



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

March 31, 2021

Safety 2021: FAQs

When and where is Safety 2021?

Safety 2021 will be held Sept. 13-15 as a hybrid event. The in-person professional development conference and exposition will be presented at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, TX, and our virtual conference and exposition will be delivered online through our education event platform.

What is a hybrid conference?

A hybrid conference means there will be education and activities taking place both on site in Austin, TX, as well as online. While some programming will be different, there will be shared experiences such as live-streamed general sessions to bring all attendees together. We will announce the full program later this spring when registration opens.

Why shift the date and location?

The safety and health of all involved remain our highest priority. We know that many members are eager to meet face-to-face with their ASSP colleagues, learn new things and see the latest safety innovations in person. Based on what we currently know about the pandemic, vaccine administration and projections about travel safety, we believe a hybrid event delivered in September offers ASSP the best opportunity to deliver our conference in a way that is mindful of the public safety and health challenges we continue to face due to the pandemic.

In addition, by offering a concurrent online program, we can provide a valuable learning experience for those not yet ready or able to travel, while enhancing the learning opportunities for those able to attend the live event.

What safety and health protocols will be in place to protect people who attend in person?

Our safety team is reviewing a wide range of safety and health protocols to mitigate risk of infection during the in-person event. Face coverings will be required to attend and participate in ASSP events held in the Austin Convention Center.

In addition, we continue to discuss measures such as contactless registration, physical distancing, regular cleaning, one-directional aisles, designated entrances/exits and seating limitations in meeting rooms. We will also promote good hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. We will share more information about specific safety and health protocols that will be required for all participants as we get closer to the event.

It's also important to note that based on our analysis of how we can best provide a safe, healthy environment for attendees, we will not provide traditional conference lunches as part of the event. We are confident there will be plenty of safe food options available to attendees. The Austin Convention Center is conveniently located near a wide range of restaurants that are following local COVID-19 protocols, and we are exploring additional alternatives to ensure our attendees have plenty of safe food options while attending the conference. We are also adjusting the schedule to make sure you have adequate time for lunch each day.

Lastly, we won't be holding board, council or committee meetings, nor will we be hosting lounges, receptions, dinners or retreats.



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What factors did ASSP consider?

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continuously monitored and assessed various factors with respect to delivering in-person education. These include:

- rules and guidance at the federal, state, local and facility levels
- evolving public health and safety protocols and vaccination projections;
- the safety and health of our members, speakers, exhibitors, volunteers and staff
- financial models;
- business trends, including travel forecasts for 2021.

These factors remain fluid, and we will continue to monitor them in the coming months to ensure we can deliver a safe, informative, inspiring and fun event that also makes good business sense for ASSP.

What can I look forward to at Safety 2021?

You can expect a unique conference experience that is mindful of the public safety and health concerns we continue to face due to the pandemic.

During Safety 2021, you will:

- Learn from industry-leading speakers and instructors
- Safely interact with your colleagues during sessions
- Meet with exhibitors and see their new products and services
- Grow your network in new ways by using virtual tools

You also will know that your safety and health is our top priority. We assure you we will follow all appropriate protocols to deliver a safe event. These protocols will likely affect things such as the number and size of sessions, the time between sessions, exposition layout and in-person interactions. We also anticipate fewer hand-out materials, such as bags and brochures, and greater use of the Safety 2021 mobile app to deliver the latest content and information.

Please stay tuned for more details as we finalize program information. We value your trust, and we are committed to communicating with you about what to expect, whether you will join us in Austin, participate online or both.

Will there be an exposition at Safety 2021?

Yes! Exhibitors are excited to see members and showcase their latest product innovations and best-in-class services. As with all elements of the conference, protecting your safety and health is our priority. We are working with the convention center to determine appropriate configurations, spacing and similar details. We are also building specific expo-only time into the event schedule so you are better able to visit booths and connect with exhibitors. Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional opportunity to safely interact with exhibitors and identify solutions to your organization's safety challenges. Please stay tuned for more information.

Our online event will also include a virtual exposition where you can interact with exhibitors to learn about new products/services, ask questions, request Zoom meetings and gather more information. Please stay tuned for more information.

How much is registration and what does it include?

We are finalizing Safety 2021 fees and will announce them when we launch registration later this spring. Safety 2020 was approximately \$755, and we anticipate fees for Safety 2021 will be equal to or less than that.





If you attend in person in Austin, you can earn up to 1.2 continuing education units (CEUs). You will also have access to all the online sessions, which make available another 6.0 CEUs, for a total of 7.2 CEUs. Virtual-only registrants can earn up to 6.0 CEUs. Look for more details when Safety 2021 registration opens in late spring.

