



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Permian Basin Chapter

September Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to the “Ber” Months!

While driving to Dinosaur Valley in Rose Glen this last Labor Day weekend, my 9-year-old asked, “What is Labor Day, Mom?”

At first, I started with the textbook answer: Labor Day is a holiday dedicated to recognizing and honoring the contributions of American workers and the labor movement. But as we continued down the road, I realized there was a much deeper lesson worth sharing.

Labor Day is more than just the unofficial end of summer. It is a reminder that every job, every task, and every industry is powered by people. It recognizes the men and women who build our communities, keep our infrastructure running, provide essential services, and drive our economy forward. It is a celebration of hard work, dedication, and the commitment workers bring every day.

As safety professionals and industry leaders, Labor Day also reminds us of something equally important: every worker deserves to go home safe at the end of the day.

The history of Labor Day is closely connected to workplace safety. Many of the protections we benefit from today were established because workers and organizations recognized the importance of creating safer workplaces. From improved working conditions and better equipment to training, standards, and regulations, countless efforts have been made to reduce risks and protect lives.

While we have made tremendous progress, safety is not something we can take for granted. Injuries, incidents, and near misses often occur when routine tasks become familiar and defenses begin to weaken. As we move into the busy fall season, it is important to stay focused on the fundamentals:

- Take time to identify hazards before starting work.
- Follow established procedures and Life Saving Rules.
- Speak up when something does not look right.
- Look out for your coworkers and contractors.
- Stop work when conditions change or risks increase.

The “ber” months often signal a shift in priorities, schedules, and workloads. As temperatures begin to change and year-end goals come into focus, it can be easy to become distracted or rush through tasks. Instead, let this season serve as a reminder to slow down, stay engaged, and keep safety at the center of every decision.

When my son asked about Labor Day, I told him it is a day to appreciate people who work hard. Looking back, I wish I had added one more thing:

It is also a day to remember that every worker matters, and every worker deserves to return home safely to the people who love them.

As we welcome September and the start of the “ber” months, thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your commitment to keeping yourself and those around you safe.

Stay focused. Stay engaged. Stay safe.

Respectfully,

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

- Christopher Barragan, CSP
- Jack Crews, ASP
- Jessica Smith

Long Service Recognition of Chapter Members

- Manuel Soto, 26 years
- Randall Pittman, CSP, 25 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Chapter Meeting

Thursday, September 17th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**
Permian Basin Chapter



Meeting Date: August 20, 2026

Location: Jack E. Brown Building, 3600 N. Garfield St., Midland, TX 79705

Speaker: Brittany Watson

Topic: Beyond the Sample - Building a Meaningful Occupational Exposure Assessment: Lessons from an Upstream Benzene Project

Sampling provides a measurement, but a meaningful exposure assessment supports a decision. Using lessons from an upstream benzene project, this presentation applies a "What? So what? Now what?" approach to demonstrate how task, worker, source, operating conditions, and sampling method influence the interpretation of exposure data. Attendees will gain a practical framework for designing assessments that lead to clearer conclusions, effective controls, and appropriate follow-up.

Agenda: 11:30 am FREE lunch sponsored by ASSP Permian Basin Chapter, 11:45 am Presentation

ASSP Permian Basin PDC

October 15, 2026: State connected for times and speakers

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](#)

Working together for a safer, stronger future

