

GCSC Safety Connection

Providing Training Solutions to Industry

FEBRUARY 2023

21ST ANNUAL CONTRACTOR'S SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS BANQUET

JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
OUTSTANDING OWNER/CONTRACTOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

CHATEAU GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

RECEPTION: 5:30-6:30pm

DINNER & AWARDS: 6:30-8:30pm

"Safety has to be everyone's responsibility... everyone needs to know that they are empowered to speak up if there's an issue."

- Captain Scott Kelly



Inside This Issue:

Awards Banquet	1
Safety Article	2
My Safety Council App	3
2022 Christmas Party	4-5
Employee of the Year	6
2023 Closures	7



NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2023

Remove these 5 Dangerous Tech Gadgets in your Home Now!

In our haste to get new tech set up and going quickly, it's easy to skip over settings that make a difference to our privacy. Don't make that mistake. Here's a list of seven settings tech companies would rather you leave alone. There are ordinary things we do daily that take months, even years, off our tech's lifespan. Some gadgets are security and safety risks, too. Scan this list to make sure you and your family are safe.

1. Old phones sitting in a drawer can start a fire

Any gadget with a lithium-ion battery is susceptible to damage over time. A swollen battery is a serious issue that can lead to fires, injuries, and property damage. Rummage through your drawers for your old phones, and look for any signs of battery swelling. If you see it, here's what to do: Don't try to charge a swollen phone. Charging a swollen battery can trigger a fire or explosion. If you have an older phone with an easily removable battery, carefully separate the battery from the case. If you have a newer phone, don't attempt to remove the battery yourself. Put the swollen phone in a fireproof bag and contact the manufacturer. You may not be able to exchange an old model or get anything for it. However, at the very least, arrange for it to be recycled or disposed of properly.

2. Outdated routers let hackers in

Your router has a big job: Connecting all your devices to the internet. If you're using a years-old model, it might not be doing that task safely. The latest security standard is WPA-3, released back in 2018. If your router is not WPA3 compatible, WPA2-PSK AES is the next most secure option. It's a sign you need to get a new router. When it comes to buying a new router, there are three essential factors. Consider your home's square footage and layout, the number of internet-connected devices you have, and your internet speed. But with so many options, it can be tricky to choose the right router.

3. There are no more updates

Where there's an internet connection, there's potential for hackers to wreak havoc. Security updates keep you safe from cybercriminals' latest tricks, which is why it's vital to keep your smartphone, computer and all the rest up to date. What happens when your gear no longer receives updates? It's time to upgrade. This is obvious with your phone and computer, but the same holds true for smart speakers, security cams, and anything else using your home network.

4. It's on a recall list

It's not just old devices you need to worry about. Some products make it into our homes with issues that can cause fires, injury, and worse. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission regularly warns about dangerous products and gives you steps to take if you have a recalled item in your home. It's worth scanning their list periodically to see if you own anything endangering your family. Sometimes, you can get a replacement or refund for the recalled product. You'll find instructions on how to contact the manufacturer there, too.

5. Old power strips showing wear and tear

Outlet extenders and extension cords pull a lot of duty around our homes. Sometimes a power strip will short and shut off your devices. When this happens, even for a few seconds, inspect the power strip for signs of damage. Look for signs of singe around the outlets. These will appear as rust-colored marks that you might be able to wipe off with your fingers. Even without obvious signs of damage, old power strips can be dangerous to use. If you have no idea the last time you replaced yours, add it to your shopping list.

Source: FOX News



MY SAFETY COUNCIL APP

Did you know GCSC has an iOS app for easy trainee and client access to your badge, course schedule and more?

CLIENT FEATURES

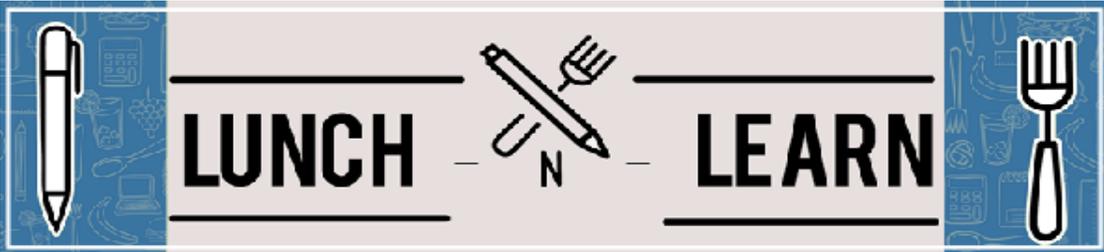
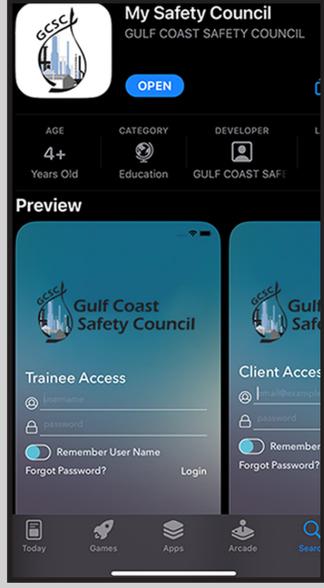
- Schedule trainees
- View scheduled trainees
- View GCSC badges
- View trainee history
- View course catalog

