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Workers learn the M.O.S.T. skills through TEEX and Time Wise collaboration

The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service is collaborating with Time Wise Management Systems to fill a need for welders, CNC machine operators and assembly workers for Texas manufacturers through Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.®).



The M.O.S.T.® program is a fast-track, intensive skills training, assessment, recruitment and placement program aimed at preparing unemployed and underemployed individuals and returning veterans for front-line production jobs. The program is customized to the needs of the participating employer, the local area and the job candidates, and training is accomplished on-site through a state-of-the-art mobile training unit.

“Data shows that nearly half of future manufacturing job openings will be in middle skill occupations that don’t require a college education,” said **Roger Caldwell**, Program Manager with TEEX Knowledge Engineering. “The individuals selected for the program will have the opportunity to learn a skill and enter the workforce at a higher-paying salary. American manufacturing needs skilled welders and machine operators to keep and bring manufacturing back to the U.S.” Time Wise Management Systems reports that the average annual manufacturing wage is \$41,000 and 82% of manufacturing workers have access to health benefits.



The intensive two-week basic manufacturing skills training covers topics such as 3-D simulations, shop math, blueprint reading and customized training on programmable manufacturing machines, welding simulators (*at right*) and CNC (computer numerical control) operations. After successfully completing the basic skills training, the employee has eight weeks of on-the-job training and four months of career mentoring.

Companies pay for the program and hiring commitments are secured up-front.



The program not only recruits candidates that meet company requirements, it also provides the training, and successful trainees are guaranteed a job with the company, Caldwell said. The goal of the program is to achieve a 91% retention rate of newly trained employees after three months, compared to a typical 30% to 50% turnover in many of these jobs, he added. *(In photo, l-r, Lisa Mutchler, Claudia Follet with Time Wise, and Roger Caldwell.)*

A whistle stop tour of four cities in Texas earlier this month introduced the program to companies and manufacturers in Houston, College Station and Killeen and Alvarado. A steel fabrication plant in Houston is contracting with M.O.S.T. to provide workers for the company. [Read entire article.](#)

Renewal of OTI Southwest Education Center announced by OSHA



The federal government has renewed TEEX’s OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Southwest Education Center, which is one of 28 OTI Education Centers delivering vital occupational safety and health training to U.S. workers and their employers. U.S. Department of

Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration made the announcement of the renewal of 24 OTI Ed Centers and the approval of four new centers nationwide.

The OSHA Southwest Education Center is operated by TEEEX's Infrastructure Training and Safety Institute (ITSI) and serves Region VI, a five-state region covering Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas.

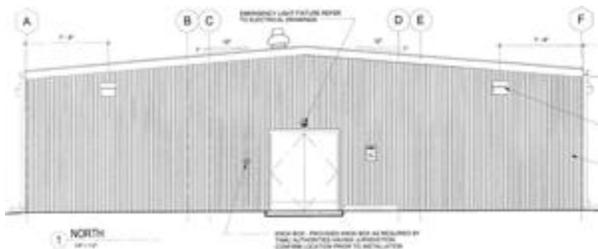
"TEEX - ITSI is thrilled to be selected once again as an OSHA Education Center," said **Ron Peddy**, Division Director of ITSI. "The selection process is very competitive, and our strong track record as an Education Center was an integral part of our successful application. The TEEEX - ITSI OSHA Training Institute Southwest Education Center in Mesquite has long been recognized as the one of the top two Education Centers in the country. Retaining the OSHA Education Center designation will allow TEEEX - ITSI to continue to grow and expand our safety training capabilities with the ultimate goal of being recognized as the No. 1 Education Center in the country."

The OTI Education Centers program was created in 1992 to complement the OSHA Training Institute in Arlington Heights, Ill., which provides training and education to OSHA compliance officers. The OTI Education Centers provide training nationwide on OSHA standards and occupational safety and health issues to private sector and federal personnel. The OTI Education Centers trained more than 40,000 people during the 2012 fiscal year, representing an all-time record for the program.

