



Boosting Confidence... One Course at a Time.

by Bill Gutierrez

It took 11 years and a considerable amount of work, but Pete Guys, of San Antonio, Texas completed his objective of earning his Construction Industry TEEXCSHO this year.

Pete took his first Certified Safety and Health Official (CSHO) program course way back in 2009. Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's OSHA Training Institute Education Center gives industry professionals the opportunity to earn their CSHO under two specific tracks, Construction or General Industry. He took the construction route which equals more than 277 hours of instructions.



Pete Guys, CSHO

Pete had a background in transportation safety, going into a new field was a bit overwhelming, he recounts. "For me, I wanted to gain knowledge but at the same time reassure my knowledge base. Knowing that the message I provide daily is the correct one is extremely important," he added.

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Boosting Confidence (cont.)

“Overall, taking [TEEX] courses was such a confidence builder.”

“I dove right in and took five courses which afforded me a tremendous amount of knowledge,” Pete said. “It was a goal of mine to complete my CSHO, but life and work did interfere over the years,” he adds. The courses he took, along with the teaching and training, allowed him to check his knowledge base to determine where he was from a professional stand point.

“Being able to speak at the ground level and also addressing issues at the executive level is all part of the confidence boost you receive by taking these TEEX courses,” Pete explained. “Overall it is such a confidence builder. Taking these courses allows you to look up the correct regulations whether you need to address it with management or discuss it with a field worker.”

Pete also emphasized the relationship building and networking opportunities the TEEXCSHO program gives any industry professional. “At any time, I can send out an email or make a phone call to an instructor with questions or issues,” he said, “You also have the opportunity to meet and talk with professionals that may be in your hometown or across the country.”

Due to COVID19, Pete took up the challenge to take TEEX Live Online Instructor-Led courses to complete his training. “I will be the first to admit that I am not the most computer savvy person, but even with the technical issues I did complete my last three courses online. It was tough at first because I am a pen and paper kind of guy, but once I got into it, it was a breeze,” he recounted.

In the end, it served as yet another confidence builder.

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