

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



WELCOME

Gulf Coast Chapter would like to highlight two individuals that have made an impact in safety and in ASSP.

Melissa Rohrer



Melissa Rohrer, Safety Specialist at Entergy's Montgomery County Power Station, earned two Safety Professional of the Year awards from the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP). She was selected by both the Emerging Professionals and Women in Safety Excellence ASSP Common Interest Groups. Melissa has served in many facets within ASSP, she currently serves with the Gulf Coast North Section Leadership team, Co-Chairs the Education and Training Committee, and serves as the Program Chair for Emerging Professionals. and is a mentor within the Women In Safety Excellence (WISE) group. Prior to working at Entergy, Melissa worked for a Houston based electrical contractor in various roles for approximately 20 years. In her spare time Melissa enjoys volunteering and spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren at the beach or lake fishing.

Krystle Hodge



Kryst has been highlighted in NSC Safety and Health Magazine. I currently serve as the senior vice president of communications for the Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals. I also serve as the assistant administrator for the ASSP Blacks in Safety Excellence Common Interest Group. With my organizations, we are able to pay it back to society by providing technical talks as well as volunteer and scholarship opportunities to OHS professionals and students. In 2018, I was awarded the ASSP BISE Safety Professional the Year Award. That moment for me was not about the recognition; it was about knowing I have and am still fulfilling the goal I set out years ago when I first started in this field. It is my responsibility to share the importance of safety with other. To read more go to: <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/20237-my-story->



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Got Questions?

Contact Us

Gulf Coast Chapter
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Upcoming Meetings/Events

Energy Corridor Section

Date: October 8th, 2020

Time: 11:30-12:30 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Joel N. Tietjens

Topic: There is life outside work. We must work to live, but do we live to work... and sacrifice other life issues?

Gulf Coast Chapter

Date: First October 1st, 2020

Time: 11:30-1:00 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Doug Rush, CIH, CSP, CHMM, SMS

Topic: Coronavirus (COVID-19, Indoor Air Building Readiness)

Doug is a hands-on, result driven Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) leader with exceptional business, communication, interpersonal, technical and organizational skills. He has greater than 30 years of leadership in senior management roles. He has founded and owned 3 full service-consulting firms, 1 HazMat Response Company and 1 Environmental Engineering Firm with staffs of up to 40 full-time professionals.

North Section Meeting

North Section Members and Attendees: We look forward to the day when we can meet in person again and are evaluating the changing conditions monthly. In the meantime, we want to invite you to join the Chapter Meetings (Mothership) held online on the first Thursday of each month. More information can be found at this link: <https://gulfcoast.assp.org/north-section/about-north-section/>

Standing down for Fall SAFETY in 2020

September 14-18th is the 7th annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction – an opportunity to pause work on jobsites across the country and talk about fall safety with crews large and small. Much like work and life in general, however, your stand-down activities might look a little different during the pandemic this year. Below are several ideas for holding an event with employees virtually or in person at a safe distance. Be sure to follow the most **recent CDC guidelines** and **other guidelines for the construction industry** to protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

OPTION #1 – Use Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or another online platform to hold a meeting to review fall safety basics, conduct a training, or remind employees of company policies for fall prevention and protection.

OPTION #2 – Attend a live webinar held by another organization. OSHA's **Stand-Down calendar** lists virtual events open to the public.

OPTION #3 – Hold a virtual meeting using an online platform to watch **an on-demand webinar or other video**, such as pre-recorded webinars about joining the Stand-Down, roofer safety, fall rescue, and Q&A with a panel of ANSI Z-359 experts. Then use some time at the end for a live discussion.

Professional Development

Houston Area Safety Council free webinars -

<https://www.hasc.com/colvid-19/>

Free Safety Training Classes -

<https://www.com.edu/gcsj/free-training>

LOOKING TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER?

VISIT ASSP's JOB BOARD!

