## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Events</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidents Message</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Safety Topic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government Update</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter News</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS and MEETINGS

Our next Gold Coast Chapter meeting will be held on September 22nd at 9 am.

**Topic:** Chemical Hygiene

Visit our website for details. We hope to see you there!

[www.goldcoast.asse.org](http://www.goldcoast.asse.org)

Check out page 6 for upcoming course at [Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.](http://www.safetycouncil.com)

Join us on Facebook for updates and other safety related news

[ASSE Gold Coast Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/GoldCoastChapter)

Check us out on the web at: [www.goldcoast.asse.org](http://www.goldcoast.asse.org)
Dear Gold Coast Members –

Our 2015 – 2016 Chapter year has officially come to an end. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic job done by our Past President, Scott Marting, for keeping us going in the right direction.

As your new President, I look forward to working with you to improve your meeting experience with learning opportunities to make our Chapter a model for others to follow.

To tell you a little about myself, after retiring from the fire service I graduated from WVU with a MS in Safety Management. My first position was a Process Safety Specialist in the compressed gases industry. From there I worked in a petroleum refinery, a coal fire energy plant and training US Steel management accident investigation. I moved to Fort Myers, Florida in 2008 and worked in manufacturing and healthcare and joined the Sun Coast Chapter of ASSE. When a position was offered to me in Palm Beach County I accepted it and joined the Gold Coast Chapter ASSE.

As we plan our activities for the next year, I would like to extend a challenge to each of you to become more involved in our Chapter. What can you contribute to our membership or the community? What types of activities can you participate in with ASSE or what do you think we should be doing that hasn't been done in the past?

There is no better way to give back to our profession, than supporting your local Chapter with your time and talents. If you have any interest in serving, please let me know.

Our 2016 meeting schedule is posted on our chapter’s website and the spring schedule will be finalized soon, please visit our website for updated information at: [www.goldcoast.asse.org](http://www.goldcoast.asse.org).

If I can be of service to you or you have any comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to call or email me.

Robert Hutchison CSP
President, Gold Coast Chapter
561-233-5411
JHutchison@pbcgov.org
NEWSLETTER SAFETY TOPIC

Addressing Opioids in the Workplace

Employer Policies Under the Microscope
Inside the walls of Corporate America, most health and safety officials will answer "yes" when asked if they screen job applicants or test employees for opioids. Chances are they are using a five-panel drug test still considered the national standard by the federal government and U.S. Department of Transportation.

But they're missing the boat, says Dr. Don Teater, National Safety Council medical advisor. Safety-minded companies should expand drug testing panels to include commonly prescribed medications. This is particularly important in industries where alertness is required or heavy machinery is operated. Teater says the expanded test better gauges the presence of prescription drugs with potentially fatiguing side effects.

An expanded testing typically will look for two drug compounds not found in a five-panel test: benzodiazepines and opioid pain medications. Teater encourages employers to drive the conversation forward as they examine and update their own drug policies by asking questions such as these:

- How and what can you test for?
- Who should know the results of a drug test?
- Will a donor test positive for drugs if they are around someone who is using drugs, or if they eat foods with poppy seeds?

Opioids Prevalent in the Workplace
This is what we know:
- 23% of the U.S. workforce has used prescription drugs non-medically
- Even employees who take a regular dose may be too impaired to work, especially in a safety-sensitive position

Reasons for employers to take control of their workforce are many, ranging from safety and savings on insurance costs to preventing absenteeism and boosting productivity.

Impact of Opioid Painkiller Use
You'll want to protect your bottom line:
• Injured workers who are prescribed even one opioid have average total claim costs four times greater than similar claims from workers who were not prescribed opioids
• Receiving more than a one-week supply of opioids soon after an injury doubles a worker's risk of disability one year later
• State court decisions have found employers and worker's compensation insurers financially responsible when an injured worker who is prescribed painkillers fatally overdoses
• 'My Brother was Injured at Work, but he Overdosed at Home'

In the NSC Prescription Drug Employer Kit, Rex tells the story of his brother's death. Bill was injured at work. He died at home of an accidental overdose of methadone in July 2006. Since then, Rex has worked to focus attention on the dangers associated with taking methadone and other opioids. He pushes for drug policy changes in the workplace because he believes employers can do more to inform and protect their employees.

"My brother was injured at work, but he overdosed at home," Rex said. "So, obviously, this isn't a concern isolated to the workplace."

Still, he believes employers can do more.

"Organizations need to get information out to their employees and help employees understand the gravity of prescription drug use," Rex said. "It's a life or death situation."

 Courtesy of National Safety Council

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**Federal Government Updates**

**Final Rule Issued to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses**

**Provisions call for employers to electronically submit injury and illness data that they already record**

*Why is OSHA issuing this rule?*

This simple change in OSHA’s rulemaking requirements will improve safety for workers across the country. One important reason stems from our understanding of human behavior and motivation. Behavioral economics tells us that making injury information publicly available will “nudge” employers to focus on safety. And, as we have seen in many examples, more attention to safety will save the lives and limbs of many workers, and will ultimately help the employer’s bottom line as well. Finally, this regulation will improve the accuracy of this data by ensuring that workers will not fear retaliation for reporting injuries or illnesses.

