



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Southern Oregon Chapter

*Next Meeting—  
September 4th, 11:30  
am at Black Bear Diner*

## September Chapter Meeting

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

**Executive Committee:** 10:00 am

**Regular Meeting:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Program begins at noon.

**Location:** Black Bear Diner, 1150 E. Barnett  
Rd, Medford

**Topic: Review: Control of Hazardous Energy/Lockout/Tagout**



**Speaker:** Lenny Reiersen

We will touch on the history of Energy Control and why we need to keep focused on effective implementation of the elements of this program. We will also examine resources available to effectively train supervisors and employees to prevent the devastating type of injuries that have and can happen when servicing/maintaining equipment, machinery, and vehicles.

**Bio:** Lenny Reiersen started working for Oregon OSHA 33 years ago, after ten years in the Logging Industry and having graduated from college with an American literature degree. He started with Oregon OSHA as a safety compliance officer and has spent the last 28 years as a safety consultant. He consults with Southern Oregon employers in general industry, construction, logging, and has been involved in Oregon OSHA's VPP and SHARP programs since the early 1990's. He also is a training instructor for Oregon OSHA's Public Education Section, providing classes in a wide range of safety and health topics. He also provides safety presentations to safety conferences, associations, and employers.

### President's **Message**

By Michael Hill

The purpose of the American Society of Safety Professionals is to promote the advancement of the safety profession and foster the professional well-being and development of its members.

Some of the ways that we promote advancement and develop leadership in our chapter is by offering various opportunities for our members including the following:

1. Opportunities to serve on the executive committee each year to develop team and facilitation skills. We have an awesome team that . . .

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# President's Message

By Michael Hill

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. . . makes a difference in Southern Oregon!

2. Executive committee service for more than one year qualifies for an opportunity to attend the ASSP Leadership Conference in Chicago with expenses paid by the Chapter.

3. Opportunities to serve on other committees, such as the conference committee which plans our annual safety and health conference each year in October. Other committees include the nominations committee, financial audit committee, communications committee, and membership committee.

4. Mentorship program which matches up new safety professionals with experienced leaders. We have many success stories and love to help the next generation of safety leaders.

5. Discounted student memberships and resources, such as the Future Safety Leader's Conference, scholarships, and student member practice specialty.

6. Professional development conference. Each October, we offer one of the finest safety and health conferences in the Northwest. On the Tuesday before each conference, we hold an all-day professional development session led by a nationally recognized leadership expert.

7. Professional networking events, such as our monthly chapter meetings, Women in Safety Excellence (WISE), and networking mixer. Our chapter meetings are held at 11:30 am on the first Tuesday of most months. This year's networking mixer will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, October 16th, at the Ashland Hills Hotel in conjunction with the conference.

We are proud to serve our members well to help them advance in their profession. If you would like to learn more about any of these benefits, please check out our website [www.soassp.org](http://www.soassp.org) or contact one of our executive committee members found at the end of this newsletter.

Oh . . . and the website and newsletter are two more great examples of our commitment to serving our members with high-quality content. Please let us know if you appreciate the various resources that we provide. Our team works hard each month to put it together, and I'm sure they would appreciate hearing from you! In the last year, we have heard from members of the Portland Chapter and the Hawaii Chapter. These members found something that we provided beneficial.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure.

Yours in safety and health!

Michael Hill, CSP

ASSP – Southern Oregon Chapter President



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Southern Oregon Chapter

# Robotics in the Workplace —

## What Does It Mean?

By Susan Murphey

Today's robotics are taking many forms; they're designed to work alongside, move amongst, and be worn by human workers. As safety professionals, what does that mean? Will it lessen the risk of worker injury or simply give us new arenas for the transfer of risk? Guidelines for safe collaboration between workers and robots are still just beginning to emerge. At the very least, it will mean that best practices will need to be established on how to successfully incorporate safety into robotics projects in the workplace.

