



The Gold Coast Safety Times

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

April - June 2018

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The Gold Coast Safety Times is published periodically to members of the ASSE Gold Coast Chapter. To make a contribution to the newsletter or for questions, comments or additional information, contact Kathleen Clair at: katieclair@yahoo.com

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS and MEETINGS

Our next Gold Coast Chapter meeting will be held on April 26, 2018.

Topic: Disaster Preparedness

Visit our website for details and to register at:

<https://goldcoast.asse.org/>

LEARN @ ASSE

Good News!

You can now attend ASSE's face-to-face courses in a virtual format with their new LearnEx courses. Back by popular demand!

Learn more at:

<https://learn.asse.org/>

Join us on Facebook for updates and other safety related news



ASSE Gold Coast Chapter

Check us out on the web at:

www.goldcoast.asse.org



President's Message

Dear members,

This is a bittersweet letter for it is the last newsletter that I will be serving as chapter president. Bitter because I really enjoyed filling the role as president but sweet knowing we have had members step up to serve in the open positions. My role will transition to Delegate for the Society of House of Delegates and will be attending the ASSE national conference in San Antonio, TX at Safety 2018, serving as our current delegate.

The ASSE Gold Coast Chapter covers a seven county area consisting of Palm Beach, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Highlands and St. Lucie Counties. Our goal is to be a resource for Safety and Health Topics to the Safety and Health Professional as well as individuals new to the EH&S field. Through technical sessions, networking and outreach programs, the Gold Coast Chapter has a unique niche to improve the performance of Safety and Health in our geographical area. Anyone who shares the goals of Health and Safety enhancement in the workplace and community are encouraged to be part of our growing Chapter.

A reminder, our **meetings** are held on the last Thursday of each month.

Time: 9 am - Meet and Greet , 9:30 am - Meeting

Location: 100 Australian Ave Suite 1-470 first floor training room

I hope to see you at future Gold Coast chapter meetings.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Hutchison, CSP

President, Gold Coast Chapter

561-233-5411

[JHutchison@pbcgov.org](mailto:RHutchison@pbcgov.org)

Mark your Calendar!

Safety 2018

June 3-6 in San Antonio, TX

Register by April 13th to avoid a higher fee!

<https://safety.asse.org/>



ASSE News

Active Shooter Technical Report in Development to Improve Workplace Safety

03/01/2018

PARK RIDGE, Illinois — Violence in workplaces across the country is a growing problem. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the world's oldest professional safety organization, is taking new steps to help curb workplace incidents involving active shooters. Today, ASSE convened a working group of safety and health experts who provided insights into the development of an active shooter technical report, which could guide organizations toward safer work environments with fewer hostile events. ASSE has also planned a related panel discussion with subject matter experts at its June conference in San Antonio.

"We are reminded far too often that workplace safety planning is never a finished product," said ASSE President Jim Smith, M.S., CSP. "There are critical concerns that need our help in finding solutions, especially on the topic of active shooters because those occurrences in the workplace can have deadly consequences."

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, incidents of workplace violence caused 866 deaths in 2016, which was a 23 percent increase from the 2015 total of 703. Workplace violence was the second-leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in 2016, trailing only transportation-related deaths.

ASSE plays a key role in the creation of workplace safety standards, which can take years to develop. When a critical safety issue demands more timely action, a technical report can be produced, serving as an incremental step in providing initial guidance on that safety matter. A technical report can also be a value-added first step in the creation of a more detailed workplace safety standard. Both are consensus-based documents.

Today's meeting led by ASSE involved people experienced in law enforcement, industrial security and corporate safety compliance who shared important views on the first draft of ASSE's active shooter technical report. The development process is expected to be completed before the end of the year, with the final report made available nationwide following its registration with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ASSE began writing the technical report after its members and other stakeholders requested technical insight and guidance addressing active shooter events from the perspective of the occupational safety and health professional.

