

# President's Message

OKC Chapter Members,

We're just a few short weeks away from the first day of spring and I couldn't be happier to say goodbye to the recent cold weather we've experienced in Oklahoma. It is important to recognize that as the seasons change, so do the hazards many of our workers face. Here are some tips for keeping workers safe in spring:

- **Be ready for changeable weather.** It can easily flick between dry and deluge and warm and cold in no time during spring. Outdoor and remote workers should be prepared for anything and you must supply them with the equipment they need.
- **Slips, trips and falls** can be an issue following a frozen winter. The big thaw can lead to boggy conditions around your job site. These add hazards to the workplace.
- As we move into the warmer months of the year, your outdoor workers need to **be aware of insects like ticks and mosquitos**, which can cause illness. Wearing appropriate clothing to prevent this, such as long sleeves, is a must at this time of the year.
- **Be aware of the signs of illnesses that relate to the heat.** Once the temperature creeps up, workers can get headaches and start to feel dizzy and nauseous if it becomes too hot.

With storm season on the horizon, we are pleased to welcome Bob Taylor from OGE to discuss Storm Response & Mutual Assistance at our March chapter meeting. Please join us on Friday, March 11 at Francis Tuttle – Reno Campus for lunch and a great safety talk. **SAVE the DATE** for Friday, April 22 as we are happy to announce the return of our annual Spring PDC. Be on the lookout for registration information and our speaker line-up.

Respectfully,  
Shawn Helton, CSP  
President, OKC Chapter ASSP



**Shawn Helton, CSP**  
Sr. Health & Safety Field Coordinator  
Enable Midstream

**Next Chapter Meeting:**  
[Friday, March 11, 2022 11:30 AM](#)

**Location:**  
Francis Tuttle Tech Center - Reno Campus  
7301 West Reno Avenue, OKC, OK, 73127

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**PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER**  
2020-2021



## Announcements

### Wise/ AIHA/ NSC International Women's Day: "Safety Organization Cooperative Panel Discussion"

**Tuesday, March 8 @ 2pm EST**

Description: [Safety Organization Cooperative Panel Discussion](#)

The National Safety Council, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), and International Women's Day were born of working conditions that resulted in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire – and barriers affecting women in the workplace are still relevant today. Join Lorraine Martin, president and CEO of the National Safety Council, Jennifer McNelly, CEO of ASSP and Lawrence D Sloan, CEO of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) for a co-hosted conversation about issues keeping women from an equal footing in the workplace, the safety implications of these barriers, and what improvements can be implemented today.

Zoom registration link: [https://nsc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_h1nogZtMT9-WRBqnewbAvQ](https://nsc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h1nogZtMT9-WRBqnewbAvQ)

### Building a Brighter Future: Engaging Women in Construction

**Wednesday, March 9 @ 12:00pm- 1:30PM EST**

Description: Women in construction educational and empowerment panel discussion

About this event. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Women's Bureau, Wage and Hour Department, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration invite you to an educational and empowerment panel discussion to learn about employment opportunities for Women in the construction industry.

To register click on the link here: [OFCCP, WB, OSHA, WHD Build a Brighter Future Engaging Women in Construction Tickets, Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### Oklahoma Worker's Memorial Day- Virtual Event

**Thursday, April 28, 2022**

[HOME | workers-memorial-day \(okworkersmemorialday.com\)](#)

### Oklahoma Safety Council Fall Standdown

**Thursday, May 5, 2022**

Please join the OSC for Oklahoma's Fall Safety Stand Down which will be held in-person at the OSC (2400 S. Vermont Ave. OKC, Oklahoma 73108). There will be a morning session from 8:30 am- 11:30 am and an afternoon session from 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm, so you can pick a time that works best for you. Lunch will be provided by Ritz Safety. For more information and the agenda please visit the website at [OSC \(oksafety.org\)](#).

### ASSP OKC Meetings

ASSP is looking for speakers for upcoming chapter meetings. If your company is interested in sponsoring an upcoming chapter meeting lunch or hosting tours of their facility please contact Shawn Helton ([president@okc.assp.org](mailto:president@okc.assp.org)) or Bill Young ([youngwc@oge.com](mailto:youngwc@oge.com)).





## Announcements

### Mentorship Program

The ASSP OKC Chapter is excited to re-establish the Mentorship Program for our Chapter members. We are asking for Mentors and Mentees.