<http://jobs.assp.org>

NOT RECEIVING CHAPTER EMAILS???

Do not email list: Please confirm you have not been placed on the "Do not email" list by logging in to www.assp.org and ensuring you have "Include in Web/Mobile Directory" selected, and that all of your contact information is current.

Emails blocked by your computer/company settings: Please go to the link below for instructions to ensure Chapter emails can get through to you.

<https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/2018/05/11/how-to-whitelist-assp-emails>

CHAPTER EMAILS!

2. Share short videos or podcasts

Not enough time for a meeting or event? Share short videos or podcasts* with your crew that can be viewed or listened to on a break or during the commute. Then talk about it for a few minutes at a morning meeting – but remember to stay 6 feet apart!

Check out CPWR's YouTube playlist on falls, with new videos from NIOSH. *Podcasts coming soon at stopconstructionfalls.com

3. Conduct a Toolbox Talk or Fall Protection Demo

You can still do some of the activities you would do during any Stand-Down. Conduct a **toolbox talk**, safety presentation, or fall protection demonstration, making sure workers are **at least 6 feet apart and wearing face coverings**.

4. Inspect, Clean, and Disinfect

Ask workers to inspect equipment before use. **Broken or damaged equipment should be tagged and removed**. Shared equipment can expose workers to diseases. Ask workers to clean and disinfect equipment during pre-shift inspections and when shared with other workers. Use products that meet **EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2**[external icon](#), **diluted household bleach solutions** prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions that have at least 70% alcohol and are appropriate for the surface. Talk to your manufacturers and check the **CPWR COVID-19 Construction Clearinghouse** for additional info.

5. Complete or Review Your Written Fall Protection Plan

Do you have a written fall protection and rescue plan? If so, can it be improved? If not, use **this generic template** to create one for your jobsite. <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CPWR-Generic-Fall-Protection-Plan.pdf>

6. Hold a Family Poster Contest

Ask workers to create a fall safety poster at home with their families – the exercise will reinforce the importance of job site safety and help workers associate it with coming home safe and healthy to their families. To make the contest virtual, ask each employee to snap a photo and post it to social media while tagging your company. **Don't forget to use #StandDown4Safety; then hang the posters at work.**

7. Share Your Story

Has fall protection saved your life? Send an email to falls@cpwr.com and tell us your story. We may publish or post it after talking to you so that others can learn from your first-hand experience.

8. Get a Certificate of Participation

Visit: <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/certificate.html>



The banner features a circular logo on the left with a yellow background and green border, containing a map of Texas, an oil rig, and a bull, with the text "GULF COAST CHAPTER" at the top and "HOUSTON, TEXAS" at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text "2021 Gulf Coast Chapter ASSP Professional Development Conference" is written in a large, green, outlined font. Below this, the date "April 23, 2021" and the location "Houston Area Safety Council Headquarters Pasadena, Texas" are also in green, outlined font. The AIHA logo, consisting of a blue hand icon and the text "AIHA" with "Protecting Worker Health" below it, is positioned on the left side of the banner. At the bottom of the banner, a small line of text reads: "The PDC is a partnership between the ASSP Gulf Coast Chapter and the Gulf Coast Section of AIHA".

The Gulf Coast ASSP Chapter proudly announces the official call for presenters to be a part of the **2021 Gulf Coast Chapter ASSP PDC on Friday, April 23, 2021**. Interested presenters must submit a proposal to speak for review by the Conference Planning Committee. This annual event provides one of the most sought after opportunities for attendees to learn the profession's best practices focusing on Safety. The committee is interested in dynamic, technically oriented presentations with case studies. Sessions at the PDC are expected to be one full hour! The 2020 PDC will be held at the Houston Area Safety Council Headquarters located at 5213 Center Street in Pasadena, TX 77505. If you are interested in presenting at this event, please submit [this form](#) to safety@gulfcoastpdc.com or fax to 866-751-2090 by **Friday, October 30th, 2020**.