



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Maine Chapter

January 2024

Volume 2

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Editor...

Greetings Maine Chapter members and welcome to our second newsletter!

I hope everyone made it through the hectic holiday season and are off to a good start for 2024.

Right now, I've been busy collecting all the OSHA 300 Log data from the region I oversee and preparing them for electronic submission.

Soon I'll be scheduling travel to begin the cycle of site visits and training again.

The safety theme at my company this year is:

"24/7 – Safety Doesn't Take a Break!"

We are hoping to include more focus on safety outside of work, trying to instill the idea that safety doesn't end when you clock out for the day.

- Kurt

k

Winter Storms Batter Maine, Create Challenges for EHS Professionals!

The trio of wind-driven storms that rolled through Maine in late December/early January created a challenging scenario for EHS professionals. Anyone who was responsible for the safety of employees during these storms found themselves glued to the weather reports while they tried to anticipate where the most problems would surface.

Companies that make their living delivering goods and services on the highways found treacherous conditions and passage impossible. Wet, icy, snowy weather and washed-out bridges and roads made driving hazardous at best. Add in fallen trees and downed power poles and the situation was dire.

Companies that operate out of traditional brick-and-mortar facilities, if they were lucky enough to still have power and Internet, found other hazards affecting their employees. Slick, icy conditions in parking lots, sidewalks, and dock doors made walking tricky. High winds blowing debris around the property, knocking over trees, stripping shingles from roofs, and turning them into projectiles made moving around a gamble.

Waterfront businesses had even more of a challenge – flooded streets and parking lots were impassable. The flooding extended into the buildings themselves and in some cases, the buildings themselves were swept away.

All of these storm-related dangers put the EHS professional on edge and test their skill at keeping their charges out of harm's way.



DID YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES AS AN EHS PROFESSIONAL DURING THE WINTER STORMS? REACH OUT AND LET US KNOW AND WE WILL SHARE YOUR STORY:

president@maine.assp.org

MEET YOUR MAINE CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

President

Kurt Kirkland, CSP, CIT

Vice President/President Elect

Barbara Brennan, CSP, SMS, CIT, CHST

Secretary

Rose Wess, CSP

Treasurer

Alexis Flink, MS, OHST, WCP, CSP

Past President

Sean Ryan, CSP, CHSP

Program Chair

Tim McCarty, MSc, CSP, ARM, ALCM, CSSM, CPSI

Membership Chair

John Lowrie, CPP

Jobs Chair

Jared Rossingol, CUSP

Member-At-Large

Rob Deelsnyder, CHST, STSC

Member-At-Large

Nathan Boutwell, MEng, CSP, CIT, SMS, CUSP

The Board typically meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month; we maintain all our meeting minutes on the ASSP Maine Chapter website.

To contact your Board Members, go to: <https://maine.assp.org/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 17th...Executive Committee Mtg.

Jan 22nd...CSAM January Mtg

Feb 1st...ASSP SPY Nominations due!

Feb 20th...Virtual Technical Meeting – open to all chapter members

Feb 21st...Virtual Technical Meeting – open to all chapter members

Mar 2nd...OSHA 300 Logs due



Meet Your Board – An Opportunity to Learn More About Your Maine Chapter Leadership.

Board President: Kurt A. Kirkland, CSP, CIT

Current Position: Regional EHS Manager for Tosca Services, LLC

Home: Stockton Springs, ME

Summary: I grew up in Maine and attended Maine Maritime Academy. Following a 5-year stint sailing ocean-going tugboats, I came ashore and began a career in warehousing, distribution, logistics, and supply chain management. I got my first taste of safety as a profession working for a 3PL at a Procter & Gamble papermaking plant in Oxnard, CA.

I've been with Tosca for 11 years having started as a Site Safety Manager at their Salinas, CA service center in 2013. Currently, my region covers MA, PA, GA, TN, NC, IN, OH, and MS and has me on the road for a significant portion every year. I'd describe myself as a continuous learner who is very interested in progressive safety, that is, focusing more on solutions and less on blame.

My wife and I met at Brewer High School and moved back to Maine from California in the fall of 2019 before COVID was a thing...I've worked remotely ever since. My typical day (when not traveling) involves working from my home office, ever-present coffee mug in hand, with my two dogs at my feet.

I can be reached at my cell: (805) 798-0257 or email: kakirkland1961@gmail.com

Please send your questions, comments, suggestions, and feedback and I will respond as soon as I am able.

This Newsletter is not possible without the input from the Chapter Membership!

Chapter President: Kurt A. Kirkland president@maine.assp.org