



Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter



November 2016

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

Please contact Krystle Hodge at hodge.krystle@gmail.com

Looking to advance your career? Visit the ASSE's Job Board at <http://jobs.asse.org>

OSHA issues final rule updating walking-working surfaces standards and establishing personal fall protection systems requirements

by The Department of Labor

On November 17 2016 "The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today issued a final rule updating its general industry Walking-Working Surfaces standards specific to slip, trip, and fall hazards. The rule also includes a new section under the general industry Personal Protective Equipment standards that establishes employer requirements for using personal fall protection systems.

"The final rule will increase workplace protection from those hazards, especially fall hazards, which are a leading cause of worker deaths and injuries," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "OSHA believes advances in technology and greater flexibility will reduce worker deaths and injuries from falls." The final rule also increases consistency between general and construction industries, which will help employers and workers that work in both industries."

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Chapter Highlights



Past November ASSE & AIHA Chapter Meeting!

We want to thank Matthew Deffebach for the wonderful talk over personal and corporate safety-related liability. The presentation covered legal primer of liability issues and OSHA and employers' responsibility when it comes to workplace safety accountability. Gulf Coast members and visitors were able to network, enjoy lunch and hear a great safety topic!

THE PASSING OF A GULF COAST CHAPTER PAST PRESIDENT

Thank

you

Thomas

for all

you did.

We miss

you.



On September 30, 2016 our chapter suffered the passing of Thomas A. Ross, COSS, CUSA, Chapter President during the 2007-2008 Chapter year. Thomas was an active member for a number of years until his failing health forced him to curtail those activities.

Thomas served in a number of Chapter positions, including Historian, Secretary, and Vice President of Membership prior to ascending to Chapter President. Thomas also served as a member of the ASSE Region III Professional Development Conference Planning Committee for a number of years. He was a very strong, outspoken advocate for ASSE and workplace safety and health. He guided and directed our Chapter with zeal and served the organizations he worked for in the same manner.

Thomas was a career United States Army veteran with over 25 years serving our country before entering into the safety profession. He rose to the rank of Sergeant Major, the highest rank for enlisted personnel and served in the First Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm. The leadership skills Thomas acquired while serving our country served him and the organizations he worked for very well. Thomas was a leader. HOOAH!

As a Chapter, we say "good-bye" to a dedicated safety professional and salute a true defender of freedom. We extend our deepest condolences to Charleen and family. Thank you, Thomas, for all you did. We will miss you.

~Joel N. Tietjens



Member Highlights

Congratulations to all members celebrating 10, 25 and 40 years of membership milestones! Thank you for your outstanding commitment to the Gulf Coast Chapter.

George	Tellez	35
Ronald	Averill	25
Carl	Holley	25
Andrew	Maloy	25
Eric	Thibodeaux	25
Jason	Taylor	10

Interested in being a vendor at the Monthly Chapter Meeting?

Contact Program Chair,
Doug Rush at
Doug.rush@bsigroup.com

See Page 4 for Details!

Questions? Contact Us

Gulf Coast Chapter

**Mailing Address
P.O. Box Address 1090
Deer Park, TX 77536**

OSHA Updates continued

OSHA estimates the final standard will prevent 29 fatalities and more than 5,842 injuries annually. The rule becomes effective on Jan. 17, 2017, and will affect approximately 112 million workers at seven million worksites.

The final rule's most significant update is allowing employers to select the fall protection system that works best for them, choosing from a range of accepted options including personal fall protection systems. OSHA has permitted the use of personal fall protection systems in construction since 1994 and the final rule adopts similar requirements for general industry. Other changes include allowing employers to use rope descent systems up to 300 feet above a lower level; prohibiting the use of body belts as part of a personal fall arrest system; and requiring worker training on personal fall protection systems and fall equipment.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance."

U.S. Department of Labor. "OSHA issues final rule updating walking-working surfaces standards and establishing personal fall protection systems requirements." Occupational Safety & Health Administration. Web. 21 Sept 2016

Additional information can be found at: www.osha.gov



Stay connected:

Webpage:

<http://gulfcoast.asse.org>

Email:

info@gulfcoast.ASSE.org

ASSE:

<http://www.asse.org>

LinkedIn: 

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1834451>

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<https://twitter.com/ASSEgulfcoast>

Facebook: 

<http://www.facebook.com/assegulfcoast/>

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Upcoming Meeting and Events

ASSE & AIHA Gulf Coast Holiday Social with Energy Corridor Section

Date Tuesday, December 13, 2016
Time 6:00-9:00pm
Location Mo's Place
 21940 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas, 77450, United States

Energy Corridor Section Meeting

Date Thursday, December 8, 2016
Time 11:00-1:00pm
Location Wood Group Mustang, Inc. - Stallion Building
 17325 Park Row, Houston, Texas, 77084, United States

Interested in being a vendor at the Monthly Chapter Meeting?

Sponsorship (Single Vendor Exclusive) Vendor

- \$1,000 Exclusive Sponsorship (First Come First Serve Basis)
- Provide Drawing Prizes

Benefits

- Recognition during the Meeting "Kick Off"
- 5 min presentation on your services/products
- 2 table spaces in the meeting room
- Display logo on Signage

Sponsorship (Multiple Vendors)

- \$500 Sponsorship/Vendor
- Provide Drawing Prizes

Benefits

- Limited to first 3 Vendors
- Recognition during the Meeting "Kick Off"
- 1 table space in the meeting room per vendor
- Display logo on Signage

Contact Program Chair, Doug Rush at Doug.rush@bsigroup.com

*Happy Thanksgiving from the Gulf Coast
Chapter!*