Industrial robots have been utilized in the workplace for decades. They can be used for tedious, dangerous, and dirty jobs that are fatiguing or less safe for humans to perform, thus decreasing risk and improving the quality of job tasks for the worker. However, rapid technological improvements in areas such as mobile robotics and exoskeleton technology may introduce new risks.

Robotic technology in the workplace may take the form of collaborative ("cobots") and coexisting robots, i.e. industrial robots with varying degrees of collaboration with the worker, or that "co-exist," working side-by-side with the worker. Powered exoskeletons are a burgeoning technology consisting of metal frameworks fitted with motorized "muscles" that can increase the wearer's strength or motor function. Industries are just beginning to explore the potential of these job-assist exosuits and robotic wearables. And while autonomous vehicles used for transportation have been in the news recently, there may be opportunities to utilize this growing technology in the work environment.

NIOSH recently established the Center for Occupational Robotics Research (CORR) to provide scientific leadership to guide the development and use of occupational robots. NIOSH will work in partnership with trade associations, labor organizations, robotic manufacturers, employers using robotic technology, researchers, and other federal agencies to do the following:

- Monitor trends in injuries associated with robotics technologies.
- Evaluate robotics technologies as sources of, and intervention for, workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Establish risk profiles of robotic workplaces.
- Identify research needs and conduct studies to improve the safety, health, and well-being of humans working with robots and robotic technologies.
- Support the development and adoption of consensus safety standards.
- Develop and communicate best practices, guidance, and training for safe interactions between human workers and robots/robotics technology.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/robotics/default.html>.

## Robotics Engineer **Barbie!**

By Susan Murphey

Yes, it's true! The latest doll introduced by Mattel is the Robotics Engineer Barbie. The career choice is intended to inspire girls to pursue the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math. She comes with her own safety goggles, a laptop, and, of course, a robot. I wonder if she's an ASSP member!

## Safety Conference Executive Session

Thursday, October 18th

By David Hanson

We've all been told that safety leadership starts at the top. We know that frontline staff will seldom put forth safety efforts that management doesn't understand or support. But do you ever wonder what exactly that means?

Come listen to three leaders who understand this concept through action. They will discuss some of the accomplishments and strategies to support and lead companies to world-class safety performance. Learn how to support frontline staff with their safety efforts.

We have three executives from world-class safety organizations. John White of Boise Cascade, Tim Hart of Durolast Roofing, and Tim Hennessey of Swanson Group will staff our panel discussion. Our moderator John Underwood, a safety leader in his own right, will help us crack the shell and draw out the secrets to safety leadership from these three leaders.

This executive session is also available to busy executives who can only attend Thursday morning and during the lunch hour. For additional information, go to [http://www.soassp.org/uploads/2/5/8/5/25852043/2018\\_southern\\_oregon\\_conference\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.soassp.org/uploads/2/5/8/5/25852043/2018_southern_oregon_conference_flyer.pdf).



## Sign Up for Citizen Alerts in the **Event of an Emergency**

By Susan Murphey

Rogue Valley Emergency Management has access to all landlines in Jackson and Josephine Counties for the purpose of sending citizen alerts for areas affected by local emergencies. However, if you do not have a landline, you may want to register your cell phone number so you receive alerts. To register your cell phone, visit [www.RVEM.org](http://www.RVEM.org).



## Introducing Roy Harper— **Newest Executive Committee Member** By Michael Hill

The Southern Oregon ASSP Chapter would like to welcome our newest executive committee member, Roy Harper from Medford School District. Roy has agreed to serve as the secretary of our chapter and will do a wonderful job. Roy was officially welcomed at the August 7th executive committee meeting. Thank you, Roy!



# Women in Safety Excellence

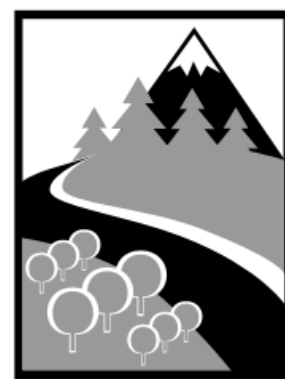
By Tanya Haakinson

Wondering what your local WISE (Women in Safety Excellence) group is doing these days? WISE, an ASSP common interest group, has been asked by our local workforce board to provide safety training to a Women-In-Trades group this fall. WISE has partnered with Rogue Valley SHRM to provide the training.