OSHA provides no funding to the OTI Education Centers, which also assist the agency in administering the OSHA Outreach Training Program and fulfilling the program's monitoring requirements. The OTI Education Centers support their OSHA training through their established tuition and fee structures and provide their own instructors and facilities.

Read [OSHA press release](#).

Firefighter Bunker Gear Drying Facility under construction at Brayton



TEEX has broken ground on a new Bunker Gear Drying Facility at Brayton Fire Training Field, which will provide climate-controlled space for storage and drying of firefighter clothing for multi-day training classes conducted by the Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI).

After a day of hands-on, live-fire training, bunker gear is typically saturated with water and soot. "Wearing wet bunker gear is extremely unpleasant, especially in cold weather," said **John Coppernoll**, Director of Facilities Maintenance & Construction for ESTI. "The new Bunker Gear Drying Facility is expected to be able to remove a minimum of 70% of the moisture from the bunker gear in a 12-hour period. We expect the new facility would handle the demand on the field 75% of the time. We could not build a facility large enough to address our demands during extreme peak loads, but fortunately the extreme peak loads occur in July."



One of the building design issues was how to handle the moisture and still allow the building to be cleaned reasonably easy, Coppernoll said. “After training evolutions the bunker gear is extremely dirty, and contact with interior walls would leave obvious black soot smudge marks. The best solution was a CMU block wall interior with substantial epoxy paint coatings. The new building also requires dehumidification units to remove/pull the moisture from the bunker gear.”

The 50x100-foot building will be situated next to Project # 53, and TEEEX maintenance and construction crews handled several infrastructure upgrades and relocation issues during the site preparation in August. The facility was designed by Chesney Morales & Associates of San Antonio, and Quad-Tex Construction was selected as the contractor. The building is expected to be completed by June 1, 2013.

TEEX coordinates NFPA Electric Vehicle Safety Training course



The growing number of electric and hybrid vehicles on the roads means emergency responders face a new set of challenges when called to an incident involving one of these vehicles.

That's why the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) began the Electric Vehicle Safety Training Project, and that's why 61 emergency personnel from 36 Texas fire departments turned out Oct. 12 for a special, state-wide course at the Arlington (TX) Fire Department Training Center. The 8-hour train-the-trainer course in Electric Vehicle Safety was offered at no cost by NFPA and coordinated by the TEEEX Emergency Services Training Institute's extension program.

The goal was to provide fire department trainers in the state with the information and resources necessary to teach first responders how to safely respond to emergency situations involving all electric and hybrid vehicles on the road today. Topics covered included the extrication process, risk of electric shock, handling new types of batteries and challenges presented by charging stations. Several hybrids and electric vehicles on-site allowed participants to experience first-hand the new technologies and special features.

“Our first responders are eager to learn how to better protect their fellow Texans and other operators of electric vehicles as these vehicles become increasingly common on our roadways,” said **Mike Wisby**, Associate Director of ESTI. “NFPA’s training program gives participants the tools they need to fully understand electric vehicle safety and emergency response. By educating first responders early, we can make Texas a safer place to drive.”

More than 2 million hybrids have already been sold in the U.S. and as many as 1 million electric vehicles will be on the road by 2015, said TEEEX Instructor **Kyle King**, who coordinated the Texas course. “TEEX/ESTI is also supporting future electric vehicle safety training by providing certificates for the responders taught by the new trainers,” he added.

NFPA’s Electric Vehicle Safety Training project is a nationwide program designed to help firefighters and other first responders prepare for the growing number of electric vehicles on the road in the United States. The NFPA project is funded by a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Visit NFPA’s website at www.nfpa.org or the [Electric Vehicle Safety Training webpage](#) for more information.

