# The Gold Coast Safety Times

*The Newsletter of the American Society of Safety Engineers*  
*Gold Coast Chapter*

**October - December 2015**

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## Upcoming Chapter Events and Meetings

- **Our next meeting will be held October 22nd @ 9:00 am**
- **Topic:** Update on Confined Space Standards in the Construction Industry
- **Joint Meeting with South Florida Federal Safety and Health Council**
- **Speaker - Vergie Bain - OSHA**

Note: there will be no meetings in November or December.

The first meeting of 2016 will be held on January 28th.

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If you have an idea for a newsletter topic or would like to submit an article please contact Kathleen Clair at katieclair@yahoo.com

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*The Gold Coast Safety Times* is published periodically to members of the ASSE Gold Coast Chapter. This newsletter is compiled by the Chapter Secretary based upon contributions from members. To make a contribution to the newsletter or for questions, comments or additional information, contact Kathleen Clair at katieclair@yahoo.com

Join us on Facebook for updates and other safety related news:  
[ASSE Gold Coast Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/goldcoastasse)  
Check us out on the web at:  
[www.goldcoast.asse.org](http://www.goldcoast.asse.org)
President’s Message

Greetings!

I think we can all agree that once again our new chapter year is off to a tremendous start! We had an amazing presentation from Larry Dinoff of Robson Forensic last month who spoke on Tribology, which is the measurement of walking and working surfaces. Response was tremendous and we were very close to maxing out our seating.

In October we will welcome Vergie Bain of OSHA to discuss Confined Space Standards in the Construction Industry. We will then take a short break for November and December, before returning to our normal meeting schedule in January.

As a reminder, our meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month (9am to 11:30am) at the Palm Beach County Risk Management Meeting Room located at 100 Australian Avenue, Room 1-470 in West Palm Beach.

It is clear that our Chapter is growing and the best is yet to come! I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

Regards,

Scott Marting CSP, ARM
President, Gold Coast Chapter
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Are you a member of the ASSE Construction Practice Specialty?

If so, check out https://construction.asse.org

ASSE is looking for technical articles and materials – if you are interested in writing an article for the Construction Practice Specialty it can be submitted by visiting:

http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/write/

And while you are there check out ASSE’s Body of Knowledge (BOK) where you will find professional guidance, best practices, and policies and procedures!
NEWSLETTER SAFETY TOPIC

Flood Preparedness and Response

Floods can be serious catastrophes and they are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Floods can be caused by a variety of factors, including a sudden accumulation of rain, rising rivers, tidal surges, ice jams and dam failures.

OSHA and NOAA are working together on a public education effort aimed at improving the way people prepare for and respond to severe weather. This page is designed to help businesses and their workers prepare for floods, and to provide information about hazards that workers may face during and after a flood event.

Workers who have to respond to flooded areas face the greatest risks from floods, but all workers can help protect themselves by preparing evacuation plans and learning about the hazards commonly associated with floods.

The Preparedness page (https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/flood/preparedness.html) provides information on making an evacuation plan, emergency supply kits, and flood watches and warnings. This planning information can help you ensure that you are ready to evacuate in an orderly manner before rising waters impact your business or residence, or your evacuation routes.

The Response/Recovery page (https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/flood/response.html) provides useful details on the hazards to avoid when flooding has occurred. This includes areas to avoid when using a vehicle, and safety and health hazards such as downed electrical lines, mold and wild animals.
## Warning Systems

**Flood Watch**: Flooding is possible. Monitor radio and television stations for more information.

**Flash Flood Watch**: Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; monitor radio and television stations for more information.

**Flood Warning**: Imminent threat - Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

**Flash Flood Warning**: Imminent threat - A flash flood is occurring or will occur soon; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

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### SeminarFest 2016

**ASSE’s SeminarFest 2016 Offers Safety Professionals Opportunities to Grow Skillsets**

**Park Ridge, Illinois** (Sept. 9, 2015) – The American Society of Safety Engineers, the world’s oldest professional safety society, encourages occupational health and safety professionals to hone their knowledge and skills, including the potential of earning recertification points, by registering now for SeminarFest 2016, Feb. 5-11, 2016 in Las Vegas.

Each year, ASSE’s SeminarFest offers more than 80 sessions ranging from one to three days in length, with each providing essential technical, management and skill development on a comprehensive range of topics for OSH professionals across the full spectrum of practice. By attending these seminars during the week, participants can earn up to 5.1 CEU/Recertification Points.

“SeminarFest is a unique opportunity to become engaged in an educational event that carries with it a wide variety of training topics participants cannot experience anywhere else,” said Trudy Goldman, ASSE manager of Education and Program Development. “The instructors are high-caliber safety professionals, all of whom are considered content and thought leaders in their field.”
Aside from the eight preparation workshops and more than 80 seminars, participates may work toward a certificate in Safety Management, Executive Program in Safety Management, Global Safety Management and Risk Assessment. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the week-long event, as well as take advantage of the networking opportunities with safety professionals from across the globe.

“SeminarFest is an ideal way for participants to propel their occupational health and safety careers by improving their skills, earning recertification points and networking with industry thought leaders,” Goldman said.

To register, please visit http://seminarfest.asse.org.

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**Federal Government Updates**

**OSHA extends comment period for proposed rule clarifying employers' continuing obligation to make and maintain accurate records of injuries, illnesses**

WASHINGTON - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is extending the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed rule that clarifies an employer's continuing obligation to make and maintain an accurate record of each recordable injury and illness. The comment due date has been extended to Oct. 28, 2015.