While no one can completely prepare for such horrific acts of violence, safety and health professionals everywhere seek improved strategies to help their business leaders better protect workplaces. At its Safety 2018 Professional Development Conference and Exposition this June, ASSE will conduct a general session on the active shooter issue. A panel featuring experts from the Department of Homeland Security, law enforcement, corporate risk management and employee assistance programs will discuss how safety professionals can best prepare for, and react to, workplace violence. The highly anticipated session runs from 9:15 am to 10:30 am CT on Wednesday, June 6, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

"The safety of workers in any setting is of utmost importance to ASSE, and unfortunately there is no industry or location that is risk-free in today's environment," Smith said. "Senseless acts of violence have occurred in schools, night clubs, churches, government offices, manufacturing plants,



shopping centers and many other places. As occupational safety and health professionals, we must help employers pursue preventive measures and help get more people trained to recognize and report warning signs in order to mitigate risks.”

About ASSE – Working together for a safer, stronger future

For more than 100 years, the American Society of Safety Engineers has been at the forefront of helping occupational safety and health professionals protect people and property. The nonprofit society is based in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge. Its global membership of over 37,000 professionals covers every industry, developing safety and health management plans that prevent deaths, injuries and illnesses. ASSE advances its members and the safety profession through education, advocacy, standards development and a professional community. Its flagship publication, **Professional Safety**, is a longtime leader in the field. Visit www.asse.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Upcoming Courses

April 25th

Lunch & Learn

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Location - SWA Multipurpose Building

Fall Prevention- Ladders, Scaffolds and Roofs

Join Vergie Bain, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist, to discuss Fall Prevention. Falls are the leading cause of death in construction, come and learn how you can help prevent them!

In Advance \$25.00

At The Door \$30.00

May 17 & 18

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Course

11:30 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Safety Council of Palm Beach County, 4152 Blue Heron Blvd. Riviera Beach FL 33404

A Certified Outreach Trainer with the SCPBC will provide a comprehensive safety program designed for workers involved in the construction industry. OSHA recommends Outreach Training Programs as an orientation to occupational safety and health for workers covered by OSHA 29 CFR 1926. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive an OSHA Construction safety and health 10-hour course completion card from the Department of Labor.

Member \$170.00

Non-Member \$195.00

OSHA 10 & 30 Courses

In addition to the scheduled OSHA Authorized classes that The Safety Council of Palm Beach offers at our office we can also provide a customized OSHA 10 or 30 hour course for you upon request. Our Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainers can conduct training at your facility on a schedule that works best for you and your workers. For more info. and pricing see contact info. below.

To register or for more info. contact Chelsea Brown at: (561)845-8233 or marketing@safetycouncilpbc.org.



NEWSLETTER SAFETY TOPIC

APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Cell phones, navigation screens, car stereos or even eating while behind the wheel...they all add up to distracted driving, and that can lead to serious accidents or fatalities.



According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA):

In 2015, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

During daylight hours, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones while driving. That creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. Teens were the largest age group reported as distracted at the time of fatal crashes.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

The NHTSA offers suggestions for actions we can all take right now to help keep our roads safer:

Encourage teens to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents first have to lead by example—by never driving distracted—as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Remind your teen driver that in States with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

Employers can have a significant impact on driving behavior by making distracted driving awareness part of the company's workplace safety culture:



Establish company policies regarding cell phone use in company vehicles.

Make distracted driving the topic of your next safety committee meeting.

Adding distracted driving awareness courses to your ongoing workplace safety training schedule.

HSI companies [Summit Training Source](#) and [CLMI](#) offer a number of safe driving topics, including:

[Distracted Driving: Forever & Ever](#)

This course tells the story of a distracted driving accident that leaves an impactful and lasting message with its viewers. Based on real-life situations, the course shows how one wrong decision can drastically change the lives of everyone involved. This important story compels drivers of all ages to realize that, when you are behind the wheel, there is nothing that takes precedence over operating the vehicle safely.

[Distracted Driving for the Everyday Driver](#)

In this course, viewers will become familiar with common driver distractions like cell phone driving, from creating unsafe situations on the road and how to prevent them from affecting their safe driving practices. Topics covered include safe and effective use of comfort controls, GPS technology and cell phones.

Download this helpful infographic on distracted driving that you can hand out at your next safety meeting or post in your company break room.

