#).

January 14 Joint Meeting with AIHA: Challenging Emergencies and Rescues from the Rescuers Perspective

Join us January 14 from 11:30am – 1:00pm for a presentation from the rescuers perspective on challenging emergencies and rescues. The program will be presented by Deputy Chief Glen Jenkins at 3M and offered virtually. For more information and to register, please visit our [Northwest Chapter Website](#).

February 11: Registration Opens for the 2025 Northwest Chapter PDC

Make plans now to attend the 2025 Northwest Chapter Professional Development Conference (PDC). For EHS Professionals, the PDC is a great way to launch into the new year, shake off the winter blues, build on professional development, and benefit from wonderful networking opportunities. Scheduled for a full day on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth, Minnesota, this event is something you will not want to miss!

The PDC kicks off with a compelling Morning Keynote titled, "Still Standing, Still Smiling", featuring Minnesota's own John Kriesel. On December 2, 2006 while serving in Iraq with the US Army, the vehicle Kriesel and four of his comrades were riding in encountered a 200-pound Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The blast killed two of Kriesel's closest friends and he was severely injured, losing both legs, suffering numerous broken bones and internal injuries where he died three times on the operating table before doctors saved his life. He woke up at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after an 8-day medically induced coma where he learned about the death of his two comrades and the severity of his injuries. John's story of how he faced incredible adversity will be an inspiration to all who attend the PDC.

In addition to the Morning Keynote, there will be an Afternoon Keynote featuring Nancy Lyons, CEO and co-founder of Clockwork, a Minneapolis-based experience design and technology consultancy that solves problems for enterprises. She will deliver a message titled, "Rebooting Safety: AI, Efficiency, and the Courage to Innovate". Her message will be a great benefit to EHS Professionals and we move deeper into the world of technology and artificial intelligence.

As if this is not enough, there will be additional group sessions, breakout sessions, and an expo area. The PDC concludes with something new: a post-PDC reception where you will have a chance to unwind after a very busy day, enjoy refreshments, and participate in more networking! You can get more event details, a full PDC schedule, and make your registration by visiting the Northwest Chapter [website](#).



**2025 ASSP
NORTHWEST CHAPTER PDC**
Where Learning Meets Opportunity

November Event Recap: Mastering Emergency Chess: Survival Smarts for the “*When*”, Not “*If*”

The ASSP Northwest Chapter held its November meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at the offices of Marsh McLennan Agency in Golden Valley. The featured speaker was Mike Grajeda, Director of Health and Safety at Southview Design in St. Paul, who gave a very compelling message titled "Mastering Emergency Chess: Survival Smarts for the "When", Not "If". Drawing on his background as a firefighter and paramedic in Texas, Mike

offered some remarkable observations and strategies for effective planning of emergencies and response. He did an excellent job and participants - whether in person or virtual - came away with important ideas on what EHS Professionals should consider as part of managing workplace safety. Thank you, Mike! At the end of the program, Chapter President Elect, with help from Mike Grajeda, drew names for prize drawings. We also announced that Mark Newbury from Schwing America was the winner of the "Guess the Number of Ear Plugs in the Jar" contest. His guess was 325 and the correct answer was 348! He receives a complimentary registration to a future Chapter meeting.

News to Share

Northwest Chapter Meeting CEUs

If you attended the Northwest Chapter meeting in September, October or November you should have received an email with instructions on how to claim you CEUs. You need to log onto your ASSP account, enter the appropriate code, and follow the instructions. Your CEUs will then show up in your transcript.

Follow these steps:

- Once you are logged in, go to My Account (top right)
- In the left-hand column scroll down to "Transcripts"
- These may be by date, with the most recent ones showing up last.

If you are having any problems claiming your CEUs, please let us know right away.

We are hoping future approvals are quicker and the email notifications go out within a week of the meeting.

