



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

## President's Message

November 2020

Greetings, and Happy Thanksgiving Heart of America Chapter.

Couple of quick items to mention:

**Virtual Meetings.** HOA will continue to follow Society's guidance as it relates to hosting virtual meetings over in-person meetings. While we all miss the networking opportunities associated with meeting in person, participation numbers for virtual meetings has been similar to pre-COVID attendance.

**Hardship Membership Program.** In the event your employment was affected during the pandemic, ASSP is offering an one year, complimentary membership to anybody who has lost their job. Society realizes the important role it plays in networking and its Job Board. The application form can be found on the website.

**SafetyFOCUS.** Take a moment to check out the new event series available to ASSP members! The virtual format makes it easy to earn CEU's on some emerging topics, including Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) and Business Skills and Leadership.

**Scholarships.** Our Chapter has two scholarships (one for UCM and PSU), and the Board is considering increasing the amount to \$1,500. To endow through the ASSP Foundation, it would require close to a \$20,000 contribution. The Board is seeking input from members.

December has traditionally been the month we host an evening networking event. In consideration of the challenges of hosting a socially distanced event, we'll hold off this year and look forward to having an event when we don't have to worry about face covers. With the money we're saving not hosting an event, the Executive Committee decided to make donations to Toys For Tots and the Kansas City Community Kitchen.

Tom Metzner  
HOA Chapter President

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## Officers List

### President

Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

### Vice President

Laurel Harris, CSP, ARM

### Secretary

Andrew Dix, GSP, CRIS, ASHM

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Shelly Killingsworth, CHMM, CSP

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### Newsletter Coordinator

Laurel Harris, CSP, ARM

### Liaison for Student Sections

Shelly Killingsworth, CHMM, CSP

### Members at Large

Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM

David Hallerud, ALCM

## Safety Spotlight: Member Interview



### **The November Spotlight is on Eric Holder, CSP, BCES.**

**Where did you go to school?** I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Texas and my Masters in Environmental Health Science from Kansas University.

**How long have you been in the safety industry?** I have been involved in Environmental Health & Safety my entire 28-year career, 16 years in consulting and 12 years now for my hometown power company, Independence Power & Light (IPL).

**How long have you been in your current position?** I have worked as the Environmental Health & Safety manager for IPL since February of 2008

**What is your current position and from a safety standpoint what are you primary responsibilities:** I administer the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Division for IPL which is responsible for all environmental and safety compliance, planning, training, spill response and job hazard analysis. In addition, I am responsible for setting short and long-term EHS goals, safety and environmental benchmarking, regulatory analysis and lobbying, and divisional budget management.

**What made you decide to go into safety?** I guess you could say this happened “by accident”! It just happened that after I graduated, my first boss at Black & Veatch was a PhD in Industrial Hygiene and a CIH. As such, even though my degree was in environmental science, he trained me in industrial hygiene and involved me in my first professional safety activities including conducting personal and area air sampling during multiple asbestos and lead abatement projects. My safety responsibilities have continued to increase during my career, so I made the decision in 2018 to pursue professional safety certification, obtaining the ASP in 2019 and finally the CSP in February 2020.

**What are some of your memorable experiences or accomplishments related to your time in the safety field?** My most memorable career EHS experience can be summed up in the phrase “Things aren’t always what they seem”. Early in my career I was assigned the health assessment and protection of the fish and fishermen of an urban Kansas City pond. About two years into the project when things had improved in the pond, I was conducting a routine inspection of the pond and feeder creek, when I noticed that the feeder creek had turned an unnatural fluorescent green color and that this fluorescent plume was now spreading into my pristine pond. I panicked believing that a tanker truck had turned over on the nearby highway and was leaking awful hazardous waste into the creek and was now going to cause the death of all life in the pond that I had so lovingly and meticulously nursed back to health. Frantically I hopped in my truck and drove out of the park and up the access road where I noticed a group of workers wearing waders standing in the roadside ditch pouring something out of a bag into the water, water that was hydraulically connected to my beautiful, healthy little pond. Downstream of this group I noticed the same telltale fluorescent green color. Baffled as to why a group of municipal workers would be intentionally pouring a pollutant into the water, I stopped and questioned them. “Oh, this isn’t a chemical, this is just hydraulic dye!” they responded. “We are trying to locate the source of water main leak and I guess we used too much if it worked its way all the way back to your pond”. In science, it pays to always question your assumptions. Sometimes a seemingly deadly, pond-killing pollutant is just harmless hydraulic dye because...“things aren’t always what they seem”. Finally, I am most proud of building a robust safety program from the ground up here at IPL with the help of my great team of EHS professionals. In 2019 we were able to reduce our lost time accidents by 88%!

