



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

NOVA Chapter

# Winter Newsletter

## December 2025

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### President's Letter



Dear ASSP-NOVA Members,

Since stepping into the role of President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals this July, I've been deeply humbled by what it means to serve this community. Leading this chapter is one of the greatest honors of my career. Every month, every meeting, and every conversation reinforces why our mission matters and why the people in this chapter mean the world to me.

When I ran for this role, I shared a platform rooted in three commitments: to elevate our technical programming, to create meaningful and memorable member experiences, and to give back to the professionals who give so much of themselves to the Safety field. Over these first several months, that vision has guided the work we've done together, and I could not be more proud of how our chapter has leaned into it.

We've focused on strengthening the depth and relevance of our technical talks, ensuring that our programming reflects both the evolving challenges and innovative opportunities within our profession. We've introduced new experiences designed not just for learning, but for connection - because safety professionals thrive when we can lean on one another. We're committed to giving back to our members, recognizing that our chapter exists to support your growth, goals, and success.

What has made this journey so rewarding is not the events themselves - it's you. Your engagement, your curiosity, your willingness to show up for one another, and your dedication to this profession create the heartbeat of our chapter. I am constantly inspired by the expertise, generosity, and passion in this community.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to our chapter leadership, whose energy and vision continue to shape our momentum, with new programs coming on the horizon. None of this work happens alone, and I'm grateful to be surrounded by such committed leaders.

As we move into the next year, my commitment remains the same: to serve you with intention and to create opportunities that help you grow, both professionally and personally. This chapter is strongest when we build it together, and I invite you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and help shape the future of ASSP-NOVA alongside us.

Thank you for trusting me with this role, and thank you for what you bring to this community. It's an honor to walk this journey with you.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays,

Josh Russell  
President  
ASSP Northern Virginia Chapter

## Chapter News

### Data Center Safety

On November 10, 2025, we had a fantastic time at **Data Center Safety – A Behind-the-Scenes Look** in Chantilly! A huge thank you to our outstanding panelists for sharing their expertise and offering valuable insights into the safety challenges and innovations shaping today's data centers. And to all our attendees—thank you for starting your morning with us, contributing thoughtful questions, and helping make the event such a success. Your engagement truly brought the conversation to life.



## Bowling Event

On December 8, 2025, the ASSP Northern Virginia Chapter hosted the Annual Chapter Charity Bowling Event at the Branch Bowling Alley located in Leesburg. All toys donated were sent as a donation to the Shenandoah Valley Toys-For-Tots Chapter. Thank you to everyone who joined us. It was a fantastic evening filled with fun, laughter, and community support. Your participation truly made a difference. Thank you so much to Milwaukee Tool for generously sponsoring the raffle gifts. Your support helped make the event even more exciting and memorable! Thank you again to everyone who contributed, participated, or helped make this event a success. We are already looking forward to next year!



## Upcoming Events

### WISE- happy Hour

Date: January 22, 2025

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Location: [Makers Union](#) 42841 Creek View Plaza #145, Ashburn, VA 20147

Come join us! Each attendee will get two drink tickets. Be on the lookout for a registration link via LinkedIn coming soon. This event will be in honor of the previous liaison, Taylor Pedmo. Thank you for all the hard work you put into making WISE always a big success! We wish you well on all your future endeavors.



### Safety Focus 2026

Feb 3-7/Las Vegas, NV

SafetyFOCUS is your chance to learn from top safety experts and engage with OSH professionals in an immersive setting. Unlike typical conferences, SafetyFOCUS offers small, interactive classes where you can collaborate closely with instructors and peers to develop practical solutions. Expand your technical and soft skills, earn valuable CEUs, or prepare for your first professional credential. Enhance your safety expertise and build meaningful connections this February. Register [here](#)



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# Articles and Podcast Recommendations

[Workplace Safety Myths and Misunderstandings: Separating Fact from Fiction Podcast](#)

[POTENTIAL IMPACT OF OVERTURNING CHEVRON: An OSH Professional Perspective](#)

By James G. Borchardt and Sang Daniel Choi

## Career Center

Located at [jobs.assp.org](https://jobs.assp.org) - members can post a resume, search job openings, set job search alerts, and more.

Companies looking to hire are welcome to post jobs for a fee. Internship postings free with a promo code: Internships.

# ASSP NOVA Safety Professional of the year (SPY) award

## Now accepting nominations!

The ASSP NOVA Chapter is now accepting nominations for NOVA Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award for the 2025-2026 ASSP NOVA Chapter year.

Nominate a fellow Chapter member you think has any of the following:

- Exceptional or unique operational aspect of their safety employment
- Demonstrated stellar technical expertise in safety
- Demonstrated outstanding contributions to Chapter activities, including committee chair and/or officer, and/or demonstrated leadership in establishing, maintaining, and improving Chapter programs
- Provided extraordinary service to members
- Other unique contributions that advanced the safety profession

Please visit our [ASSP](#) page for more information on how to submit a nomination.

## ASSP Government Affairs Update

The ASSP Government Affairs Update highlights important public sector actions involving occupational safety and health (OSH). Please share this [newsletter](#) with your chapter members and other ASSP colleagues. Be sure to visit [our government affairs webpage](#) to learn more.

## Volunteer With Us!

If you are interested in volunteering, we have plenty of task force committees and special interest groups to get involved with. For more information contact [president@nova.assp.org](mailto:president@nova.assp.org). You can visit our [Volunteer Leadership page](#) to view various opportunities.

We have opportunities in:

- [Society](#) elected leadership positions
- [Council and committee](#) appointed leadership positions
- [Common interest group](#) leadership positions
- [Practice specialty](#) leadership positions
- [Local chapter](#) leadership positions

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