



**NORTHWEST
CHAPTER**

January Newsletter

- Upcoming Events
- News to Share
- Career Opportunitites

Upcoming Events

Where Learning Meets Opportunity - The PDC is Coming - Have You Registered?!

When you combine a full day of keynote and educational sessions with an Expo Area, a variety of Sponsors and Exhibitors, great networking opportunities, CEU's, and wonderful food and drink, you have the formula for the Northwest Chapter's 2025 Professional Development Conference.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 and plan to join other EHS Professionals at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth, Minnesota. Many registrations are already coming in and a variety of Sponsors and Exhibitors are signing up to be part of this big event.

Check out the [Northwest Chapter website](#) for details and look for the Attendee link to complete your registration. Please note: early-bird pricing runs through the end of January; the price goes up after that!

Sponsors and Exhibitors at the PDC

Registration for Attendees, Exhibitors, and Sponsors for the February Professional Development Conference (PDC) opened up a few weeks ago,

and there has been a steady stream of companies that have already signed up to be part of this big day! With more on the way, we are excited to have the following organizations on board with the PDC as of early December:

- **Gold Sponsors:** Cargill, Crrus, SFM Insurance, The Builders Group
- **Silver Sponsors:** IEA Safety, Atlas Technical Consulting, Minnesota Safety Council, CORE Occupational Medicine
- **Bronze Sponsors:** DigiKey, Sentry Insurance
- **Expo Exhibitors:** ErgoWorks, Intrepid Industries, Minnesota OSHA

Go to the [Northwest Chapter website](#), and make your own registration for the PDC. You won't want to miss out!

Save the Date for our March Chapter Program: Value of Humans within Automated Systems

Our presenter is Nichole Morris, PhD. UM Research Associate Professor, Director of the HumanFIRST Laboratory.

Date & Time: March 11, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Location: The Builder's Group | Eagan, MN

Keep a look out for registration to open up: [March Chapter Meeting – Value of Humans within Automated Systems – ASSP Northwest Chapter](#)

News to Share

Let's Make a Difference!

As safety professionals, we sought this career path to impact safety. We are practitioners every day, whether at work, at home, or through ASSP or other volunteer organizations. How do you influence safety (or health or the environment)?

Are you implementing new policies and procedures based on ANSI or other consensus standards? Are you gleaning best practices from other organizations and applying them to your own? Do you work to solidify interpersonal relationships, not only with management but with frontline workers (like the construction worker doing leading edge work or the

sanitation worker in a food plant)—those directly impacted by safety efforts.

For those in corporate or regional safety roles, the influence is expansive and can impact workers across regions, countries, and continents.

Your impact does not have to stop there. Consider other modes of influence. Those who are involved with standards committees with organizations ANSI, NFPA, ASSP or other organizations that develop EHS standards can affect safety across not only multiple industries but the public as well. For those of you who have not participated on a standards committee, start by examining the various ASSP committees; find one that sparks your interest and would benefit most from your expertise. Participation in these groups is an excellent way to network with others and gain more knowledge, while playing a key role in shaping the future of EHS.

Is your company part of a trade organization? Do they have a safety, health, or environmental committee? For example, I am a member of the Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association (TTMA) Safety Committee. Associations such as this can develop their own standards or best practices for their member companies/industries. You can contribute to their responses to proposed rules or provide input for their lobbying efforts. If your trade organization does not have a safety committee, take the lead and start one.

These types of committees often do not take the same amount of time as a standards committee, but it can be impactful to your industry. When that trade group lobbies or responds to proposed EHS laws or regulations, EHS professionals can provide valuable input as to how the group responds. To effectively support these groups, it is important to understand if anti-trust and other regulations may apply.

Besides trade groups there are some other ways to be involved. Your chapter can provide comments or testimony at the local, state, or federal level, on legislation or proposed rules. You can join that effort. If ASSP requests member feedback on proposed standards (consensus or regulatory) or proposed legislation, provide it. A body (regulatory, professional association, trade group, etc.) cannot have a comprehensive view of a proposed standard, law, or regulation's impact without our insight.

Are you part of a small business? If your company qualifies as a small business as per SBA rules (you would be surprised how large a "small business" can be), you have some additional ways to participate and better understand on how a regulation may impact you. Every two months the SBA hosts an OSHA/MSHA roundtable as well as another one focused on EPA. These roundtables provide information of the regulatory process, status on

proposed regulations and allow a forum for impacted entities to discuss and voice concerns or support for proposed regulations. Formal presentations from potentially impacted groups are often a part of the meeting. Did you know that during the rule-making process there is a step where small businesses are specifically requested to comment on the potential impact on them? During the fall of 2023, SBA and OSHA hosted several online sessions for small businesses to comment on the Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings standard. This was before the proposed rule was released in July 2024. I participated in a session and helped provide a summary of issues at a follow-up SBA meeting. There was even an opportunity at that stage to provide comments to OSHA in writing. Attending the roundtable provided valuable insight into the true potential impact of another proposed standard, the Emergency Response standard. The SBA also submits formal comments to the relevant regulatory agency based on feedback received during these roundtables.

I have talked about advocating through committees and groups. Have you considered representing your company or sharing your personal perspective? This is another powerful way to channel your passion. Some of you may have already testified or contributed to comments on behalf of your organization. You also have the option to voice your views as an individual. If your personal stance differs significantly from your employer's, think carefully about how to approach it, as such comments often become part of the public record. Always prioritize tact and diplomacy when speaking out; you want to strengthen our influence, not diminish it.

If you do choose to become involved in a response to proposed rules or even proposed legislation, review the questions below courtesy of the SBA; I considered them when writing my company's response to the proposed heat standard. (I had obtained executive support prior to responding.) This guidance from SBA is specific to the standard, however it can be applied as general guidance for responses to other agencies or even legislative bodies. Regulatory agencies are especially obligated to carefully consider these points. Failure (perceived or actual) to consider these (including the comments that reference them) are often the basis for future lawsuits, injunctions or other court directed action.

1. Has OSHA adequately defined the "significant risk" to employee safety and health?
2. Is the proposed rule "technically feasible" for companies, especially small businesses?

3. Is the proposed rule “economically feasible” for businesses, especially small businesses?
4. What significant alternative approach(es) should OSHA consider?
 - o Greater flexibility?
 - o No one-size-fits-all?
 - o Different triggers?
 - o Exemptions- should it be limited to high hazard sectors?

Provide data and specific cases, whether positive or negative, as these can be crucial to shaping a more viable and effective standard or law.

As ASSP members **“We are the community that protects people, property and the environment.”** The examples I mentioned are only a few ways you can support that mission.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” What action will you take to make this a safer world?

James “Jim” Nelson, CSP, ASSP Region V Vice President

Society News to Share

- [ASSP Free Learning Resources](#)
- [Advocating for the Safety Profession in Washington, D.C.](#)
- [Staying Healthy During Winter Months](#)

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.

Career Opportunities

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