Five wonderful WISE volunteers will provide training on topics like safety committee operations, hazard ID, accident investigations, hazard communication aligned with GHS, forklift safety, fall protection, PPE, slips/trips/falls with ladder safety, LOTO, and machine guarding. Each volunteer will be training two cohorts (40 students total); each cohort is 8 weeks and involves applied math, hands-on tools and work projects, industry tours, and has a physical requirements component as well. The Women-In-Trades participants will earn a certificate for a pre-apprenticeship program. Thank you WISE and RV SHRM volunteers! You're helping to spread great safety knowledge to our Rogue Valley. Your dedication to safety is evident. Thank you!

## Volunteers:

Tanya Haakinson, Safety Director at Timber Products  
 Sarah Elkinton, HR/Safety Manager at Hershey's  
 Pam Ahr, Senior Safety Consultant at SAIF  
 Shyra Vaughn, HR/Safety Coordinator at Swanson Group  
 Cynthia Holm, EHS Consultant at EHS Maven



ROGUE VALLEY  
S H R M

## Celebrating Our **Members**

By Amy Stonehill

We'd like to recognize the following members for reaching membership milestones this quarter. Congratulations on your commitment to safety and ASSP!

5 years	10 years
Josh Johnson	David Hanson
	Michael Hill



# Can Robots Solve Hiring Difficulties?

By Susan Murphey

You may have heard recently about a company in Indiana that is piloting a program that offers drug treatment, paid for by the company, to job applicants who fail drug screen testing. The program, believed to be the first of its kind, is an acknowledgement of both the severity of the drug problem and the difficulty of finding qualified workers.

Meanwhile, in Wisconsin, a factory who can't find reliable workers is staffing their assembly line with robots. The line was intended for 12 workers, but between workers who didn't show up for their shift, others who had landed in jail for drug possession, and the difficulty of simply finding qualified workers, they were chronically short-staffed. This resulted in increased risk for injury for the remaining workers, decreased productivity, and the potential for quality control concerns.

Automation in American factories may have originally started as a means to improve cost-cutting and productivity, but the forces now driving automation may be evolving. The American demographic of workforce has changed—unemployment is low, Baby Boomers are retiring, and we have an incoming generation of workers who simply don't want factory jobs. Furthermore, the health of the workforce is besieged by challenges resulting from alcoholism, depression, and the use of opioids and other drugs. A report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that overdoses in the workplace had increased by 32% in 2016. Consequently, an increasing number of factories are "employing" robots because reliable humans have become so hard to find.

Robots have become more affordable—they can even be leased! Robot sales are at record highs, and new types of robots with increased sophistication are being developed and used in workplaces across the country. Moreover, with robots, there are no benefits to pay, drug testing concerns, or workers' compensation claims. The advantages of supplemental robots provide the opportunity for increased longevity of quality, seasoned workers. Solving staffing shortages means (human) laborers can work at a more tolerable pace rather than feeling like they're forever in catch-up mode, and risk-producing tasks can be rotated with or assigned to robots. As such, the robots are not taking somebody's job, they're preserving it.

## ASSP Networking Mixer **October 16th**

By Tanya Haakinson

Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30pm -7:00pm at the Ashland Hills Hotel Stardust Room, 2525 Ashland Street, Ashland, OR 97520.

Also, the 3M Fall Protection Truck will be in the hotel parking lot from 5:00pm – 5:25pm.

Who: The networking event is open to all conference attendees, PDC attendees, conference speakers, conference exhibitors and sponsors, conference hotel guests, and conference planning committee members.

What: Please join us for fun, games, prizes, vendors, demos, and more. The event will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres and light beverages, along with a no-host bar. Taxi services available non-gratis.

The ASSP Networking Event is a great way to get to know other ASSP members from around the Northwest and to meet with valued exhibit partners, sponsors, and talented presenters. Please come and enjoy a special night out with Southern Oregon ASSP!