The purpose of this program is to provide professional growth and coaching by drawing on the knowledge and insight of experienced safety and health professionals. A Mentee will be paired with a Mentor for a period of one year. They will connect at least once a month to discuss such topics as Career Conversations, Job Search Skills, Professional Certification, Networking Pursuits, Professional Skills, and other issues that might be of interest to you both. A Mentee is a recent graduate or a safety and health professional with less than five years of experience. A Mentor is a safety and health professional with more than 5 years of experience with a willing heart to help a fellow safety and health professional as they start their career.

If you are interested in being a Mentor or a Mentee, please visit the ASSP OKC Mentoring website at <https://okc.assp.org/mentorship/> and submit the required forms to either Damon Hinkle at [damon.hinkle@thrutubing](mailto:damon.hinkle@thrutubing) or Mike Messner at [messnermik@aol.com](mailto:messnermik@aol.com). The Mentoring Committee will be responsible for doing the pairing and notify the Mentor and Mentee. The Committee will try to pair the Mentee with a Mentor in the same industry if possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Damon Hinkle, Co-Chair at [damon.hinkle@thrutubing](mailto:damon.hinkle@thrutubing) or Mike Messner, Co-Chair at [messnermik@aol.com](mailto:messnermik@aol.com)

### Member-Get-A-Member campaign

ASSP has a Member-Get-A-Member program established where people can gain rewards from society for referring new members (<https://www.assp.org/membership/member-get-a-member>).

### ASSP Hardship Program

This program offers a one-year complimentary membership to individuals that have lost their job.

[https://www.assp.org/docs/default-source/community-leader-resources/assp\\_hardshipform\\_2020.pdf?sfvrsn=58d4b447\\_0](https://www.assp.org/docs/default-source/community-leader-resources/assp_hardshipform_2020.pdf?sfvrsn=58d4b447_0)

## UCO is in the Top 25 Best Bachelor's in Occupational Health and Safety Programs for 2022

The University of Central Oklahoma was named number 12 in the top 25 best Bachelor's in Occupational Health and Safety Programs for 2022 by Best Health Degrees. UCO's Occupational Safety Program offers a Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP) Qualified Academic Program (QAP) designated Bachelor of Science degree. Please click on the link below to read the article.

[25 Best Bachelor's in Occupational Health and Safety Programs for 2022 - The Best Health Degrees](#)





## 2022 ASSP Oklahoma City Chapter Safety Professional of the Year: Robert Aldridge

Congratulations to Robert Aldridge who is the recipient of the 2022 ASSP OKC SPY Award!

The purpose of the ASSP Chapter Spy award is an honor acknowledging the leadership, dedication and outstanding contribution of a member to their chapter.

Excerpts from the letters of nomination and support are included below:

“I have known Robert for well over 30 years and I know Robert to be of outstanding character and a significant contributor to the safety profession. Robert has played a significant role in helping the OKC-ASSP Chapter to be one of the most successful Chapters within the Society. In Robert’s role there has been a tireless effort to make sure the needs of the Chapter are met.”

“The following are strengths I have observed during our long working relationship:

- Personal Character – I have witnessed Robert in several capacities as a learner and a leader, I have admired the Robert’s ability to connect with people....
- Work Quality – Robert is set apart by attention to detail.... Routinely exceeds expectations. He has a practical perspective that lends reason to complicated situations.
- Safety Focus – Robert consistently demonstrates a dedication to excellence; safety is a value with Robert.”

“I have known Robert for almost twenty years and in that time, Robert has exemplified what it is to be a safety professional. Robert’s hard work and dedication to safety in their professional role and Robert’s continued contributions to the chapter makes this an easy decision on my part.”





## Upcoming Events

### March Chapter Meeting

**Date:** Friday, March 11, 2022

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Speaker:** Bob Taylor with OG&E

**Topic:** Storm Response and Mutual Assistance

**Location:** Francis Tuttle Reno Campus

### PDC

**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022

**Location:** Francis Tuttle Rockwell Campus

### May Chapter Meeting

**Date:** Friday, May 13, 2022

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Location:** Moore Norman- South Penn Campus





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



**BRAUM'S**



## Stay Connected to ASSP-OKC

ASSP—OKC is all over the place. Click on the logos below to join our Facebook group, follow us on Twitter, link up on LinkedIn, and subscribe to our YouTube channel.



Visit our website for job postings, newsletters, member referral, meeting notices, forms, and much more!

[okc.ASSP.org](http://okc.ASSP.org)

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