*What does the rule require?*

The new rule, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2017, requires certain employers to electronically submit injury and illness data that they are already required to record on their onsite OSHA Injury and Illness forms. Analysis of this data will enable OSHA to use its enforcement and compliance assistance resources more efficiently. Some of the data will also be posted to the OSHA website. OSHA believes that public disclosure will encourage employers to improve workplace safety and provide valuable information to workers, job seekers, customers, researchers and the general public. The amount of data submitted will vary depending on the size of company and type of industry.
**Anti-retaliation protections**

The rule also prohibits employers from discouraging workers from reporting an injury or illness. The final rule requires employers to inform employees of their right to report work-related injuries and illnesses free from retaliation; clarifies the existing implicit requirement that an employer’s procedure for reporting work-related injuries and illnesses must be reasonable and not deter or discourage employees from reporting; and incorporates the existing statutory prohibition on retaliating against employees for reporting work-related injuries or illnesses. These provisions become effective August 10, 2016.

**Compliance schedule**

The new reporting requirements will be phased in over two years:

Establishments with 250 or more employees in industries covered by the recordkeeping regulation must submit information from their 2016 Form 300A by July 1, 2017. These same employers will be required to submit information from all 2017 forms (300A, 300, and 301) by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, the information must be submitted by March 2.

Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain high-risk industries must submit information from their 2016 Form 300A by July 1, 2017, and their 2017 Form 300A by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, the information must be submitted by March 2.

OSHA State Plan states must adopt requirements that are substantially identical to the requirements in this final rule within 6 months after publication of this final rule.

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**Final Rule on "Respirable" Silica Dust**

On March 24, 2016, the US Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration came to a final rule on crystalline silica dust. The final rule reduced the acceptable amount of particles allowed in a vicinity and also the methods of limiting exposure to hazards.

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**Sign up for the latest news**

Did you know? OSHA issues the QuickTakes online newsletter twice a month. The online newsletter is as awesome tool for learning about new OSHA initiatives, enforcement activities, workers’ rights and educational resources.

Help OSHA to reach their goal of 100,000 subscribers! You can help by subscribing to QuickTakes today. It’s easy to join and of course, it’s free to use!

Anyone can sign up by visiting OSHA’s website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) and clicking on the QuickTakes button at the top of the page.
### Upcoming classes from our friends at Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

#### July
- **8th - Update on OSHA’s Record-Keeping Rule**
  - 9:00 am - 10:00 am
  - Employers need to take a look at their employee handbooks, safety procedures, safety incentive programs, and drug testing policies. OSHA’s final rule to improve tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses. This rule will require electronic record-keeping for high hazard employers.
- **8th - OSHA’s Final Rule to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica**
  - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
  - About 2.3 million workers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica in their work places, including 2 million construction workers who drill, cut, crush, or grind silica containing materials such as concrete and stone, and 300,000 workers in general industry operations such as brick manufacturing, foundries, and hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.
- **12th - Coaching the Experienced Driver III**
  - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
  - The objective of this course is to help the driver improve their ability to observe and respond safely to potential collision producing situations. Many companies and organizations utilize this course for their annual driver training.
- **21st - CPR/AED/FA**
  - 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
  - Did you know that OSHA requires you to have trained personnel if you are not within reasonable distance of a medical facility? This course meets OSHA requirements, and certification cards are issued at the conclusion of the course.
- **27th - Lunch and Learn - Motivating Your Workers Through the Generations**
  - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
  - The generation gap is widening! As Baby Boomers move toward retirement the Millennials are moving into the workplace. The way to interact between the generations has changed. Learn what we can do to bridge the Generation gap. John Sabourin will discuss opportunities to close the gap and how to motivate employees.

#### August
- **1st & 2nd - Maintenance of Traffic Intermediate**
  - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
  - Effective January 1, 2002, all personnel involved in direct responsibility for placement of work zone traffic control devices, direct responsibility for field maintenance of work zone traffic devices, inspection of the placement or operational function of work zone traffic control devices, drafting or electronic generation of work zone traffic control plans must have this training. This training also applies to municipal workers and contractors.
- **3rd - Maintenance of Traffic Intermediate Refresher**
  - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
  - FDOT requires you renew your certification every four years. Do not let your certification expire.
- **15th - OSHA 30-Hour General Industry**
  - 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
  - A Certified Outreach Trainer with the SCPB will provide a comprehensive safety program designed for general industry. Specifically devised for safety directors, foremen, and field supervisors;

### For a list of September classes please visit: [www.safetycouncilpbc.org](http://www.safetycouncilpbc.org)
And more important news from

“Baby in Back” Bracelets are in!!! Call today and pick up a bag for your organization to distribute! Baby in Back is a public service campaign designed to remind parents and caregivers to never leave their child alone in a car. On any day in Florida, a car’s temperature can reach deadly temperatures in just a few minutes. Don't let this happen to another child. Call the Safety Council at 561-845-8233.

CHAPTER NEWS

Congratulations to our new 2016/2017 board members!

Robert Hutchison, President
Keith Wilson, President Elect
Bailley McDonald, Secretary
Karen Meyer, Treasurer