We are working to make the registration fees accessible, understanding that many of our members continue to have limited professional development and travel budgets. Please stay tuned for more information and thank you for your patience as we finalize those details.

I have a credit on my account from Safety 2020. Will I be able to use it for Safety 2021?

Yes! If you will not be able to attend Safety 2021 either virtually or in person, please contact Customer Service at +1 847-699-2929 or customerservice@assp.org to explore other options for applying your credit.

Will there be ancillary events?

We recognize that award ceremonies, lunches, receptions and other special gatherings often enhance your in-person conference experience. However, due to physical distancing and public health requirements, many ancillary events traditionally held in conjunction with the in-person conference will shift to virtual events presented at another time to be most accessible to all members. Here are some specifics on what we know now:

- **Community Receptions/Leader Receptions:** We will not host community receptions or a Past Presidents/Fellows dinner as part of the in-person Safety 2021 experience. The in-person experience will offer new ways to engage. During the pandemic, ASSP communities have brought networking into our homes in various fun and interesting ways, and we expect to see more of the same during the conference. We will continue our year-round virtual engagement with the past presidents and Fellows.
- **Luncheons and Award Ceremonies:** We will not hold recognition luncheons during the in-person event. We will deliver all awards and recognition ceremonies virtually. Awards and recognition are an important part the ASSP membership experience and virtual delivery provides access to all members.
- **Lounges:** There will be no in-person lounges at Safety 2021.
- **Retreats:** The ASSP WISE personal development retreat will not be offered at Safety 2021. The ASSP WISE community will continue to offer valuable online programming to its community. Joining WISE is the best way to stay up to date about the group's programming and networking events.
- **House of Delegates:** The annual House of Delegates meeting will be held as a separate virtual event.
- **Board, Committee and Council Meetings:** All meetings of the Board of Directors, Society councils and committees, and regional operating committees are being held virtually in the 2021-22 program year per the recession budget.

Please stay tuned for more information on the virtual events and watch your email for updates.

What role will volunteer leaders have at Safety 2021?

We are working through many of these details as we continue to develop the programs for the in-person and virtual events.

In planning for FY22 (April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022), we made the prudent financial decision to continue the recession budget, including ongoing restrictions on travel funding. While the FY22 budget contains a limited amount of funding for travel, that investment is designed to enable us to deliver a successful in-person conference later this year.





This means that we will offer travel reimbursement for only a limited number of volunteer leaders who attend Safety 2021 in Austin. For example, based on what we know today, we plan to cover travel expenses for the immediate past president and president who will have official on-site roles during Safety 2021. While other board members may attend the in-person event — for example, some may be presenting a session — they will be responsible for their own travel expenses. There will also be a small group of staff members on site to fulfill key roles during the conference.

Furthermore, as part of our measured financial decision-making process, we will eliminate things like business meetings, the presidential suite and VIP lounges, as well as ancillary events such as the House of Delegates, awards dinners and receptions and similar events.

We value your trust, and we will continue to share regular updates with you as our outlook evolves. We appreciate your interest, involvement and leadership, and thank you for your engagement and support.

Will this change affect any conferences planned by ASSP regions?

The Board of Directors and staff team are working closely and communicating regularly with regional leaders about the PDCs they have planned later this year. Through this outreach, we have built stronger relationships with these leaders, developed common understanding about the Society's decision-making related to Safety 2021 and created new paths for engagement and collaboration. As part of one organization, we all recognize that delivering Safety 2021 is critical business activity for ASSP.

What happens with Safety 2021 if the pandemic doesn't subside as expected?

We are working diligently to ensure we have as much flexibility as possible to present the in-person part of Safety 2021. We will continue to monitor the situation and we are committed to communicating with you as developments occur. In addition, the virtual conference will maximize our ability to deliver top-quality education to you even if the public health situation doesn't improve as expected and we can't offer an event in person.

Will ASSP return to Denver, CO, in the future?

It is our goal to return to Denver for a future professional development conference and exposition. We will provide regular updates as we finalize plans.

Can we ask ASSP's Board of Directors about this decision?

Please send your questions to customerservice@assp.org at any time. We will do our best to address your inquiries. Our Board Connection Series also offers opportunities to talk with members of the board.

If I have other questions, who should I call?

- Attendees: ASSP Customer Service +1 847-699-2929; customerservice@assp.org
- Safety and health protocols: Lauren Bauerschmidt, CSP, STS; lbauerschmidt@assp.org
- Groups: Nancy O'Toole; notoole@assp.org
- Sponsors: Andy Kraft; akraft@assp.org
- Speakers: Bonnie Lipinski; blipinski@assp.org
- Pre/post-conference course instructors: Cindy Milner; cmilner@assp.org
- Exhibitors: Hall Erickson; +1 630-434-7779; safety@heexpo.com

