

ANNUAL ALLIANCE REPORT

**U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Lubbock Area Office
And the
West Texas Safety Training Center**

November 4, 2015

I. Alliance Background

A. Date Signed:

April 23, 2007; Addendum on June 11, 2007; Renewed on Dec. 14, 2011; Renewed on January 8, 2014.

B. Evaluation Period:

October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015

C. Overview

Alliance between the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and The West Texas Safety Training Center was established as a collaborative relationship to foster a safety and more healthful workplace for Americans working in the oil, gas, construction, chemical and refining industries. The goal of the Alliance is to save lives, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to hazards such as falls from elevations, struck-by and caught-in-between objects, and electrocution.

D. Implementation Team Members:

OSHA

Elizabeth Linda Routh, Area Director (AD), Lubbock Area Office
Abraham Arzola, Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS), El Paso Area Office

West Texas Safety Training Center

Phil Young, WTSTC President/CEO
Vicki Watkins, WTSTC Vice President
John Higgins, Chief Human Resources Officer – Saulsbury Industries
Cookie McKee, ARSC Executive Director

II. Implementation Team Meetings:

- CAS Arzola attended an Alliance meeting with Mr. Phil Young from the West Texas Safety Training Center and discussed the Annual Alliance report and the new Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements on Oct. 14, 2014.
- Area Director Routh and CAS Arzola scheduled and attended an Alliance meeting with Mrs. Vicki Watkins from the West Texas Safety Training Center on April 9, 2015. The participants discussed services provided and toured the WTSTC facility.

III. Results

The table below provides the total number of training units that WTSTC provided during the 2015 fiscal year. WTSTC defines a training unit as a completed test or completed service administered by WTSTC.

Type of Activity (Conference, Training, Print and Electronic Distribution, etc.)	Number of Individuals Reached or Trained
Safety & Health Training	65,830 units

Events and Products

During 2015, WTSTC was very active on several International Association of Drilling Contractor (IADC) committees. Their participation included work on the following committees.

- Workforce Attraction Development Initiative committee
- Safeland USA Instructor Qualifications subcommittee
- Health, Safety, & Environment Committee

During the 3rd quarter of 2014, WTSTC initiated the process of assuming the administration of the Permian Basin Apprenticeship Training Program. This program provides apprenticeship training for the following crafts. On September, 2015 WTSTC had its initial class under through the apprenticeship program.

- Residential Electrical
- Industrial Electrical
- Journeyman Electrical
- Instrumentation Technician

These programs are registered and accredited by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training under DOL REG Number TX-014-040002. The program uses the curriculum established by the National Center for Continuing Education and Research (NCCER).

Training and Education

During the period 10/01/2014 - 9/30/2015, WTSTC continued to provide a broad range of training services to the Permian Basin oil/gas industry. Training volume was reduced, when compared to recent years, due to the downturn in oil/gas operations in the Permian Basin because of the dramatic decline of West Texas Intermediate Crude oil prices. However, WTSTC continues to see significant demand for the following training/services:

- a) Respirator Fit Testing
- b) Hydrogen Sulfide Training
- c) NFPA 70E (Qualified Electrical Worker)
- d) Basic Orientation Plus® classes
- e) SafeLand USA Orientation classes

In 2014, WTSTC began offering NFPA 70E training to qualified electrical workers. Our training in this area continues to grow. We have provided training to electrical workers in the Permian Basin, South Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Outreach and Communication

- WTSTC is a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)
- WTSTC is a charter member of the Permian Basin chapter of the STEPS organization.
- WTSTC participates in the Permian Basin Chapter of the Association of Energy Services Contractors (AESC).
- WTSTC is a member of the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC). WTSTC participates on the Workforce Development Committee and the Safeland USA instructor development sub-committee.
- WTSTC is a member of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils. This organization has members located in different areas of the USA where Petrochemical facilities are operated. WTSTC currently serves on the ARSC Executive Committee.

Promoting the National Dialogue on Workplace Safety and Health

The West Texas Safety Training Center is a founding member of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils (ARSC) and currently sits on its Executive Committee. ARSC members have 45 safety councils located in petrochemical/refinery areas. The mission of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils (ARSC) is to provide consistent and cost effective reciprocal safety education that conforms to regulatory standards and industry accepted practices. During the 2014 calendar year, ARSC members produced 367,250 reciprocal training units within the organization. ARSC members work together to develop and revise current training programs that meet a significant portion of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, as defined within the standards. This allows councils that perform site

orientations to work with industrial facility representatives in reducing the amount of redundant information in their site orientations, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the training while reducing the cost of development. This is the historical basis upon which, BOP/BOPR were initially created. The objective of ARSC is to continue this approach and produce new and effective additional reciprocal training programs that provide consistent and cost-effective reciprocal safety education that conforms to regulatory standards and industry accepted practices.

The BOP program meets a significant portion of the OSHA-mandated contractor requirements. This increases safety training efficiency for the contract employee due to a reduction in redundant information being presented.

ARSC programs are not meant to relieve contract companies of all training responsibilities. There are elements of the standards that require the contractor to provide employer specific information regarding policy and procedures as well as some hands-on training on specific equipment. ARSC developed a specific training matrix for each BOP module that lists the specific regulatory requirement covered in the training then lists what the contractor must do for full regulatory compliance. The BOP/BOPR training matrix can be found on the ARSC website.

The ARSC programs focus on the needs of industry. A key to the success of ARSC and the reciprocal model is the involvement and support of the Owners in the areas serviced by the ARSC members. The contractors, facilities and workers benefit from cost and time savings by the reduction of repetitive training while assuring the quality of the training from ARSC member to ARSC member. There is also a savings to the ARSC members by reducing the amount of money each individual ARSC member must spend to develop their own programs.

The success of ARSC is determined by safety training organizations committed to the sharing of resources, expertise and best practices. To ensure program integrity by association members, program audits, program reviews, and administration audits are conducted on a scheduled basis. Failure to adhere to the Association's policies and procedures can result in severe penalties including dismissal from the organization. The most popular ARSC course is Basic Orientation Plus®. This course is a reciprocal contractor safety awareness training program that is designed to meet the classroom training requirements of the standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations as enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) in the components it covers. The actual methods of compliance with these standards will depend on the rules, regulations and procedures in effect at each specific worksite.

The components of the Basic Orientation Plus® program are as follows:

- a. Hazard Communication (HazCom) and Chemical Safety
- b. HazCom/Global Harmonization System
- c. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- d. Respiratory Protection
- e. Hearing Conservation
- f. Electrical Safety Related Work Practices for Non-Qualified Workers

- g. Elevated Work
- h. Process Safety Management (PSM)
- i. Excavation, Trenching & Shoring
- j. Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)
- k. General Rules & Emergency Response

During 2015, ARSC has been developing a revised edition of the Basic Orientation Plus® program. The revised and updated program is scheduled to be launched January, 2016. WTSTC has been intimately involved in the development of the new program. Additionally, the new Basic Orientation Plus® program will have a Spanish version available as a reciprocal course among the ARSC members.

IV. Safety Milestone

2015 is in the eighth year of our WTSTC Dr. Max Comer Scholarship(s). We continue to provide \$500 scholarships to individuals that are pursuing an Associate Degree in Safety Management at Odessa College. Scholarship recipients are selected by a WTSTC committee consisting of oil company representatives and contractor representatives.

May, 2015 was the West Texas Safety Training Center's 21th anniversary of providing training services to the Permian Basin workforce.