RSVP: The event is limited to 50 guests. Please RSVP by Monday, October 1, 2018, to Tanya Haakinson at [thaakinson@timberproducts.com](mailto:thaakinson@timberproducts.com).

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## Upcoming Symposium Discussion on Robotics

By Susan Murphey

The Puget Sound Chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (PSHFES) will be hosting their annual symposium on September 13th in Des Moines, Washington. One of their keynote presentations will be given by Grant King, who will discuss robotics in the workplace—how it started, where we are now, and what the future holds.

Mr. King has been working in health and safety R&D at the Spokane Research Laboratory for the last 27 years. He is involved in the Center for Occupational Robotic Research (CORR). He received his degree in mechanical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. During his career, Mr. King has designed, built, and tested many kinds of mechanical and electro-mechanical prototypes, several of which have been commercialized.

For additional information on the PSHFES Symposium, go to <https://pshfes.org/page-1823713>.

## What Robotics Might Mean for **Return-to-Work**

By Susan Murphey

Recent articles in the May 2018 *Paraplegia News Journal* showed fascinating accommodations for paraplegics and quadriplegics through the use of robotic technology. Innovations such as exoskeletons enable those with spinal cord injuries to stand and walk with variable assist options for natural movement. Overhead hoists used to suspend a paralyzed mechanic over a car engine eliminate the need to stand. And gloves increase grip strength for high-functioning quadriplegics and others with limited hand dexterity.

These incredibly innovative solutions got me wondering if some of this technology could be borrowed for the injured worker to facilitate return-to-work; or maybe even reduce the risk for injury in the first place. Safety and ergonomics often require creativity and thinking outside the box. For instance, could muscular effort and/or fatigue be reduced or eliminated through the use of exoskeletons and, therefore, reduce the risk of overuse injuries? Would gloves with motorized assistance for gripping reduce the risk for hand fatigue or assist the worker who has already sustained such injuries? Perhaps someday robotics will be part of PPEs and safety gear provided to workers. Who knows?



Have You

## Marked Your Calendar?

By Tanya Haakinson

Reminder—Save the date for the Southern Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference reception!

ASSP Southern Oregon Chapter will host a special reception to award our first annual Safety Professional of the Year.



This event will be held in the Stardust Room on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at the Ashland Hills Inn, 5:30pm to 8:00pm.



**Disclaimer:** The content and views included in this newsletter are for educational purposes only. The Southern Oregon Chapter of ASSP and its Executive Committee and affiliated organizations disclaim any and all liability for claims that may arise out of the use of this educational content.

## Free Trainings Available!



Course	Location	Date
<a href="#">Lockout/Tagout and Machine Safeguarding</a>	Medford	09/12/2018
<a href="#">Confined Space Safety</a>	Medford	09/12/2018

### Online Courses

<a href="#">Hazard Identification and Control - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Inspections: What to Expect from Oregon OSHA - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Lead in Construction - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Lockout/Tagout - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Personal Protective Equipment - Online</a>	Online/Internet
<a href="#">Portable Ladder Safety - Online</a>	Online/Internet

**www.orosha.org**  
click on  
"Education"

#### Mail:

Oregon OSHA Public Education  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405  
**Fax:** 503-947-7462

#### Call:

Salem office  
503-947-7443  
or toll-free in Oregon  
888-292-5247, option 2

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# Training Opportunities



<http://www.d2000safety.com/>

## **Fall Protection Competent Person**

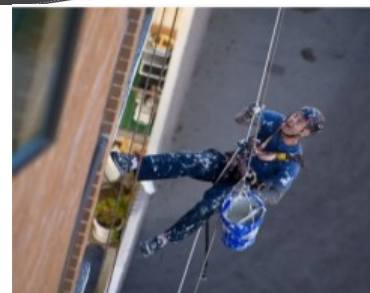
Eugene, Oregon—October 30-31, 2018

## **Forklift Safety Train the Trainer**

Eugene, Oregon—October 16, 2018

## **Confined Space Train The Trainer**

Eugene, Oregon—November 13-14, 2018



## Employment Opportunities

### **Safety and Environmental Manager—NIC—White City, OR**

Thinking practically and creatively to implement the best safety practices, the Safety and Environment Manager is responsible for company safety and environmental programs and all essential plans, policies, and procedures to ensure company compliance with local, state, and federal occupational health and safety regulations and guidelines (including OSHA, EPA, DEQ, etc.). The ideal candidate will create a positive, safety-oriented environment by working harmoniously with the Company's other business/operations groups.

