



# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER / OCTOBER 2026



## CONNECTED BY SAFETY

Chapter news, shared learning, and opportunities to get involved.

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Training, chapter learning, and holiday lunch
- 03**    **WHAT YOU MISSED**  
Crabbing and book club connections
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Community support and MOSH Fatal Facts advocacy

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn together. Connect with your chapter. Get involved.

**OCT 27**

## **Free First Aid / CPR / AED training**



SCAN TO REGISTER

**Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Lighthouse Church  
6691 Baymeadow Dr., Unit 200, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Free for ASSP Chesapeake Chapter members, facilitated by authorized National Safety Council trainers. Lunch included at no additional cost.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**NOV 13**

## **Get Comfortable being Uncomfortable**

**Presented by Christopher LaRocca, CSP**

**Friday, November 13 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Hosted by ECS • Lunch provided.  
1340 Charwood Road, Suite B, Hanover, MD 21076

What if the greatest obstacle to improving safety isn't a lack of knowledge, resources, or commitment, but your own fear?

Attendees will receive The Fearless Organization by Amy Edmondson. Visit the chapter website to register.

**DEC 11**

## **Heart of the Matter**



SCAN TO REGISTER

**Friday, December 11 | 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Holiday lunch • Kelsey's Irish Pub, Ellicott City, MD

\$20/member; free for new members who joined in 2026 and student members. The chapter will match any Toys-for-Tots donation from our membership.

[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN](#)

# WHAT YOU MISSED

Chapter connections on the water and through shared learning.

## A DAY ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

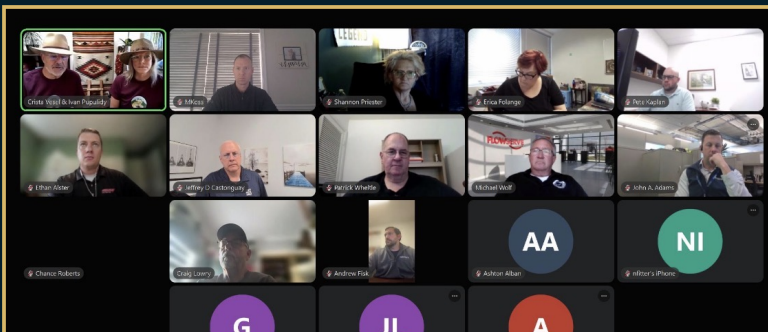
On September 30, members enjoyed the annual crabbing trip, bringing together crabbing, networking, and camaraderie on the water.



Annual chapter crabbing trip | September 30, 2026

## OCTOBER BOOK CLUB

Guest authors Ivan Pupulidy and Crista Vesel joined chapter members to discuss key themes from their book.



### NEXT MONTH'S READ

EQ For the Safety Leader  
by Camille Oaks

Interested in joining? Contact Matt Koss:  
[Matthew.Koss2@gmail.com](mailto:Matthew.Koss2@gmail.com)

# CHAPTER NEWS

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Safety beyond the jobsite. Lessons that strengthen prevention.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG LEARNERS

The ASSP Chesapeake Chapter sponsored the 2025 Carroll County 4-H small engine competitions through Carroll County 4-H. These competitions help young people learn about engineering, agriculture, and safety, while testing tractor safety knowledge, equipment operation, and maneuvering and driving skills.

## ADVOCATING FOR MOSH FATAL FACTS

The chapter submitted a September 10, 2026 letter to Maryland Division of Labor and Industry Commissioner Devki K. Virk, requesting that Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) reinstate its Fatal Facts program.

The letter describes Fatal Facts as a way to turn workplace fatality investigations into practical lessons for employers, workers, and safety professionals. Concise incident summaries can help teams recognize recurring hazards and examine controls before similar events happen.

The chapter highlights the value of these lessons for toolbox talks, supervisor briefings, job hazard analyses, safety committee meetings, and refresher training.

### READ THE FULL LETTER

The complete two-page letter follows, with the chapter's request, supporting discussion, and contact information.



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

## Chesapeake Chapter

September 10, 2026

sent via email: [devki.virk@maryland.gov](mailto:devki.virk@maryland.gov)

Devki K. Virk  
Commissioner  
Division of Labor and Industry  
10946 Golden West Drive, Suite 160  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Re: Public Sector Workplace Violence Legislation and MOSH Fatal Facts

Commissioner Virk,

I am writing on behalf of the Chesapeake Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals. For more than 100 years, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) has been a steadfast champion of occupational environmental safety and health (EHS), grounded in solid science, sound technology and effective public policy. Our members, along with organizations and companies across industries, understand that workplace safety and health function most effectively through strong partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH), an agency under your direction as Commissioner, previously had a program called "MOSH Fatal Facts". The program, tailored after the Mine Safety Health Administrations program, was a fatality-prevention communication tool that quickly turned occupational deaths into practical safety lessons for the community.

When a fatal accident occurs, MSHA investigates the event and publishes fatality information such as a Fatality Alert, preliminary report, and final investigative report. These materials typically describe what happened, identify the accident classification, summarize contributing conditions, and list best practices that may have prevented the death. Although the reports arise from mining incidents, the lessons often apply broadly to high-hazard work involving mobile equipment, machinery, lockout/tagout, falls, ground control, material handling, explosives, and contractor activities.

With 80 fatalities in 2022, 69 in 2023, and 93 in 2024, reinstating Fatal Facts would be a valuable tool in preventing future tragedies and improving workplace safety

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across Maryland. For safety and health professionals, each alert functions as a concise case study that can be used in toolbox talks, supervisor briefings, job hazard analyses, safety committee meetings, incident investigation training, and refresher training. The format helps safety leaders move beyond general reminders by showing real-world failure points, the types of controls that were missing or ineffective, and the corrective practices that should be checked before similar work continues. This makes Fatal Facts especially useful for identifying recurring patterns, benchmarking internal programs against federal or state findings, and reinforcing critical controls before a near miss becomes a fatality.

Organizations can use Fatal Facts proactively by reviewing new alerts when they are issued, comparing the incident circumstances to their own operations, and asking whether the same exposure could exist at their sites. Safety professionals can then verify applicable procedures, training, equipment condition, traffic controls, guarding, blocking, communication practices, and emergency response expectations. In this way, Fatal Facts supports a broader prevention culture: it gives employers and safety practitioners credible, timely, fact-based examples that can drive hazard recognition, corrective action, and worker engagement before a serious injury or fatality occurs.

In closing, we respectfully request that MOSH consider re-implementing the MOSH Fatal Facts program to increase awareness of workplace fatalities and the lessons learned from these incidents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments, or simply to discuss further via cel: 412.722.7630 or via email at [matthew.koss2@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.koss2@gmail.com).

Thanks,

*Matt Koss*

Matthew P. Koss, MEng, CSP, ARM  
President - ASSP Chesapeake Chapter

cc:

- ASSP Chesapeake Chapter Executive Committee Members:
  - Adrian Hernandez - 1st Vice President
  - Peter Kaplan, CSP, CHST, SMP - 2nd Vice President
  - Marty Smith, SET, CFPS, GROU - Secretary
  - Michael A Wolf, CSP - Treasurer
  - Ned Fitter - Advisory Group Member
  - Craig D Lowry, CSP - Member-At-Large Director