



Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter



July 2017

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Interested in writing an original article or want your personal work shared in the Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter?

Please contact Jessica Good at info@gulfcoast.asse.org

Injury Tracking Application: Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA

by The Department of Labor

The Injury Tracking Application (ITA) will be accessible from the OSHA website on August 1, 2017, where you will be able to provide the Agency your 2016 OSHA Form 300A information. OSHA also published a notice of proposed rulemaking to extend the date by which certain employers are required to submit the information from their completed 2016 Form 300A electronically from July 1, 2017 to December 1, 2017.

Who: Establishments with 250 or more employees that are currently required to keep OSHA injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees that are classified in certain industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses.

What: Covered establishments with 250 or more employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Forms 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), 300A (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses), and 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report). Covered establishments with 20-249 employees must electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A.

When: The requirement becomes effective on January 1, 2017. The new reporting requirements will be phased in over two years. In 2017, all covered establishments must submit information from their completed 2016 Form 300A by July 1, 2017. In 2018, covered establishments with 250 or more employees must submit information from all completed 2017 forms (300A, 300, and 301) by July 1, 2018, and covered establishments with 20-249 employees must submit information from their completed 2017 Form 300A by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, covered establishments must submit the information by March 2.

How: OSHA will provide a secure website that offers three options for data submission. First, users will be able to manually enter data into a web form. Second, users will be able to upload a CSV file to process single or multiple establishments at the same time. Last, users of automated recordkeeping systems will have the ability to transmit data electronically via an API (application programming interface). We will provide status updates and related information here as it becomes available.

This entire article can be found at: www.osha.gov

"US Labor Department's OSHA publishes proposed rule on beryllium exposure." U.S. Department of Labor. Occupational Safety & Health Administration, 23 June. 2017. Web. 23 June. 2017.

Looking to advance your career?

Visit the ASSE's Job Board at <http://jobs.asse.org>

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Chapter Highlights

Meet Your 2017/2018 Gulf Coast ASSE Chapter Officers

At the beginning of July, your new Chapter Officers took office. Your new officers are listed below.

President: Tabitha Laser, CSP



Vice President of Member Services, David Drake



Senior Vice President of Communications, Jovan Lora, M Eng, CSP



Treasurer, James Charo



Secretary, Krystle Hodge, ASP



Program Chair, Dustin Hickey, CSP, ASP



Newsletter Chair, Jessica Good, GSP, ASHM



Immediate Past President, William Gonzales, CSP



Summer Social

In lieu of our monthly meeting in July, a Summer Social event was held. Thank you to all members who were able to join us and make this event successful!



Member Highlights

Congratulations to all members celebrating 10 and 40 years of membership milestones! Thank you for your outstanding commitment to the Gulf Coast Chapter.

		Member Years
Michael	Eisenbise	25
Johnna	Miller	10
Jessica	Riedinger	10

Welcome the newest members of the Gulf Coast Chapter!

Juan	Alvarez	Brian	Howell
Eric	Anderson	Ellis	Rodriguez
Deah	Burnham	Heather	Smart
Michael	Lee	Jerry	Smith
Dan	Mendez	William	Vande Sande
Sharon	Wuthrich		

Upcoming Meeting and Events

ASSE & AIHA Gulf Coast General Chapter Meeting

Date	Thursday, August 3, 2017
Time	11:30-1:00pm
Location	Brady's Landing 8505 Cypress St Houston, Texas
Speaker	Mark Farley
Topic:	Major Incident Response: Managing the First 96 Hours

Energy Corridor Section Meeting

Date	Thursday, August 10, 2017
Time	11:00-1:00pm
NEW Location	Wood Group – Stallion Building: 17325 Park Row, Houston TX
Speaker	Tabitha Laser, CSP
Topic:	Safety Culture Killers

FREE Safety Trainings August-October 2017:

- Bloodborne Pathogens: Disease Transmission Prevention
- OSHA 10hr General Industry
- OSHA 10hr Construction
- Improving Your Respiratory Protection Program
- Severe Weather Safety
- OSHA's Safety and Health Management Guidelines
- Accident Investigation
- Nuts & Bolt of Industrial Hygiene

<http://www.com.edu/gcsi/free-training>

Professional Development

FREE Seminars on Tuesdays during August - November 2017

Season Two Poisons, Plagues, Potions and Portrayals

The History and Culture of Disease and Healing seminar series identifies the overlap between disciplines in health and humanities, and applies lessons in humanities to public health practice in a global and cross cultural context.

There are 13 seminars in the series hosted at The Health Museum between August and November 2017. Each lecturer will discuss a topic over history or across cultures and then discuss its application to present day health issues or treatment approaches.

Series Learning Objectives:

1. Create a conceptual framework of the relationship between historical events and contemporary understanding or approaches to disease and healing.
2. Identify the overlap between disciplines in science (health) and humanities, and recognize the contributions of each.
3. Conceptualize from historical lessons the relationship between human behaviors and disease and healing.
4. Relate the cultural/artistic/literary depiction of the body and disease and medicine to the universal need for mankind to acquire and advance knowledge.
5. Apply lessons in humanities to public health practice in a global and cross cultural context.

