



The Gold Coast Safety Times

The Newsletter of the American Society of Safety Professionals
Gold Coast Chapter

October - December 2018

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The Gold Coast Safety Times is published periodically to members of the ASSP 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

Check out the ASSP Gold Coast Chapter website for upcoming meeting information!

www.goldcoast.assp.org

We are pleased to announce some great upcoming speakers!

They include:

- Doug McGlynn, Deputy Chief, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
- Steven Carter, Assistant Director of Operations, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- Jennifer Smith, Director, Florida DEP
- Ryan Johnson, Clean Room Specialist, Medrep Technologies

Join us on Facebook for updates and other safety related news



ASSE Gold Coast Chapter

Check us out on the web at:

www.goldcoast.assp.org



President's Message

Dear Gold Coast Members –

First and foremost, I would like to apologize to our Chapter members for presenting this message at such a late date. I must confess responsibility for this. Although it should have been published in the last quarterly newsletter, the chapter has undergone a transition in officers, as well as their jobs, and the transfer of administrative requirements was slightly delayed. Mea culpa. I will do my best to correct this in the future.

At this time, I would like to welcome our Gold Coast ASSP members, guests, speakers and potential speakers to the 2018-2019 “Year of Living Less Dangerously”. Please forgive the oblique reference to an old (1983) movie about war-torn Indonesia in the 1960’s, but the title seemed appropriate, even if the star’s roles and movie’s subject matter is not. For those old enough to remember, this movie came out about the same time that our Gold Coast Chapter was formed (1981).

Let’s not talk about starring roles, but the responsibilities and roles we play in the real world. Safety, health, the environment. Most people’s memories are relatively short-term and tend to focus on the negative aspects of what they hear and see in yesterday’s and today’s news. But let’s step back a few decades, five actually, to the early 1970’s, with the enactment of the federal “Occupational Safety and Health Act” and the “National Environmental Policy Act”.

From the 20,000-foot view, there have been massive improvements in how safety is handled in our workplaces while the environmental improvements have cleaned much of our air and water. These changes have significantly improved our quality of life and they are due to people like you – making continuous changes, a little at a time. Each successive year within the last fifty was a “Year of Living Less Dangerously”. From the perspective of safety, health and the environment, we have a far better world today than prior to 1970.

It is our task to continue this practice at our workplaces and with the people that we meet. Many of us have challenges and improvements may appear to be slow. But step back, persevere and have faith. You have to eat the elephant one bite at a time.

I am looking forward to the next year. We have some interesting speakers lined up and would love to hear additional suggestions for improvement from each of our members.

Respectfully,

Don Haumann, P.E.

President, Gold Coast Chapter, ASSP

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ASSP News

Society Launches Certificate in Leadership & Professional Skills

Sept. 01, 2018

ASSP has expanded its educational offerings with the newest online program, [Certificate in Leadership and Professional Skills](#). Developed in partnership with and delivered by the University of New Brunswick, the certificate aims to provide safety professionals with skills to strengthen their business and professional knowledge.

The certificate program includes three required courses and four electives:

- Understanding Your Leadership Potential;
- Management, Leadership and Organizational Behavior;
- Effective Communication;
- Human Performance Leadership;
- Leading People;
- Effective Workplace Training;
- Organizational Leadership;
- Managing Substance Abuse in the Workplace;
- Psychological Health and Safety;
- Data-Driven Decision Making.

For more information go to: <https://www.assp.org/education/certificate-programs/assp-unb-certificate-in-leadership-and-professional-skills>

NEWSLETTER SAFETY TOPIC

OSHA Trenching and Excavation Guide

To address the dangers of excavation and trenching, and to highlight ways to protect workers, OSHA recently released a [Trenching and Excavation Safety guide](#), providing advice on following standards in excavation and keeping workers safe.

In this guide, OSHA provided a plethora of information for those digging trenches, including the following:

Excavations vs. Trenches: An excavation is any man-made cut, cavity, trench, or depression, while a trench is a narrow excavation longer than it is wide measuring no more than 15 feet deep.



Dangers of Trenching Operations: In addition to the cave-in, workers are exposed to falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and hazards from mobile equipment.

Soil Classifications: Understanding the difference in compressive strength and stability between rock, type A soil, type B soil, and type C soil.

What Constitutes a ‘competent person’: A competent person is an individual, designated by the employer, who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to workers, and who is authorized to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. Tasks performed include: Soil Classification, Protective System Inspection, Structural Ramp Design, Water Removal Equipment Monitoring, and Site Inspection.

Preplanning Factors: No excavation or trenching project is exactly the same, and employers must approach each new job with proper care and preparation. Proper preparation can not only protect workers (the main goal), it can reduce costs associated with the project.

Before You Bid: Before the planning, before the digging, employers need to take into consideration a variety of factors before making the bid. These include: Traffic, proximity to nearby structures, soil classification, surface and groundwater, weather, protective systems, fall protection and ladders, and more. By conducting proper surveys and studies before making a bid, employers can understand the equipment, personnel, and planning needs.

Protective Systems in Excavation: Generally, in order to protect workers from cave-ins, OSHA requires employers to:

Slope and bench the sides of the operation,

Support the sides of the excavation, or

Place a shield between the side of the excavation and the work area.

Working around Utilities: Call 811 before you dig to ensure that the area is marked off and that you do not come across underground utilities while digging. Ensure that while excavating, that all underground installations will be protected, supported, or removed in order to protect workers.