OSHA issued this proposed rule in light of the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *AKM LLC v. Secretary of Labor (Volks)* to clarify its long-standing position that the duty to record an injury or illness continues for as long as the employer must keep records of the recordable injury or illness. The proposed amendments add no new compliance obligations; the proposal would not require employers to make records of any injuries or illnesses for which records are not already required.

The proposed rule was published in the July 29, 2015, issue of the Federal Register. Members of the public can submit written comments on the proposed rule at [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. See the Federal Register notice for submission details.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).
OSHA revises publication to protect the safety of firefighters

WASHINGTON - Firefighting is urgent and stressful work, and decisions are often made without vital information on the hazards that exist. To better protect emergency responders in these situations, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has revised its manual, *Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems*.

The revised manual explains how fire personnel can resolve an incident sooner and in a safer manner if a building design is tailored to meet their needs during an emergency. The manual includes: new chapters on water supply and integrating design elements to protect fire personnel during a building’s construction, occupancy and demolition phases; new sections on energy conservation, emergency power, and room and floor numbering; and additional photos to help explain concepts. The manual is aimed at helping emergency responders during fires and other emergencies such as hazardous material releases, emergency medical care, non-fire rescues and terrorist attacks.

Recently, a Denver firefighter died after falling 25 feet through a skylight. OSHA's manual addresses this and many other types of building-related hazards for emergency responders.

"Structural fires present hazards that can result in serious injury or death for emergency personnel who respond to them," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "This revised manual offers practical and relevant information to help emergency responders stay safe while doing their jobs."

OSHA’s *Fire Safety* webpage contains additional training resources on fire hazards in the workplace, planning for workplace emergencies and evacuations, and preventing fire-related injuries.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

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EPA, California Notify Volkswagen of Clean Air Act Violations / Carmaker allegedly used software that circumvents emissions testing for certain air pollutants

Release Date: 09/18/2015
Contact Information: press@epa.gov

WASHINGTON -- Today, EPA is issuing a notice of violation (NOV) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to Volkswagen AG, Audi AG, and Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (collectively referred to as Volkswagen). The NOV alleges that four-cylinder Volkswagen and Audi...
diesel cars from model years 2009-2015 include software that circumvents EPA emissions standards for certain air pollutants. California is separately issuing an In-Use Compliance letter to Volkswagen, and EPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have both initiated investigations based on Volkswagen’s alleged actions.

“Using a defeat device in cars to evade clean air standards is illegal and a threat to public health,” said Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Working closely with the California Air Resources Board, EPA is committed to making sure that all automakers play by the same rules. EPA will continue to investigate these very serious matters.”

“Working with US EPA we are taking this important step to protect public health thanks to the dogged investigations by our laboratory scientists and staff,” said Air Resources Board Executive Officer Richard Corey. “Our goal now is to ensure that the affected cars are brought into compliance, to dig more deeply into the extent and implications of Volkswagen’s efforts to cheat on clean air rules, and to take appropriate further action.”

As described in the NOV, a sophisticated software algorithm on certain Volkswagen vehicles detects when the car is undergoing official emissions testing, and turns full emissions controls on only during the test. The effectiveness of these vehicles’ pollution emissions control devices is greatly reduced during all normal driving situations. This results in cars that meet emissions standards in the laboratory or testing station, but during normal operation, emit nitrogen oxides, or NOx, at up to 40 times the standard. The software produced by Volkswagen is a “defeat device,” as defined by the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air Act requires vehicle manufacturers to certify to EPA that their products will meet applicable federal emission standards to control air pollution, and every vehicle sold in the U.S. must be covered by an EPA-issued certificate of conformity. Motor vehicles equipped with defeat devices, which reduce the effectiveness of the emission control system during normal driving conditions, cannot be certified. By making and selling vehicles with defeat devices that allowed for higher levels of air emissions than were certified to EPA, Volkswagen violated two important provisions of the Clean Air Act.

EPA and CARB uncovered the defeat device software after independent analysis by researchers at West Virginia University, working with the International Council on Clean Transportation, a non-governmental organization, raised questions about emissions levels, and the agencies began further investigations into the issue. In September, after EPA and CARB demanded an explanation for the identified emission problems, Volkswagen admitted that the cars contained defeat devices.

NOx pollution contributes to nitrogen dioxide, ground-level ozone, and fine particulate matter. Exposure to these pollutants has been linked with a range of serious health effects, including increased asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses that can be serious
enough to send people to the hospital. Exposure to ozone and particulate matter have also been associated with premature death due to respiratory-related or cardiovascular-related effects. Children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing respiratory disease are particularly at risk for health effects of these pollutants.

VW may be liable for civil penalties and injunctive relief for the violations alleged in the NOV.

The allegations cover roughly 482,000 diesel passenger cars sold in the United States since 2008.

Affected diesel models include:
- Jetta (MY 2009 – 2015)
- Jetta Sportwagen (MY 2009-2014)
- Beetle (MY 2012 – 2015)
- Beetle Convertible (MY 2012-2015)
- Audi A3 (MY 2010 – 2015)
- Golf (MY 2010 – 2015)
- Golf Sportwagen (MY 2015)
- Passat (MY 2012-2015)

It is incumbent upon Volkswagen to initiate the process that will fix the cars’ emissions systems. Car owners should know that although these vehicles have emissions exceeding standards, these violations do not present a safety hazard and the cars remain legal to drive and resell. Owners of cars of these models and years do not need to take any action at this time.

More information on EPA’s NOV: [www3.epa.gov/otaq/cert/violations.htm](http://www3.epa.gov/otaq/cert/violations.htm)

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**CHAPTER NEWS**

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!**

Haley Campbell