### **Eric’s Revitalization Pond Project with Green Dye**



**What are some of your hobbies or favorite activities:** All kinds of fishing, deep sea, freshwater, bait casting and fly fishing. I am also an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy with Isaac Asimov and JRR Tolkein as favorites.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

## New Members

The Heart of America Chapter would like to welcome recent graduates from our Student Sections:

- Julie Adams
- Abdulla Alaqeel
- Seth Calkins
- Drey Estes
- Jared Green
- Tanner Gulick
- Laura Heredia
- Bradley Jackson
- Destiny Kincaid
- Ricky Lee
- Conner Magras
- Lisa McGinnis
- Aaron O’Roark
- John Praeuner
- Jeremy Swezey



Pittsburg  
State  
University



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CENTRAL  
MISSOURI**  
LEARNING TO A GREATER DEGREE



Please take a moment to reach out and connect through ASSP Community.

If you know someone who would like to join ASSP Heart of America Chapter please direct them [HERE!](#)

Connect with ASSP:



## Job Openings

Please check out our website for recent job postings. <https://kc.assp.org/>

## Looking for a Job?

If so, then send your resume to [president@kc.assp.org](mailto:president@kc.assp.org)

## Next Meetings

No December meeting. As a precaution, in-person meetings have been postponed for the foreseeable future. The Board is working with Society and local health officials, and we hope to resume our regular meetings as soon as safely possible.

Standby for upcoming events for 2021.

## Newsletter Articles and Whitepapers

The newsletter committee is always looking for helpful links, articles, and white papers. If you have a document that's appropriate for this format, please present your suggestions to our Newsletter Coordinator Laurel Harris. [lharris@chubb.com](mailto:lharris@chubb.com)

## Apply for an ASSP Foundation Scholarship or Grant

Ending January 1, 2021, applications must be submitted for ASSP Foundation academic scholarships and professional development grants. ASSP Foundation offers nearly 150 awards each year ranging from \$500 to \$8,000 each.

In addition, Heart of America Chapter sponsors two scholarships of \$1,000 to students enrolled in the safety programs at UCM and PSU.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## OSHA Holiday Workplace Safety

As the nation enters a very different holiday shopping season, employers must ensure that all workers are trained to recognize and prevent job hazards and incorporate safe work practices to prevent exposure to the coronavirus. OSHA has resources to help keep workers safe at every step along the way in getting gifts from the warehouse to your home.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ASSP Community Interest Group – Heart of America ChapterWISE

 <p>Contact Laurel Harris for more information: <a href="mailto:lharris@chubb.com">lharris@chubb.com</a></p>	<p>ASSP's Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) is a common interest group that advances ASSP members and the safety profession through education, mentorship, networking, collaboration, research, and innovation. With over 2,000 members, WISE provides member and community support and collaborative opportunities within the profession. WISE works to bring awareness to the following industry topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need for proper fitting personal protective equipment for women in the workplace</li><li>• Workplace violence against women, which is the number one cause of fatal injuries to women in the workplace.</li><li>• To bring awareness to women in leadership roles in safety and to mentor others to help them achieve their goals</li></ul>
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## Can More Be Done to Prevent Crashes from Distracted Driving?