To help employers and general contractors better understand the standards and recommendations, over the next few weeks, we will dig deeper into the trenching and excavation guide, highlighting information you need to protect workers.

View the entire document at [OSHA Trenching and Excavation Guide](#).



Federal Government Updates

U.S. Department of Labor
September 18, 2018



U.S. Department of Labor Cites Five Contractors for Safety Violations Following Florida Pedestrian Bridge Collapse

MIAMI, FL – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on Friday, September 14, cited multiple contractors for safety violations after one employee suffered fatal injuries and five other employees sustained serious injuries when a pedestrian bridge at the Florida International University campus in Miami collapsed. The five companies collectively received seven violations, totaling \$86,658 in proposed penalties.

OSHA cited Figg Bridge Engineers Inc., a civil and structural engineering company; Network Engineering Services Inc. (doing business as Bolton Perez & Assoc.), a construction engineering and inspection firm; Structural Technologies LLC (doing business as Structural Technologies/VSL), specializing in post-tensioning in bridges and buildings; Munilla Construction Management LLC, a bridge and building construction company; and The Structural Group of South Florida Inc., a contractor specializing in concrete formwork.

OSHA’s investigation determined that the companies failed to protect workers when indications of a potential bridge collapse were evident. Violations included exposing employees to crushing and fall hazards; and allowing multiple employees to connect to an improperly installed lifeline.

“Collectively, these employers failed to take appropriate action and provide the necessary protections to their employees while they were working on the bridge on the day it collapsed,” said OSHA Regional Administrator Kurt A. Petermeyer.

Read the citations for [Figg Bridge Engineers Inc.](#), [Network Engineering Services Inc.](#), [Structural Technologies LLC](#), [Munilla Construction Management LLC](#), and [The Structural Group of South Florida Inc.](#)

The companies have 15 business days from receipt of the citations and proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director, or contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#).

EPA Proposes Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule

08/21/2018

Contact Information: (press@epa.gov)



WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a new rule to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing coal-fired electric utility generating units and power plants across the country. This proposal, entitled the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, establishes emission guidelines for states to use when developing plans to limit GHGs at their



power plants. The ACE Rule replaced the prior administration's overly prescriptive and burdensome Clean Power Plan (CPP) and instead empowers states, promotes energy independence, and facilitates economic growth and job creation.

Pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order 13873, which directed Federal agencies to review burdensome regulations, the EPA undertook a review of the CPP. Many believed the CPP exceeded EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act, which is why 27 states, 24 trade associations, 37 rural electric co-ops, and three labor unions challenged the rule. Additionally, the Supreme Court issued an unprecedented stay of the rule.

"The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans," said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance."

"EPA has an important role when it comes to addressing the CO₂ from our nation's power plants," said Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation Bill Wehrum. "The ACE rule would fulfill this role in a manner consistent with the structure of the Clean Air Act while being equally respectful of its bounds."

The proposal will work to reduce GHG emissions through four main actions:

1. ACE defines the "best system of emission reduction" (BSER) for existing power plants as on-site, heat-rate efficiency improvements;
2. ACE provides states with a list of "candidate technologies" that can be used to establish standards of performance and be incorporated into their state plans;
3. ACE updates the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program to further encourage efficiency improvements at existing power plants; and
4. ACE aligns regulations under CAA section 111(d) to give states adequate time and flexibility to develop their state plans.

The proposed ACE Rule is informed by more than 270,000 public comments that EPA received as part of its December 2017 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM).

EPA's regulatory impact analysis (RIA) for this proposal includes a variety of scenarios. These scenarios are illustrative because the statute gives states the flexibility needed to consider unit-specific factors – including a particular unit's remaining useful life – when it comes to standards of performance. Key findings include the following:

- EPA projects that replacing the CPP with the proposal could provide \$400 million in annual net benefits.



- The ACE Rule would reduce the compliance burden by up to \$400 million per year when compared to CPP.
- All four scenarios find that the proposal will reduce CO2 emissions from their current level.
- EPA estimates that the ACE Rule could reduce 2030 CO2 emissions by up to 1.5% from projected levels without the CPP – the equivalent of taking 5.3 million cars off the road. Further, these illustrative scenarios suggest that when states have fully implemented the proposal, U.S. power sector CO2 emissions could be 33% to 34% below 2005 levels, higher than the projected CO2 emissions reductions from the CPP.

EPA will take comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register and will hold a public hearing. More information including a pre-publication version of the Federal Register notice and a fact sheet are available at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/proposal-affordable-clean-energy-ace-rule>

Sign up for the latest news



Did you know? OSHA issues the QuickTakes online newsletter twice a month. The online newsletter is an 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 and clicking on the QuickTakes button at the top of the page.



OSHA 10 & 30 Courses

In addition to the scheduled OSHA Authorized classes that The Safety Council of Palm Beach offers they can also provide a customized OSHA 10 or 30 hour Construction or General Industry course for you upon request. Their bilingual 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 please contact Chelsea Brown at: (561)845-8233 or marketing@safetycouncilpbcc.org.



CHAPTER NEWS



Would you like to volunteer to help out in the Chapter?
If so, please contact Don Haumann at dhaumann@teamgfa.com.



A warm welcome to our new members:
Earl Bennett
Jack Masella