February is American Heart Month! Keep the blood pumping with these tips!

#### **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President:	Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP	
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Vice-	Bob Drane, MS, CSP, OSHS	
President:	<u>rldrane@liberty.edu</u>	
Secretary:	Jesse D. Phillips, CIH, CSP	
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Delegate: Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP		
	cdavis@transmontaigne.com	

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CONTRIBUTORS**

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#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- February Chapter Meeting
- Upcoming Meetings
- Upcoming Education
- Safety Minute- Venomous Snake Safety
- Chapter Name Poll Results
- Region VI PDC
- Elections

# **ELECTIONS**

#### LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATES NEEDED! SEE PAGE 5

The opportunity for members to serve in a variety of chair positions is crucial for a robust Chapter and allows sharing of responsibilities. The election committee will be set up in September with an election taking place in April 2024.



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### REGISTER AT STARVALLEY.ASSP.ORG/EVENT

March 19	March Chapter Meeting
March 27	Webinar How EHS Mobile Technology Can Elevate Safety & Boost Productivity
April 8	April Chapter Meeting
Sep 10-20	Region VI PDC

**Chapter Recognition** 





## **MONTHLY MEETING**

#### **FEBRURAY: A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!**

February 12, 2024: 6pm - 8pm

In Attendance:

- Glenn Hargrove
- Amanda Sandidge Engstrom
- David McCrumb
- Diana Schwerha

Root cause analysis following an event is an important but unwelcome part of any health and safety professional's life. This meeting focused on cause studies where things went tragically wrong and the work that went into discovering the chain of events that lead to disaster. It highlights how important process management and failure analysis prior to an accident can be.





# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **MARCH AND APRIL CHAPTER MEETINGS**

March 19, 2024: 5:00pm - 7:30pm

**Topic:** "Artificial intelligence in industry and its utilization among young professionals" How AI is being used in the industry and the AI skills that employers would like to see in newly graduated engineers.

Speakers: IISE/ASSP Student Chapter Members

Address: Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, 1971 University

Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24515 Room: DeMoss 3424

April 8, 2024: 11:45am - 1:30pm

**Topic:** "DOPE: A Comprehensive Look" A serious look at the dangerous effects of illegal substances from a 25-year law enforcement veteran who has worked in the field of narcotics for the last 14 years as both a field agent and supervisor. Seating will be limited to 20.

**Speaker:** Virginia State Police (VSP) First Sergeant Joe Crowder **Address:** 102 Market St SE, Roanoke, Virginia, US, 24011

Register at https://starvalley.assp.org/event/



# **UPCOMING EDUCATION**

#### **HOW EHS MOBILE TECHNOLOGY CAN ELEVATE SAFETY & BOOST PRODUCTIVITY**

Date: March 27, 2024, Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

Format: Webinar

**Credits: 0.10 Continuing Education Units** 

#### Sponsored by Origami Risk

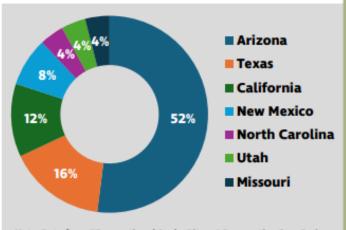
As today's safety landscape evolves, you must leverage technology to improve your organization's safety audits, inspections, incident reporting and more. Review real-world examples that showcase how mobile apps can elevate safety practices, streamline processes and improve data accuracy — all while enhancing overall productivity. Gain actionable insights and enrich your safety initiatives by applying best practices for mobile app adoption, including key features to consider, strategies to overcome challenges and methods to ensure seamless integration.

#### What You Will Learn

- Develop a better understanding of EHS mobile technology and how it can benefit your organization.
- Assess the various features of EHS mobile technology.
- Review best practices in implementing EHS mobile technology

# "Meaningful conversations in wildlife management and human-wildlife conflict cannot effectively take place until initial safety concerns are addressed. In the U.S., approximately 7,000 to 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes each year (NIOSH, 2021)."

