

# Council on Practices & Standards



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ASSE's Practice Specialties and Branches give you the opportunity to network with other safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals in your specific field, share your knowledge with your peers through technical publications and stay informed of the latest SH&E research and developments.

With 17 Practice Specialties and eight Branches from which to choose, we help you make the most of your ASSE membership.

## What are Practice Specialties and Branches?

Practice Specialties are technical subgroups of the Society. The 17 Practice Specialties are:

### Practice Specialties

- Academics (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/academics/>)
- Construction (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/construction/>)
- Consultants (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/consultants/>)
- Engineering (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/engineering/>)
- Environmental (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/environmental/>)
- Ergonomics (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/ergonomics/>)
- Fire Protection (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/fireprotect/>)
- Healthcare (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/healthcare/>)
- Industrial Hygiene (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/industrialhygiene/>)
- International (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/international/>)
- Management (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/management/>)
- Manufacturing (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/manufacturing/>)
- Mining (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/mining/>)
- Oil & Gas (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/oilgas/>)
- Public Sector (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/publicsector/>)
- Risk Management/Insurance (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/riskmanagement/>)
- Transportation (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/transportation/>)

Of these 17 Practice Specialties, eight have the following Branches:

### Branches

- Agricultural (Environmental)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/ag-safety/>)
- Health & Wellness (Healthcare)
- Human Resources (Management)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/humanresources/>)

- Legal Services (Consultants)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/legalservices/>)
- Military (International)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/military/>)
- Service (Management)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/service/>)
- Training & Communications (Risk Management/Insurance)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/trainingcommunication/>)
- Utilities (Construction)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/utilities/>)

ASSE's Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS), with support from ASSE staff, governs the Practice Specialties and Branches as well as the following committees and Common Interest Groups:

#### **Committees**

- Body of Knowledge Committee (<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/bok/index.php>)
- Business of Safety Committee (<http://www.asse.org/professionalaffairs-new/bosc/>)
- Standards Development Committee (<http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/secretariats.php>)

#### **Common Interest Groups**

- Blacks in Safety Engineering (BISE)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/bise/index.php>)
- Safety Professionals & the Latino Workforce (SPALW)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/spalw/index.php>)
- Women in Safety Engineering (WISE)  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/wise/index.php>)
- Young Professionals in SH&E  
(<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/yp/index.php>)

Overall, CoPS is the primary body responsible for development, maintenance and delivery of the Society's technical knowledge and expertise.

#### **Benefits of Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group Membership**

##### **Share Your Knowledge with Your Peers**

“Depending on where your individual scope of work takes you, joining a Practice Specialty can open doors through communication networks as well as through publications and research,” says Joe Schwed, CSP.

As a Practice Specialty/Branch member, you have access to several online publications to which you may contribute technical articles, white papers, case studies and other materials.

Each Practice Specialty, Branch and Common Interest Group produces a triannual electronic newsletter. Newsletter content comes from volunteer members of Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups, who, according to Jeff Camplin, CSP, CPEA “want to make a difference in their ‘niche’ of the SH&E profession.”

##### **Practice Specialty newsletter titles include:**

Academics—*The Educator/JSHER*\*

Construction—*Blueprints*  
Consultants—*The Advisor*  
Engineering—*By Design*  
Environmental—*EnviroMentor*  
Ergonomics—*Interface*  
Fire Protection—*Fireline*  
Healthcare—*HealthBeat*  
Industrial Hygiene—*The Monitor*  
International—*World Focus*  
Management—*The Compass*  
Manufacturing—*Safely Made*  
Mining—*Inside Global Mining*  
Oil & Gas—*Well-Informed*  
Public Sector—*Perspectives*  
Risk Management/Insurance—*RM/Insight*  
Transportation—*TransActions*

\*The Academics Practice Specialty sponsors the *Journal of Safety, Health and Environmental Research* (JSHER), an online publication of peer-reviewed theoretical and empirical manuscripts, reviews and editorials devoted to SH&E issues and practices, which comes out two times per year.

**Branch newsletters include:**

Agricultural—*AgSafety*  
Health & Wellness—title to be determined  
Human Resources—*HR Solutions*  
Legal Services—*Legally Speaking*  
Military—*Military Matters*  
Service—*@ Your Service*  
Training & Communications—*The Communicator*  
Utilities—*The Utility Connection*

In addition to these publications, you may share your knowledge through the Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group websites and social networking groups. The Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups also frequently sponsor webinars on timely SH&E topics.

