



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Permian Basin Chapter

March Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Everyone!

March Is Workplace Eye Wellness Month

Don't Rely on the Luck of the Irish When It Comes to Eye Safety

March brings longer days, a little green on the calendar, and a reminder we shouldn't leave safety to chance. While St. Patrick's Day celebrates good

fortune, when it comes to workplace eye injuries, luck should never be part of the plan.

March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month, a timely opportunity to focus on one of our most vulnerable and most critical assets: our eyes. Every day, workers across industries face hazards such as flying particles, chemical splashes, dust, vapors, and intense light. The good news? Most occupational eye injuries are preventable with the right awareness, controls, and personal protective equipment.

Why Eye Wellness Matters at Work

Eye injuries can happen in seconds but have lasting impacts, affecting not only vision, but also quality of life, job performance, and overall safety. Tasks like grinding, welding, chemical handling, pressure washing, and even routine maintenance activities can pose serious eye risks if proper precautions aren't taken.

Beyond acute injuries, long-term exposure to UV radiation, blue light, dust, and dry environments can contribute to eye strain, fatigue, and chronic vision issues. Eye wellness isn't just about reacting to incidents, it's about protecting vision for the long haul.

Don't Count on Luck, Control the Hazard

Instead of relying on "good luck," effective eye safety comes down to doing the basics well, every time:

- **Assess the task** before starting work. Identify eye hazards just like any other critical risk.
- **Use the right eye protection** for the job. Whether that's safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or welding helmets.

- **Ensure proper fit and condition.** Scratched lenses, fogged eyewear, or poor fit can reduce protection and compliance.
- **Layer protections when needed.** Eye protection may need to be combined with face shields or other PPE for higher-risk tasks.
- **Maintain good housekeeping** to reduce dust and debris that can become airborne.

Eye Wellness Beyond PPE

True eye wellness also includes habits that protect vision over time:

- Take regular breaks to reduce eye strain, especially during screen-heavy tasks.
- Stay hydrated and be mindful of dry, dusty, or windy work environments.
- Encourage routine eye exams to catch issues early.
- Speak up if eye protection isn't available, comfortable, or adequate for the task.

A Shared Responsibility

Eye safety is a shared responsibility. Leaders, supervisors, and workers all play a role. When eye protection is modeled, discussed, and reinforced, it becomes part of the culture rather than an afterthought.

This March, let's use Workplace Eye Wellness Month as a reminder: preventing eye injuries isn't about luck, it's about preparation, awareness, and personal responsibility. Protect your vision today so you can see clearly tomorrow.

Because when it comes to your eyes, the only thing better than good luck is good safety.

Respectfully,

Heather Ferrell, CSP, ASP
President, Permian Basin Chapter
American Society of Safety Professionals

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

- James Simonetti
- Michelle Vargas
- Javier Morga, CSP
- Kevin Hendershott
- Stephanie Haveman
- Zachary Williams, CHST
- Andrew Mattiello

Long Service Recognition of Chapter Members

- Jeremy Stroud, CSP - 16 years
- Jimmy Carlile STS, SMP, REA, REHS - 24 years
- Brad Simpson - 15 years
- Marise Textor, P.E. - 28 years

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES

March Chapter Meeting



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Permian Basin Chapter

Topic: "Flare Efficiency Measurements to Demonstrate Compliance and Environmental Performance. "

Date and Time: March 19, 2026 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Jack E. Brown building, 3600 N. Garfield St., Midland, TX

Presenter: Manny Tamez

Manny Tamez brings more than 30 years of comprehensive experience in the oil and gas industry, with expertise spanning downstream mechanical integrity, midstream pipeline integrity, and upstream inventory asset management. Throughout his career, Manny has leveraged advanced data visualization and analytics tools to integrate complex, multi-source information, driving operational efficiency and supporting critical business and operational decision-making.

Manny is also well-versed in gas detection and emissions measurement technologies, with a strong focus on innovative solutions that enhance compliance and performance. He holds an MBA with a concentration in Technology Management and earned a BBA in Engineering-Business Administration from Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University Kingsville).

Chapter Updates

The Permian Basin Chapter now offers a convenient way for individuals and organizations to make donations. As a non-profit organization, we rely on the support of our members and partners to host meetings at no cost and to fund our student scholarship programs. A link to our Zeffy donation page is attached and will also be added to our website. We encourage you to consider supporting the chapter. Your contribution directly helps us continue advancing safety, education, and professional development in our community.

[Permian Basin ASSP - Zeffy](#)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking to network and find out if there are job openings. The jobs must be in an Environment, Health and Safety function. For example: Fleet Safety Manager, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety, Risk Manager, etc.

We will post the jobs to our website at permianbasin.assp.org. This is done currently at no charge, but the chapter is always accepting donations to help establish our scholarship fund. Your contribution is appreciated.

Please e-mail the job information to president@permianbasin.assp.org.

[Visit the ASSP Permian Basin Chapter Jobs Website Page](#)

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