# OCCUPATIONAL BITES BY STATE



Note. Data from "Occupational Snake Bites: A Prospective Case Series of Patients Reported to the ToxIC North American Snakebite Registry," by M.B. Spyres, A.-M. Ruha, S. Seifert, N. Onisko, A. Padilla-Jones & E.A. Smith, 2016, Journal of Medical Toxicology, 12(4), 365-369 (https://doi.org/10.1007/s13181-016-0555-7).

# **SAFETY MINUTE**

# VENOMOUS SNAKE SAFETY: BEST PRACTICES FOR OSH PROFESSIONALS & EMPLOYERS

The February edition of the Professional Safety Journal features an interesting read on the best practices when coming into contact with venomous snakes written by Kelly Triece.

"Venomous snakes live in various habitats such as forests, wetlands, grasslands and deserts. With the exception of Rhode Island, Maine, Alaska and Hawaii, snakes can be found in every U.S. state, although they are more common in the southern and western U.S. A jobsite in a rural environment or near open space may be near a snake habitat. One way to identify whether a jobsite is near a venomous snake habitat is to use the iNaturalist online community and database (www.inatural ist.org), which allows users to search crowdsourced observations by specific species and location. Another option is to check with local or national experts to determine the likelihood of venomous snakes occupying a jobsite. (...)"

"Treat the possibility of venomous snakebites as a workplace hazard. Outdoor jobsites are more likely to see venomous snake encounters. However, if a workplace has a large campus with nearby open space, snakes may find their way inside. Identify hot spots around the workplace. Snakes move throughout their habitat to find food, water and shelter. They may enter a campus, jobsite or building. Rodents and water both attract snakes looking for a meal. Additionally, snakes seek shelter for safety or to find their preferred climate conditions, lay eggs, birth young or shed their skin. Snakes can be found underneath trees, bushes and rocks, and in secluded areas where they can take shelter and hide. Small spaces, debris and piles of construction material can all serve as shelter for a snake. (...)"

"A snake safety plan is a document that defines staff behavior and establishes best practices to avoid snakebites. This includes best practices when encountering snakes and decision-making guidance (e.g., what staff should do or who they should call in the event of a snake encounter), details for trained snake handlers (e.g., how and when to move a snake or when to leave it alone), snake handling protocols (e.g., how to properly handle a snake, proper tools such as hooks, tongs, buckets and gaiters), and best practices for removal and relocation (e.g., logistics of capturing, storing and relocating a snake). Additionally, establish a snakebite management plan and standard operating procedures for addressing a snakebite. (...)" - Triece, K. (2024, Feb.). Venomous snake safety: Best practices for OSH professionals and employers. Professional Safety, 69(2), 12-15.

Be sure to check out the full article at <a href="https://www.assp.org/docs/default-source/psj-articles/bptriece\_0224.pdf?sfvrsn=21856c46\_0">https://www.assp.org/docs/default-source/psj-articles/bptriece\_0224.pdf?sfvrsn=21856c46\_0</a>

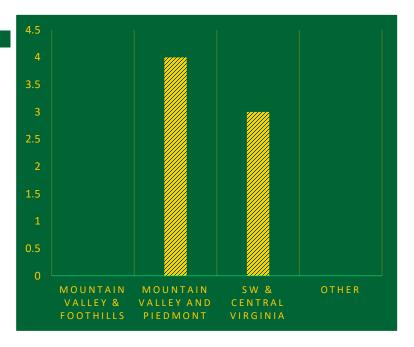
## CHAPTER NAME

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We asked you for feedback on the proposed chapter name changes. The poll was posted for two weeks on LinkedIn. A big thanks to all who participated!

Mountain Valley and Piedmont (MVP) inched out just ahead of SW and Central Virginia for the win. There will be additional feedback opportunities and discussions at upcoming meetings in the future.

