



ASSE Energy Corridor Section Newsletter

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Links:

[ASSE Energy Corridor Section](http://gulfoast.asse.org/about-the-energy-corridor-section/)
<http://gulfoast.asse.org/about-the-energy-corridor-section/>

[ASSE Gulf Coast Chapter](http://gulfoast.asse.org)
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[ASSE](http://www.asse.org)
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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the ASSE Energy Corridor Section Newsletter! We're very excited to have you in the Section and are looking forward to continually bringing you great information and updates in addition to our monthly meetings, speakers and opportunities.

In the newsletter, you'll find information and updates on our most recent meeting and presentation and the coming month's meeting and presentation as well as opportunities, leadership updates and industry news.

As always, we appreciate and look forward to your feedback, input and engagement. If you have any suggestions or recommendations that you'd like to see in our newsletter or at our meetings, please feel free to let us know. Our aim is to ensure our Section is as value-added as possible to you.

Thank you for your dedication to safety!
Your ASSE Energy Corridor Section Team

Coming up.....



On April 14, 2016, the ASSE Energy Corridor Section is proud to welcome Scott Fuchs with Capital Safety / 3E to provide valuable information on Fall Protection! Not only is Fall Protection an always-relevant regulatory standard, but it is also an important OSHA National Emphasis Program and a potentially high-gravity means to land in the Severe Violator Enforcement Program. Scott's information will certainly provide great insight into the standard, necessary hazard controls and organizational solutions.

Learn more about our next meeting and presentation here:

http://gulfoast.asse.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=66

Get Involved!

- Are you a speaker?
- Are you a writer?
- Have an idea for the Section?
- Have a topic you'd like to see addressed?
- Have something to share?

Let us know!

Please get in touch using our contact information above to let us know your thoughts! We can work with you to present to our Section, publish in our newsletter, get your topic on our agenda or other. We'd love to hear from you!

Last month....

On March 10, 2016, the ASSE Energy Corridor Section was proud to host Glenn Abdelnoor with the Texas Department of Insurance's (TDI) Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Service (OSHCON). Glenn provided valuable information on OSHCON's available resources and data and how it can positively impact workplaces. Furthermore, Glenn provided a great amount of follow-up information and resources available to you at any time – please feel free to visit our web site and check out Glenn and OSHCON's resources right here:

<http://gulfoast.asse.org/energy-corridor-files-2/>

We're also very happy to report that we had our greatest participation level to date at our March meeting! We had a great amount of members, visitors and guests and are looking forward to seeing everyone again in April! Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues that we'd love to see them!



Safety Perspectives

“Breaking Up with Lagging Indicators”

Cory Worden, M.S., CSHM, CSP, CHSP, ARM, REM, CESCO

Many organizations have an unfortunate relationship with lagging indicators. Like a co-dependent relationship with a significant other that seems falsely comfortable – after all, you always have someone to go to the movies with – yet neither partner is actually happy.

Lagging indicators – metrics, key performance indicators, dashboards or whatever they may be referred to – provide a security blanket of sorts for organizational measurements. They can be trotted out at meetings of all shapes and sizes, spirited onto projectors, put into official-looking spreadsheets and recited as statistical fact to supposedly prove subject matter expertise.

However, while some managers live and breathe by their lagging indicators as the ultimate endgame of their cause and some organizations live and breathe by their lagging indicators as the ultimate measurements of their culture, both are missing opportunities – huge opportunities – in the process.

Everything in safety and accident prevention occurs in a consistent, recurring, cyclic chronology. Hazards must be identified, assessed and controlled. These defined hazard controls must then be communicated to all affected employees as performance expectations and they must be trained accordingly. If these expectations are not clear to them, how can we legitimately expect them to know how to work safely?

In many cases, very specific hazard controls are defined for us by OSHA and other national consensus standards. Failure to comply with these hazard control expectations can carry penalties even more than dreaded KPIs. With these hazard controls implemented and communicated, employee performances must be overseen to ensure and validate actual operational use of the controls. Only with these elements in place – hazard identification, assessment and control – can lagging indicators actually mean anything. Why then do so many organizations seek meaning in them without having done anything to create it?

No More Pontificating

Accidents must be prevented in real time. We must consistently identify, assess and control hazards before someone is injured or exposed to an illness. This is why complacency kills. If we take our eyes off the goal – accident prevention through safe behaviors and conditions – something is missed. The purpose of lagging indicators – to measure how many times we took our eyes off the goal and missed something – should only be used to determine what needs to be prevented and corrected.

The longer we deliberate and dwell on lagging indicators, the less time we're spending actually identifying, assessing and controlling hazards. If lagging indicators are developed at the end of a month, we should have already determined what caused any variance in them and have already begun working toward continual improvement in hazard analyses, hazard controls, information programs and leading indicators.

To simply pontificate lagging indicators – or worse, to deliberate, argue and seek out semantic explanations to justify them – only cuts into the valuable time needed to prevent future injuries or illnesses. Furthermore, if lagging indicators are unavoidable as directed by management, time taken deliberating past lagging indicators only cuts into valuable time to prevent future injuries that will lower the next round of indicators. (Misguided inquiries of OSHA recordability without having ever read the OSHA recordkeeping guidelines, comes to mind.)

It may be time to take a break from lagging indicators. Injury reports, near-miss reports, observation participation and outcomes, inspection participation and outcomes all provide the critical data needed to continually prevent accidents, injuries and illnesses. This information can be used to take actions necessary for safety culture improvement without spending undue time pontificating lagging indicators, let alone arguing, debating, deliberating and trotting them out like a science fair project.

Let's identify, assess and control hazards and stop wasting time trying to artificially or politically represent data points.