Courtesy of Health & Safety Institute

Federal Government Updates

U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR ACOSTA ANNOUNCES NEW DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS TO HELP FIGHT OPIOID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Secretary: 'Tragedies of Opioid Misuse and Abuse Keeping Too Many Americans Out of Work'

COLUMBUS, OH – U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta today announced a new National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Demonstration Grant pilot program to help communities fight the opioid crisis. The U.S. Department of Labor will initially fund seven to ten pilot programs with awards totaling \$21 million. Secretary Acosta made the announcement during a visit to the Maryhaven Stabilization Center in Columbus, Ohio.

The grants may be used to help provide new skills to workers, including new entrants to the workforce, who have been or are being impacted by the opioid crisis. Additionally, funds may be used for workforce development in professions that address or prevent problems related to opioids in American communities, such as addiction treatment service providers, pain management and therapy service providers, and mental health treatment providers.

“The tragedies of opioid misuse and abuse devastate families and communities, and keep too many Americans out of the workforce,” Secretary Acosta said. “President Trump declared the opioid epidemic a national public health emergency, committing the full resources of his Administration to



helping Americans impacted by the crisis. The importance of a job and work in reducing opioid abuse cannot be overstated. The Department of Labor's grant pilot program will focus on returning individuals impacted by opioids to the workplace."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Time-Use Survey found that 44 percent of prime-age men not in the labor force acknowledged taking pain medication the previous day. Recent studies suggest that up to 20 percent of the steady decline in labor force participation among prime-age men aged 25-54 may be attributed to opioid use.

This announcement follows a roundtable discussion today in Columbus, Ohio, among job creators, state and local government officials, and industry group leaders about ideas and strategies to get more Americans back to work after opioid misuse or abuse. The discussion took place at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Columbus is one of the areas hardest hit by the opioid crisis.

"Our discussion today was especially poignant. Every day, 11 people in Ohio die from complications of opioids," Secretary Acosta continued. "It is clear that we stand a much better chance of defeating the opioid crisis by working together."

"I want to express my sincere thanks for everyone's participation today. I specifically want to thank U.S. Senator Rob Portman, who was among the very first people to sound the alarm about opioids, and who continues to be a leading voice for Ohioans and all Americans on this issue."

"President Trump and his Administration are committed to helping Americans recover, rebuild, and get back to work. We are committed to helping Columbus, and every state, city, and town across the country overcome and heal from this epidemic."

OSEC News Release:

03/20/2018

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18-0470-NAT

New NIOSH/OSHA Guidance on Ototoxicity Posted

"There is growing concern among occupational health and safety professionals that ototoxicant-induced hearing loss may go unrecognized since the measure for hearing loss does not indicate the cause," the document states. "For example, audiometric tests are powerful tools that show hearing impairments (i.e., threshold shifts); however, they do not differentiate between noise and ototoxic causes."

Mar 20, 2018

A [document](#) posted by NIOSH on March 15 and credited both to NIOSH and OSHA offers guidance for preventing hearing loss that is caused by ototoxic chemicals and noise exposure. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2018-124 lists five examples of substance classes of ototoxic chemicals:



- pharmaceuticals
- solvents
- asphyxiants
- nitriles
- metals and compounds

Mercury compounds and lead are among the chemicals listed in the metals and compounds class. The asphyxiants listed include carbon monoxide, tobacco smoke, and hydrogen cyanide and its salts.

"There is growing concern among occupational health and safety professionals that ototoxicant-induced hearing loss may go unrecognized since the measure for hearing loss does not indicate the cause," the five-page document states. "For example, audiometric tests are powerful tools that show hearing impairments (i.e., threshold shifts); however, they do not differentiate between noise and ototoxic causes."

It points out that harmful exposure to ototoxicant chemicals can occur through inhalation, ingestion, or skin absorption. Workers' risk of hearing loss is increased when they're exposed to the chemicals while working around elevated noise levels, it says, adding that the hearing loss may be temporary or permanent, depending on the level of noise, the dose of the chemical, and the duration of exposure, and such impairment affects many occupations and industries, from machinists to firefighters.

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.

Anyone can sign up by visiting OSHA's website at www.osha.gov and clicking on the QuickTakes button at the top of the page.

CHAPTER NEWS

Welcome new members!

Jennifer Peters