[www.soassp.org/uploads/2/5/8/5/25852043/safety\\_manager-job-description.doc](http://www.soassp.org/uploads/2/5/8/5/25852043/safety_manager-job-description.doc)

### **Process Safety Management—Carestream—White City, OR**

An opening exists for a Process Safety Management Engineer within Carestream Health's Process Engineering Team, White City, Oregon. The person in this position will be responsible for the planning, implementation, and oversight of the regulatory-based Process Safety Management (PSM) Program and Risk Management Plan (RMP) for the factory. The individual will drive process improvements to key program elements such as PHA, mechanical integrity, and process safety information. The candidate will be expected to provide a strategic direction, leadership, and training in building the PSM capabilities of all plant personnel.

<https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=98f5c86825a804bf&tk>

### **Director of Risk Management—Asante—Medford, OR**

Asante is seeking a Director of Risk Management to lead a three-hospital healthcare system in Southern Oregon. As the largest healthcare provider in Southern Oregon and Northern California, this is an outstanding opportunity for a results-driven leader.

<https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=f3484ccac0641af7&tk>

For More Employment Opportunities, Please See Our Employment Page at: <http://soassp.org/employment>.

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# Mark Your Calendars

## General meeting:

Thursday, September 6th, 2018 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

No-host lunch

\*\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*\*

**Climate City Brewing**

509 SW G Street in Grants Pass

(Just off NW 6th & Hwy 99)

## This month's topic:

## Fire Safety

*Presented by: Joseph D. Hyatt, Battalion Chief—Fire Marshal, City of Grants Pass*

## The RSA — Providing Quality Safety Training for the Price of Lunch!

PLEASE JOIN US!!

Membership **not** required.



Check out our website at:

[www.redwoodsafety.org](http://www.redwoodsafety.org).



## Executive Committee 2018-2019

**President:** Michael Hill, SAIF Corporation—[michil@saif.com](mailto:michil@saif.com)

**Vice President:** David Hanson, SAIF Corporation—[davhan@saif.com](mailto:davhan@saif.com)

**Past President:** Pam Ahr, SAIF Corporation—[pamahr@saif.com](mailto:pamahr@saif.com)

**Secretary:** Roy Harper, Medford School District—[roy.harper@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:roy.harper@medford.k12.or.us)

**Treasurer:** Patti McGuire, SAIF Corporation—[patmcg@saif.com](mailto:patmcg@saif.com)

**Conference Chairs:** David Hanson, SAIF Corporation—[davhan@saif.com](mailto:davhan@saif.com)

Chris Lawrence, Boise Cascade—[chrislawrence@BoiseBuilding.com](mailto:chrislawrence@BoiseBuilding.com)

**Membership Coordinator:** Amy Stonehill, City of Medford—[amystonehill@yahoo.com](mailto:amystonehill@yahoo.com)

**Program Coordinator:** Tanya Haakinson, Timber Products—[thaakinson@timberproducts.com](mailto:thaakinson@timberproducts.com)

**Communications Coordinator:** Susan Murphey, Essential WorkWellness—

[info@essentialworkwellness.com](mailto:info@essentialworkwellness.com)

**Governmental Affairs Coordinator:** Gary Robertson, Oregon OSHA—[gary.l.robertson@oregon.gov](mailto:gary.l.robertson@oregon.gov)

**Operations Coordinator:** Pam Thoren, Medford School District—[pam.thoren@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:pam.thoren@medford.k12.or.us)



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