Minnesota OSHA Advisory Council Meets December 6

Are you interested in learning more about what's happening with Minnesota OSHA? One way to do this is to observe meetings of the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council (OSHAC). The next meeting for this group is Friday, December 6. These meetings are open to the public and can be attended in person at the MN Dept. of Labor & Industry Building in St. Paul. There is also an option to observe these meetings virtually via Webex. The OSHAC advises the Department of Labor and Industry in carrying out the purposes of Minnesota Statutes 182 and other Occupational Safety and Health Administration statutes. The council consists of 12 members appointed by the commissioner, and includes two people from Northwest Chapter leadership: Carol Keyes and Scott Huberty.

Council members include three representatives from management, three representatives from labor, three representatives of occupational safety and health professions, and three representatives from the general public. OSHAC meets twice a year (June and December), from 10 AM to Noon. For details on this group and the meeting, visit the [OSHAC website](#).

MCOHS Event: Making Meetings Matter: Designing with a Purpose

December 10: 10 - 11 a.m. CT

Register: z.umn.edu/WebDec

Have you experienced meetings that were time-wasters than productivity boosters? Meetings can be transformed into purposeful, engaging, and effective gatherings.

This webinar is an opportunity to discover the fundamentals to running meetings that truly make an impact. In this session, you'll learn about the essential elements that make meetings not just productive, but also enjoyable and meaningful.

We'll explore the role of the facilitator and introduce practical tools and techniques to support effective meeting design.

Whether you're a seasoned leader or new to running meetings, this webinar will equip you with the skills and confidence to make every meeting matter.

Member Get a Member Program

When a new full member lists a current member as their referring member in the membership application, the referring member gets the credit and is eligible for prizes at different thresholds. The prizes are outlined in the link below as well as a refer-a-friend tool with some suggested messaging to new potential members. Members typically refer their own colleagues, friends, and associates in safety to become members.

<https://www.assp.org/membership/member-get-a-member>

Chapter Board Meetings - Guests are Invited!

Did you know your Northwest Chapter Board meets monthly to manage Chapter affairs? These meetings usually take place prior to the regular monthly programs and are open to all Members. It is possible to attend these meetings in person or via a conference call. Observing these meetings is a great way to get an inside look at what it takes to be an ASSP "Platinum Chapter". It is also a good way to learn more about the various Chapter leadership positions and get involved!

If you have never been to a Board Meeting and want to check it out, come early to the location for the monthly Chapter Program and join us. If you want to attend the Board Meeting via conference call, please contact a member of the board to get a unique login credentials.

Mentorship Corner: Need Some Help or Do You Want to Help?

Sometimes, ASSP members encounter difficult matters that transcend and/or may lie outside the professional literature, their coursework, and experience. The chance to discuss creative solutions and resources (on a confidential basis), with a Chapter mentor can often be helpful.

On the other side of the coin, seasoned professionals, in their roles as mentors can gain significant benefit from knowing that they have helped a mentee negotiate a difficult challenge, and have had a positive impact on the safety and well-being of employee groups connected with their mentee's workplace, and (possibly) that organization's customers and the wider community, as well.

We invite you to explore such opportunities.

Society News to Share

What Can We Do to Address Mental Health in the Construction

Industry? Mental health continues to be a serious concern in the construction industry. But how can leaders help — especially when some interventions are ineffective? [Read more](#)

Building a Budget as a Safety Professional: What You Need to

Know Crunching numbers may not be your thing, but budgeting is an

important part of a safety professional's role. Jennifer Hsu joins "The Case for Safety Podcast" to share how to build the budget you need and ensure it's used effectively. [Listen now](#)

What Are Professional Ethics & How Do They Apply to

Safety? Understanding professional ethics and applying them at your organization is more complicated than pledging to uphold a code. Wyatt Bradbury explains. [Read more](#)

"The Get to Know a Safety Pro Show" – Emilee McCullough Emilee McCullough, past treasurer of our Snake River Chapter, puts the "fan" in fantasy. She calls in from Boise, ID, with some magical travel, movie and book recommendations. [Watch now](#)

Career Opportunities

Check out our [website](#) to see the latest in current openings!



If you do not wish to receive these emails, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe from ASSP Northwest Chapter messages.

American Society of Safety Professionals | 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068