



# APRIL NEWSLETTER



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1st Thursday of every Month- Battleground, Deer Park
- Clear Values
- ASSP Memberships
- Government Affairs
- Grants & Scholarships
- Crawfish Boil
- 2025-2026 Leadership Retreat

## Congratulations to our 2025 SPY “Safety Professional of the Year” Lawrence J.H. Shulze, PHD, PE, CPE

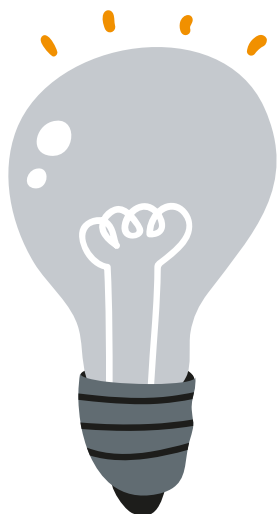


IMAGE: JOEL TIGENS, LAWRENCE J.H. SCHULZE, PHD, PE , CPE & DUSTIN HICKEY



IMAGE: JOEL TIGENS, DUSTIN HICKEY, BELINDA MARSHALL, TAYLOR PEASTER, LAWRENCE J.H. SCHULZE, PHD, PE , CPE & MAGDY AKLAIDOS & KATIZU GAYO (NOT SHOWN)

# Leading with our CLEAR Values



ASSP's new strategic plan incorporates these five values:

- **Community:** We provide a welcoming and collaborative environment that creates belonging and inclusivity for all.
- **Leadership:** We exemplify integrity and empower others.
- **Excellence:** We strive always to deliver our best.
- **Accountability:** We are ethical, reliable and trustworthy in all we do.
- **Respect:** We act with humility, listen to others and foster strong working relationships.

Together, they form the acronym **CLEAR**, which can help us easily recall and readily share them with other stakeholders across the ASSP ecosystem. Let's take a closer look at each.

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## Help us GROW & Refer a Member

### Annual Member-Get- A- Member Program

ASSP's annual member referral program returns for 2025. Share the benefits and resources ASSP offers with safety colleagues, directing potential members to the ASSP website to encourage them to join the Gulf Coast Society.

The more people you refer, the more rewards you can earn, such as a **1-year membership** extension, an on-demand webinar, or a \$50 Amazon gift card.

For every complete member referral, the referring member will receive an entry in the grand prize drawing for a trip to ASSP's annual professional development conference, which includes full conference registration, 3 nights' hotel accommodations, and a \$250 gift card for expenses.

Learn more at <https://assp.us/38VZ7kF>



# Government Affairs Update

## ASSP Urges Lawmakers to Ensure Safety of America's workers

**Apr 02, 2025**

PARK RIDGE, IL – The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), the world's oldest professional safety organization, is deeply concerned by reports that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will be drastically reduced as part of a government restructuring plan. Also troubling is a government proposal not to renew leases at several area offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Both federal plans together – without the full capabilities of these top safety and health agencies – would result in operational shifts and significant layoffs that severely compromise the safety, health and well-being of millions of workers.

***"We are closely monitoring these probable agency changes, knowing they would have lasting effects on workplace safety, industry innovation and worker well-being," said ASSP President Pam Walaski, CSP, FASSP. "We urge lawmakers in the U.S. House and Senate to examine these issues carefully and take action to ensure that OSHA and NIOSH can continue their essential missions without disruptions."***

The Occupational Safety and Health Act, enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in 1970, established a framework that has greatly improved workplace safety through agencies such as OSHA and NIOSH. "The data and evidence clearly show that these federal agencies have made a measurable difference in protecting workers across all industries," Walaski said. "There is absolutely no question about it."

OSHA helps safeguard workers from many hazards by setting and enforcing safety and health standards, providing training and education, and offering compliance assistance. NIOSH conducts vital research and develops key interventions that reduce worker injuries, illnesses and fatalities nationwide. "A strong partnership between the public and private sectors is essential to occupational safety and health," Walaski said. "ASSP has long supported government agencies that prioritize worker safety. Seeing them seriously weakened would be a profound loss for workers, businesses and our nation as a whole."

For more than 100 years, ASSP has been a steadfast champion of environmental health and safety (EHS) programs and policies that are grounded in science, sound technology and effective public policy. Its 35,000 members are committed to supporting evidence-based practices that protect workers and strengthen businesses.