Many people will hit the road this holiday season rather than fly or take public transportation to work, shop, and visit family. The primary mode of transportation for many people in the United States, is an automobile. Whether operating a vehicle for personal use or a work-related function, drivers put themselves and others at risk when engaging in actions that take their focus off the road. Drivers have many opportunities to be distracted while operating a vehicle. Distracting driving activities include, but are not limited to, cell phone use and texting, eating or drinking, searching for dropped or lost items, attending to passengers, personal grooming, trying to navigate unfamiliar locations, driving unfamiliar vehicles, and daydreaming.

More than 40,000 people are killed in motor vehicle crashes every year in the United States. In 2018, 2,080 motor vehicle crash fatalities were work-related incidents. The National Safety Council reports that, in the United States, cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes and 390,000 injuries each year. This equates to approximately one out of four automobile accidents each year that are caused by talking on a cell phone or texting while driving.

According to a blog co-authored by Bruce Landsberg, Vice President of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Lorraine Martin, President and CEO of the National Safety Council (NSC), distracted driving-related crashes are greatly underreported.

The Highway Traffic Safety Administration has named 'Eliminate Distractions' on its 2019-2020 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements. Together with NSC, the NTSB is calling on states, operators and industry, vehicle manufacturers and drivers to take action to eliminate distractions while driving. The following list is some of the actions called for:

- States are being asked to enact laws that prohibit cell phone use while driving, including hands free cell phone use.
- Employers are being asked to implement strong policies that prohibit cell phone use by employees while driving and to restrict employees from contacting other employees when they know that they are driving.
- Drivers should use the "do not disturb" feature on their phone or turn it off while driving.
- Manufacturers of portable electronic devices should develop a lock-out mechanism or application that will automatically disable devices while the vehicle is in motion, but still allows the device to be used to request assistance in an emergency.

As safety professionals, we can take up this campaign to help eliminate distracted driving. Our influence expands to reach a broad audience from lawmakers, employers, manufacturers and our own friends and family. Remember that distracted driving is driving distracted whether it be for business or personal reasons. Arrive alive and campaign so that others can too.

## Have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season

*From your ASSP Heart of America Chapter family*

## Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

December			
December	Give the Gift of Sight Month	Prevent Blindness America	<a href="http://preventblindness.org">preventblindness.org</a>
December	Holiday Season Drunk Driving Campaign	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	<a href="http://nhtsa.gov">nhtsa.gov</a>

February 9 – 19, 2021	
	<h1>SafetyFOCUS</h1> <p>Immersive Education for Safety Professionals</p>
<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p> <p>Link will take you to the ASSP Website where you can view the course list or download the course catalog, build your schedule, and register for professional OSH courses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Focus 2021 is Virtual</li> <li>• 95+ Courses Offered</li> <li>• 45+ New Courses for 2021</li> <li>• Earn up to 7 CEUs</li> <li>• Network with industry leaders and safety professionals</li> </ul>

## COVID-19 Links

**OSHA Interim Recording Keeping Guidance:** In a May 19, 2020 Enforcement Memo, OSHA provided updated interim guidance to Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) for enforcing the OHA Record Keeping requirements of 29 CFR Part 1904 with respect to recording cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The following is a link to the Interim Guidance.

<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recording-cases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

**National Safety Council Guidance regarding Safe Actions for Employee Return (SAFER):** NSC created a platform for COVID-19 guidance referred to as the SAFER Collection. The task force that supports the collection of information is made up of industry experts from a diverse group of organizations including ASSP, AIHA, NIOSH- CDC, ISSA, BCSP, health professionals, nonprofits, businesses and many more. For updated information to health employers safely return to work, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/safe-actions-for-employee-returns-safer>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** The CDC offers a resource page to keep up with current information regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019. For evolving news regarding the virus, precautions for adults, forecasts, cleaning and disinfecting, and pandemic planning scenarios, please follow the link below:

## Executive Committee

Executive Committee contact information. We always welcome questions, comments and suggestions.



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