Target audience includes medical humanities scholars, physicians, nurses, social workers, environmental health and safety specialists, health science and public health students and other professionals in public health related disciplines, as well as persons interested from the general public. Mature topics may be discussed so parental discretion is advised for ages 17 and under.

08/29/2017 - Lessons learned from the history of industrial medicine
09/05/2017 - Toxic Agents: Poetry, Pollution, and Environmental Racism
09/12/2017 - Panacea or Poison? A brief history of remedies and good intentions gone bad
09/19/2017 - Quack medicine: selling hope for profit and glory
09/26/2017 - The Evolving Role of Patients in the New Sharing Economy of Medicine
10/03/2017 - Strategies for Correcting Health & Safety Misinformation: A Case Study
10/07/2017 - Reading the Signs of the 1918 'Spanish' Influenza

Have something exciting going on at your school and would like it broadcasted in the Gulf Coast Newsletter?

Please contact Jessica Good at info@gulfcoast.asse.org

Student Section

UHCL Student's Research Aims to Improve Industry Safety



UHCL graduate student Brittany Brown presented her research on chemical permeation of nitrile gloves at the annual American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition in Seattle. Her research focused on improving quality standards of the gloves to better protect industrial employees.

Nearly 2.8 million workplace accidents and injuries were reported for the private sector in 2015 in the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2016. Through her ongoing research on chemical-protective clothing, University of Houston-Clear Lake environmental science graduate student Brittany Brown hopes to lower those numbers and improve worker safety.

Brown presented her research on the chemical permeation of nitrile gloves at the annual American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition in Seattle earlier in June. Each year industry experts, scholars and students gather at the event to address emerging trends, needs and research that impact industrial worker health.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," she said. "Approximately 130 conference attendees turned up for my talk and we received good feedback on the presentation and even had multiple requests to give the talk at other conferences and companies."

To help fund her trip, Brown used a scholarship from the Gulf Coast Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Each fall the organization awards top students studying industrial hygiene, a branch of the applied sciences in which students are trained to evaluate and control environmental hazards in the workplace.

Improving worker safety

Under the guidance of Robert Phalen, associate professor of Industrial Hygiene and Safety in UHCL's College of Science and Engineering, Brown compared 10 brands of disposable nitrile gloves from a single manufacturer to see how each held up to standard ratings for chemical permeation.

First, they tested breakthrough time – how quickly a chemical permeates through a glove. Second, they tested the steady-state permeation rate, which tracks how fast a chemical can spread through a glove after breakthrough to make contact with skin.

Chemical contamination like this can be documented as accidental spills and can cause injuries to the skin or illnesses for industrial workers.

"A lot of manufacturers don't chemically test their own products," Brown said. "We wanted to bring attention to the fact that, when choosing gloves for the industry,

there are important considerations to make in selecting chemical protective clothing.”

Their research found that the manufacturer’s ratings for each brand varied significantly from to the breakthrough times and permeation rates they documented. This oversight can create inaccurate impressions about the gloves’ resistance to chemicals, Brown said, so the duo then developed a more accurate rating system to better reflect the product’s performance.

Gaining experience for the real world

Clean Harbors, an environmental management company that coordinates the disposal of waste, hazardous and non-hazardous materials for chemical companies.

Although she never planned to present or publish her research, Brown said her work with Phalen inspired her.

“I learned so much from Dr. Phalen about how important research and the publication process is. I know it’s going to help me in the future and by presenting it, I get to help other people.”

Brown initially presented her findings to her employer after completing her research in late 2016. Since then, her company is now considering upgrading the gloves employees use to improve worker safety.

“In the Houston area and in the chemical industry, people don’t always realize what chemicals they are working with,” she said. “They may be doing the work, but they may not have the knowledge on what these chemicals are and how they can impact them. That’s something I’d like to make employees more aware of in my career.”

Brown wants to become a board certified industrial hygienist or safety professional in the chemical industry, both internationally respected designations, so she can continue spreading awareness of protective clothing and how employees can safeguard themselves in the workplace.

For now, her focus is on continuing her research and finishing her degree at UHCL, with a projected graduation in May 2018.

Visit www.uhcl.edu/science-engineering to learn more about the College of Science and Engineering. To find out how you can support student success at UHCL, visit www.uhcl.edu/giving.

Full article can be found at:
<https://blog.uhcl.edu/news/student-research-aims-to-improve-environment-for-industrial-employees>

Rising Stars of Safety – National Safety Council

Annually, NSC (National Safety Council) honors individuals under the age of 40 with the Rising Stars of Safety Award for demonstrating leadership and dedication to safety at work. Congratulations to Amber Johnson from Houston on receiving one of the 2017 Rising Stars of Safety Award!



Amber Johnson, MPA, is currently the Emergency Management Planner for a leading healthcare system. Her experience includes planning and operations in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The majority of her career has been spent in healthcare emergency management planning and operations including her role as a regional program specialist for the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council's Hospital Preparedness Program before moving into her current role in 2015. Amber holds a Bachelor of Science in Emergency and Disaster Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration and has presented her work for the Gulf Coast Safety Institute at the College of the Mainland and the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare. Amber is also a co-author of the recent book, Safety Integration.

[Questions? Contact Us](#)

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