**Learn more about ASSP's public policy and position statements on the [ASSP website](#).**



## ASSP SUPPORTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BILL

### ASSP Supports Workforce Development Bill

This March, ASSP joined industry leaders in Washington, D.C., to advocate for the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act (H.R. 1151/S. 756), which would expand 529 savings plans to cover professional certifications and continuing education. This legislation would help EHS professionals advance their careers and strengthen workplace safety. [Learn more](#)

### Take Action: Support Workforce Development

Please ask your lawmakers to support the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act (S. 722 / H.R. 1477). Download our [advocacy template](#) to craft your message.



## STANDARDS UPDATES

### Pipeline Safety Management System: Federal Register Announcement

The Federal Register recently published an announcement on Pipeline Safety Management Systems (SMS), which focuses on technical issues throughout the pipeline life cycle. While not directly tied to EHS standards like ANSI/ASSP Z10, it introduces concepts like risk assessment, particularly relevant for those involved in risk management and safety systems. [Read more](#)

**PHMSA IS ISSUING THIS ADVISORY BULLETIN TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PIPELINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PSMS) BY REGULATED PIPELINE OWNERS AND OPERATORS.**

### Research Study: Truck Driving Poses MSD Risk to Workers

The job of truck driving exposes workers to various risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), according to a study published in BMC Public Health. The study, "Musculoskeletal Disorders Among Truck Drivers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," investigates the frequency of MSDs among truck drivers by conducting a meta-analysis of 15 articles involving 2,662 truck drivers. The research found that prevalence of MSDs among truck drivers is relatively high, with 61.75% of truck drivers affected. MSD prevalence was indicated in the following body parts: •shoulder (31.5%) •neck (25.79%) •lower back (23.46%) •knee (22.26%) •ankle (20.46%) •wrist (20.25%) •upper back (18.65%) •elbow (11.91%) •hip (7.5%) The study authors recommend developing and implementing training programs, ergonomic interventions and regular work environment evaluations to mitigate MSD risk for truck drivers. Read the study at <https://bit.ly/4bHezIK>.

YOU CAN FIND MORE AT PSJ MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
TAHERNEJAD ET AL. BMC PUBLIC HEALTH

### REPORT ASSESSES TRAFFIC SAFETY CULTURE IN THE U.S.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has published its 2023 Traffic Safety Culture Index. These annual reports serve as a reference for researchers, practitioners and traffic safety advocates to better understand perceptions of, attitudes toward and engagement in unsafe driving behaviors as well as identify relevant issues and develop corresponding countermeasures. The report examines patterns of responses to questions on driving behaviors to identify and describe profiles of risky driving and associated demographic factors, attitudes and beliefs. Key findings from the report:

- Roughly 93% of drivers identified texting, emailing and reading on a handheld device as very or extremely dangerous. Fewer respondents identified talking on a cell phone or using hands-free technology as very or extremely dangerous.
- Many drivers reported sending a text or email (27%), holding and talking on a cell phone (36%), or reading a text or email (37%) in the past 30 days. The majority of drivers reported using hands free technology to talk, text or email while driving (59%).
- Most respondents perceived driving through a red light (81%) and aggressive driving (89%) as very or extremely dangerous.
- Speeding had the lowest level of social disapproval among all unsafe driving behaviors examined in the report; 61% of respondents perceived driving 10 mph over the posted speed limit on residential streets as very or extremely dangerous and 49% perceived driving 15 mph over the posted speed limit on freeways as very or extremely dangerous.
- Most drivers perceived drowsy driving to be very or extremely dangerous (96%).
- Most drivers perceived driving after drinking as very or extremely dangerous (95%). Fewer respondents perceived driving within an hour of using marijuana as very or extremely dangerous (70%).

Download the report at <https://bit.ly/4iERX7I>.

AAA FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY. (2024). 2023 TRAFFIC SAFETY CULTURE INDEX (TECHNICAL REPORT). WASHINGTON, D.C.: AAA FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY.



## CHECK OUT THE LATEST PODCASTS FROM ASSP

ASSP's The Case for Safety podcast features conversations with safety experts who share ideas and insights that OSH professionals can use to help their organizations improve worker safety and health. The podcast series is free to access on the ASSP website and can be subscribed to on Spotify and Apple Podcast. New episodes are available every other weekend.

Visit <https://assp.us/podcast> to listen to the latest episodes.