Stay tuned for additional correspondence and specific details on this and other exciting chapter news.



# **2024 REGION VI PDC**

#### REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024 PDC IS NOW OPEN!

Join us in beautiful Virginia Beach, Virginia for our 2024 ASSP Region VI PDC! The "Biggest Little PDC" around is moving from its long time host in Myrtle Beach to Virginia for next year.

Are you passionate about Safety and Health? Are you an experienced and dynamic speaker who can help SH&E professionals develop skills, strategies and a mindset that enhances safety and health? If so, we invite you to submit a speaking proposal. Speakers should be able to inspire, entertain, engage and educate our attendees through interactive presentations or workshop that provide PRACTICAL takeaways.

This Annual Conference provides one of the most sought after events in the region for attendees to learn the profession's best practices focusing on Safety, Health, Industrial Hygiene & Environmental Issues. The Conference is attended by over 350+ attendees annually and features an Exhibit Hall of over 35+ Sponsors and Exhibitors. The three day event features 3 keynote speakers, 30 breakout sessions with 3 concurrent tracks.

If you're ready to join our conference as a speaker, submit your proposal before 1/31/24. Contact Amy Wangdahl at asspregionviprograms@gmail.com for questions or submission issues.





Working together for a safer, stronger future.®

# **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SERVE IN A VARIETY OF CHAIR POSITIONS IS CRUCIAL FOR A ROBUST CHAPTER AND ALLOWS THE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES. PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING YOURSELF OR OTHERS; REACH OUT TO JESSE PHILLIPS (JPHILLIPS@FANDR.COM).

POSITION	CURRENT OCCUPANT	NOMINEES
Chapter President	F. Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP	E. Glenn Hargrove, CIH, CSP, CHMM, PG
Delegate	F. Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP	Incumbent
Programs Chair	F. Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP	Incumbent
Vice President	Bob Drane, MS, CSP, OSHS	F. Carlton Davis, MSOS, CSP
Treasurer	David McCrumb	Incumbent
Secretary	Jesse D. Phillips, CIH, CSP	Amanda C Sandidge Engstrom, CIH, CSP
Government Affairs Chair	Bob Drane, MS, CSP, ASP, OSHS	Incumbent
Membership Chair	E. Glenn Hargrove, CIH, CSP, CHMM, PG	Steve Gordon
Communications Chair	Amanda C Sandidge Engstrom, CIH, CSP	Jesse D. Phillips, CIH, CSP
Nominations & Elections Chair	Vacant	Diana Schwerha
Jobs Chair	Vacant	Jesse D. Phillips, CIH, CSP
Awards and Honors	Vacant	John Domas

Want to know more about a specific position? See the summaries below for additional insight!

SUMMARY
<ul> <li>Preside at regular and special meeting of the Executive Committee and the membership.</li> <li>Represent the Chapter at meetings of other organizations.</li> <li>Be a member of the Area / Regional Operating Committee.</li> <li>Provide leadership for programs and activities for the Chapter.</li> <li>Appoint committees necessary to implement objectives of the Chapter.</li> <li>Submit an Annual Report of Chapter activities.</li> <li>Submit the names of Chapter officers and Advisory Group Members</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Succeed to the office of the President and carry out its duties If the President Is unable to serve.</li> <li>Assume responsibilities for the work of committees as assigned by the President.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Maintain Chapter records.</li> <li>Record and distribute minutes of meetings.</li> <li>Notify Chapter members of meetings.</li> <li>Assume the duties of the Treasurer as necessary.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Maintain all financial records of the Chapter.</li> <li>Supervise the receipt and disbursement of funds.</li> <li>Maintain Chapter funds in a depository.</li> <li>Transmit to Society Headquarters the audited income &amp; expenses.</li> <li>Submit to the IRS any required tax documents.</li> <li>Assume the duties of the Secretary as necessary.</li> </ul>