Use your T3 login for immediate access

TRAINEE FEATURES

- Virtual GCSC badge
- View course schedule
- View past training history
- View course catalog

Trainee must sign up at GCSC



The petrochemical industry is a fast paced, high demand and often stressful job field. The challenges faced on a daily basis by most refinery employees are often outside the norm and present a special set of challenges to deal with. This can often take its toll on a person's mental health.

Join us at our St. Rose Location on Wednesday, March 8th at 11:30am as Oscar Coronado and John Alvarez of Zachry present a special message on mental health in the workplace.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023
 TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm
 TOPIC: MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

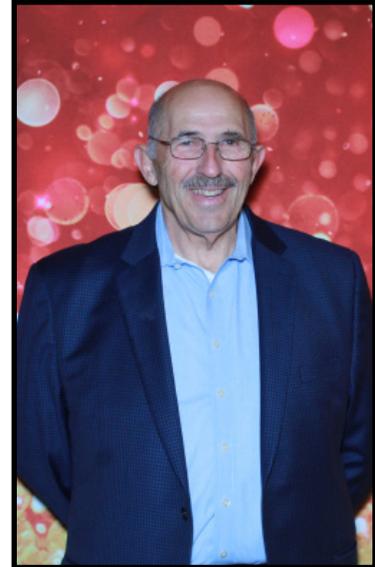
**MENTAL
HEALTH
MATTERS**

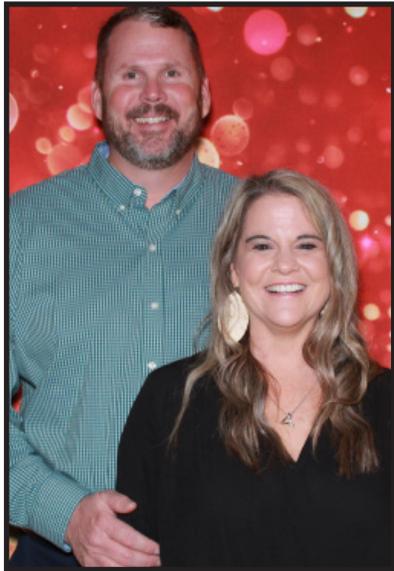


GCSC 2022 Christmas Party!

GCSC hosted its annual Christmas Party at Beau Rivage in Biloxi on Saturday, December 3, 2022.

Thank you to all of our employees and board members for another year of hard work!





GCSC 2022 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR **BRANDY COMARDELLE**

“Brandy has been with us for many years, she’s someone we can always count on. It’s been a pleasure watching her grow personally and professionally.

- Shelly Guilbeau
Executive Director



“Brandy is a familiar friendly face to our customers, providing top notch customer service for 18+ years.”

- Dixi Dufrene
Director of Operations

Way to go!

What do you believe makes a good employee?

An employee that is on time and works hard to get the job done correctly. Someone that is a great team player. Someone that has a great attitude no matter what situation they are put in and can overcome that situation. A person that helps keep the moral up with the team, so that anyone feels comfortable to come up and ask questions to that person. I believe that a good employee is anyone that is willing to help anyone with anything that they can or at least point them in the right direction for the help they seek.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A police officer or a Lawyer

What’s the best part of your job?

Interacting with the customers and helping them.

What’s your favorite time of the year at Gulf Coast and why?

Summer time, Family Day at GCSC

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

Camping and vacations with my Family

What is your favorite Gulf Coast Safety Council memory?

My Favorite memory is when I was hired on with GCSC in March of 2005 after being temporary since October of 2004.

THANK YOU, KATHLEEN!

Kathleen retired after 13 years on the board with Gulf Coast Safety Council. We are grateful for her many years of service and wish her the best on all of her future endeavors!

“Time flies when you’re having fun and the 13 years I spent with the safety Council sure did fly by. I’ve enjoyed every meeting, every event and especially the wonderful people I met along the way.” - Kathleen



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 21ST ANNUAL
"SWINGIN' FOR SAFETY" GOLF TOURNAMENT!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH



GCSC Holiday/Closure Schedule

02-21-23 Mardi Gras
04-07-23 Good Friday
05-11-23 Awards Banquet
05-29-23 Memorial Day
07-04-23 Independence Day
09-04-23 Labor Day
10-06-23 Golf Tournament
11-23-23 Thanksgiving
11-24-23 Thanksgiving
12-22-23 Christmas
12-25-23 Christmas



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