## ASSP Grants & Scholarships

The ASSP Foundation offers career development grants that you can use to support your professional development. Applications for Grants are accepted year-round, with awards made on a rolling basis, based on availability.

Apply here

<https://asspfoundation.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/solicitations/login/10>



# We thank our April guest speaker !!



Dustin Hickey, Lance Belony, Jeron Quincy

## ASSP Gulf Coast Chapter April Meeting

Date: 04/3/2025 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM



**TOPIC:** From Data To Action: Intelligent Safety and Safety Improvements


**SPEAKER:** Lance Belony, Senior Executive Safety / Operations / Engineering

JOIN US on April 3<sup>rd</sup> as we hear from Lance Belony, on Intelligent Safety and leveraging technology to create safer environments through autonomous monitoring, timely alerts, accurate documentation, customized reports, and powerful analytics. It's a proactive approach that not only enhances safety but also empowers organizations to make informed decisions.

Mr. Belony is a results-driven professional with progressive business development, operations, and safety experience. He has provided executive and senior-level management and operations leadership in a variety of industries. His most recent role is as Senior Vice President of Business Development for Safety Solutions headquartered in Houston Tx. He is responsible for developing awareness and new business for North America for intelligent safety management.








## ASSP Gulf Coast Chapter Energy Corridor Section April Meeting

Date: 04/10/2025 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **one-time location change**



TOPIC: To SIF or not to SIF: That is the Question  
SPEAKER: Norman Ritchie, CEO of vPSI Group, LLC

*Please note the one-time location change! This event will take place during the Gulf Coast Chapter PDC at the Norris Conference Center. When you arrive, follow the signs to the Energy Corridor Chapter Meeting. If you are NOT attending the PDC, please be sure to register for this meeting so that there will be a badge for you on your arrival allowing admittance.*

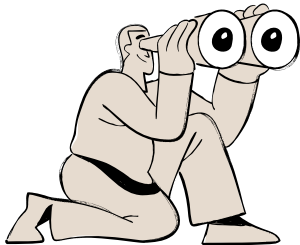
**11:45 am to 12:30 pm Presentation - In-Person Location**  
The Norris Conference Center at Houston CityCentre  
816 Town & Country Blvd  
Suite 210  
Houston, Texas 77024  
(713) 590-0950

**Both pay at the door and pay online options are available for this event.**



## Student Services Update

Brought to you by the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)



## SPRING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Our student membership drive is a vital activity for your student section. The number of members your section recruits propels growth and enables you to expand your programs. It also helps build the professional network for your section members. The peers you meet as a student will become the colleagues you rely on throughout your career.

# Help us recruit graduating students to join the Gulf Coast Chapter!



# Events for May 2025



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS  
Gulf Coast Chapter

## 2ND ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL EVENT

 **Saturday**  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

 **Time**  
11.00 AM - 3.00 PM

 Jones Creek Ranch Park  
7714 Farm to Market 359  
Richmond, TX 77406


**REGISTER  
NOW**

GULF COAST ASSP  
2ND ANNUAL  
CRAWFISH BOIL –



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS  
Gulf Coast Chapter



## GULF COAST CHAPTER LEADERSHIP RETREAT 2025 TOPGOLF® @Webster

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**11:00 am - 5:00pm**  
**21401 GULF FWY, WEBSTER, TX 77598**

- 11:00 - 11:30: Arrival
- 11:30 - 12:30: Lunch + Networking
- 12:30 - 3:00: Meeting
  - Introductions
  - Chapter History
  - Regional & Society Updates
- 2025 GCC Recap
- 2025-2026 Chapter Year
  - Goals & Objectives
  - Bylaws Revisions
  - Key Dates
  - Expectations
- Break-out Sessions
  - By Committee/By Position
- Group Debrief
- Closing Remarks
- 3:00 - 5:00: Top Golf + Social time



WWW.GULFCOAST.ASSP.ORG

We want to thank everyone who attended and made this PDC possible, including our guest Speakers, Vendors, & ASSP leadership team.

Thank you for a great 2025 PDC

-Dustin Hickey, President









# VOLUNTEER TO BUILD COMMUNITY



ASSP leaders gather and celebrate community accomplishments at the ASSP Leadership Conference.

ASSP member communities connect OSH professionals through both education and networking. Contribute to the growth of the profession while building your own skills and network. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year.

**Learn more:**  
[assp.us/leadership-connection](https://assp.us/leadership-connection)