Says Camplin, “Each practice specialty provides unique, industry-specific guidance and insight on today’s SH&E issues as well as knowledge and skill sets considered necessary for the SH&E profession’s future.”

**Network & Connect with Members Worldwide**

One of the most worthwhile benefits of belonging to a Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group is the ability to network with other SH&E professionals from around the world. Below Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group officers discuss their own networking experiences:

“When I joined ASSE in 1998, International Practice Specialty (IPS) members welcomed me at the Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Seattle, WA, and since their warm reception, I have gained a valuable network of friends, colleagues and contacts. I have been able to share my experiences with my work ‘down under’ at PDCs and at other conference with many other IPS members.

As those of us who work in the global arena know, handling SH&E issues for multinational companies can be challenging. You must consider the obstacles of implementing a typical SH&E program in different parts of the world and the cultural situations that may help or hinder your company's SH&E performance. To have access through the IPS to such a network of knowledge and experience has been of immense value to me personally and to my work within my company. I believe this has helped me manage an effective global SH&E program and management system.

By maintaining the strength of the Practice Specialty through our membership, I believe we can help safety professionals working in other countries develop a sustainable 'safety culture' based on their skills and experience.”—Neil Dine, CRSP

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“The relationships that IPS has established with other global trade associations like the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) in the United Kingdom and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineers (CSSE) in Canada have become models for ASSE's entire development strategy. This includes the formation of the ASSE Global Task Force, the expansion of the international Chapter Network and the development of international SH&E forums and workshops. Developing relationships with other SH&E professionals from around the world and sharing experiences is gratifying and fulfilling.”—Jack Fearing, CPEA

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“Membership in a Practice Specialty is akin to belonging to a focus group. The Practice Specialties allow members to align themselves with professionals of like kind for consultation, advisement, networking and fellowship.”—Wayne Jones, Ed.D

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“Membership in the Practice Specialties has expanded my network by allowing me to discuss various issues with people within my specific area of expertise. I know that when I have a problem, the answer is only a telephone call or e-mail message away. As a consultant, my clients expect me to get them quality answers they can use and to get them efficiently.”—Eric Stager, CSP, CIH

By joining a group tailored to your specific line of work, you do not isolate yourself—you expand your professional circle and connect with those whom you may never have met otherwise.

**Access Resources to Help You Do Your Job Better**

“One constant that I have experienced in this field since the day I have entered it is change. The SH&E profession has evolved dramatically since my first day on the job over 30 years ago. What better way to keep up with and understand change than by surrounding yourself with the best the safety field has to offer and by being part of that change?” says C. Gary Lopez, CSP.

The Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups know how important it is for you to be at the forefront of this change, especially when it directly affects the work you do. “Membership in a Practice Specialty gives you access to emerging trends and legislation,” says Jack Fearing, CPEA.

“Since my role as a Safety Manager has shifted to risk management, the Practice Specialties give me the background information and knowledge I need to perform my duties,” explains Patricia Kagerer, CSP, ARM.

Mark Oldham, CSP, not only appreciates the technical publication articles, which are “immediately useful” to him in his job, but also his “affiliation with high achievers in the SH&E profession” who make him “strive for higher personal objectives.”

Whether it is access to high-caliber publications or to other high-achieving SH&E professionals, the Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups are dedicated to providing its members with the resources they need to do their jobs even better.

### **Form Alliances & Friendships**

When you join a Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group, you become part of a community. The bonds you form with your fellow group members can turn into lifelong friendships.

Attests George Pearson, CSP, ARM, “I have found over the 34 years I have been in ASSE and in particular with my leadership roles at the Chapter, Region and Practice Specialty levels, I have come in contact with the best and brightest of the safety profession, which makes me proud. Also, during those same 34 years, I made the best of friends while engaged in the Society’s volunteer projects. Having access to people whom you can trust and for whom you have a high level of respect is a big benefit. At this stage of my career, I feel that the alliances and friendships I have formed are one of the greatest benefits of belonging to the Practice Specialties.”

### **Grow Personally & Professionally**

Mentoring other members or volunteering for service and leadership positions are just a few ways Practice Specialty/Branch/Common Interest Group membership can enhance your personal and professional growth. The Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups encourage active participation and are always available to support you in your efforts.

ASSE’s Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups exist for and belong to *you*, our members. As SH&E professionals, you cover a broad range of industries but have very specialized needs, and the Practice Specialties/Branches/Common Interest Groups intend to meet those needs while embracing the diversity of the SH&E profession.