Energy Institute and Growing Texas Conference draws 276 participants



The 2012 Annual Energy Institute Conference partnered with the Growing Texas Conference, and drew 276 participants to College Station to discuss “Water and Energy in Texas: Solutions from Texas A&M.” The Oct. 3-4 conference featured experts in The Texas A&M University System who explore the challenges facing the state’s water resources as well as cutting-edge research programs at Texas A&M University. Sessions covered topics such as emerging energy and water technologies, conservation, policies and economic challenges and opportunities.

TEEX Director **Gary Sera** introduced one of the keynote speakers, State Rep. James L. Keffer, who chairs the Energy Resources Committee and serves on the Natural Resources Committee of the Texas House of Representatives. *(In photo, John Pappas, Director of the Texas A&M Wind Energy Center, far right, moderates a panel discussion on New and Emerging Technologies featuring Texas A&M faculty members, l-r, Dr. Kung-Hui Chu, Dr. Hong-Cai Zhou and Dr. Robert Balog.)*

TEEX promotes Fire Safety Month in Bryan/College Station



TEEX Emergency Services Training

Institute promoted Fire Safety Month at the College Station Home Depot Kids Workshop on Oct. 6. The kids who came to the workshop to build a fire truck kit also got a chance to climb inside a TEEX fire engine or pumper truck, try on bunker gear and visit with TEEX fire recruits. TEEX employees and recruits from the TEEX Fire Recruit Class #139 handed out activity sheets and crayons, collectible TX-TF1 K9 cards and maps of TEEX's emergency preparedness campus. For more information about fire safety, visit the [U.S. Fire Administration website](http://www.usfa.fda.gov) and www.teex.org/RUReady. *(In photos: A child tries on bunker gear. L-r, TEEX participants included Chief Instructor John Mann with cadets Kyle Bunbury, Jacob Zoch, Michael Blincow, Brandon Vig and Brian Brown.)*



TEEX Fire Recruit Class #139 at National Night Out

The Fire Recruit Class #139 participated in National Night Out on Oct. 2 hosted by Texas A&M University. More than 200 families attended the event, which was coordinated by Texas A&M University Police Department, Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services and TEEX. This is the fourth year TEEX has participated in the event, which is a program to promote neighborhood spirit and public safety in communities. *(In photo, l-r, TEEX Instructor Greg Cross and cadets Andrew Gowanlock, Corey DeCou, Amir Keranovic and Austin Eschbac.)*

TEEX in the News

Tank Storage magazine published an article titled “TEEX announces revision to fire fighting training” in a recent issue, which highlighted TEEX training for liquid storage facility fires. [Read article.](#)

NBC's *Today Show* featured a segment about smoke detectors with Texas A&M Professor Don Russell. The segment was filmed at Brayton Fire Training Field and titled “Popular smoke alarms may go off too late, experts warn.” [Watch the segment on MSNBC.](#)

Fire Chief published an article “IAFC councils Compares Water-Enhancing Technology, CAFS,” which discusses a test of TetraKO water-enhancing technology conducted at Brayton Fire Training Field in conjunction with the TEEX Product Development Center. [Read article.](#)

2012 State Employee Charitable Campaign update



TEEXans have contributed \$14,662 to the 2012 State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), according to **Patty Mora**, TEEX SECC Coordinator. Employees have exceeded the agency's goal of \$12,800 for the 2012 campaign. The workplace charity campaign provides state employees with a convenient and efficient way to make voluntary, tax-deductible contributions to charities through payroll deduction, cash or check.

New Employees, Promotions and more on myTEEX

You can now find new employees, promotions and more on the myTEEX portal. Check out the TEEXan Community section for [Employee Happenings](#).

Celebrating Birthdays Oct. 16 – Nov. 5

16 – Patty Mora

17 – Laura Corn

18 – Carlos Mendez

20 – JD Bolich

23 – Brent Amann, Kathleen Gutierrez

24 – Jim Chew, Tom Shehan

25 – Janet Frye, Mark Posada

26 – Jimmy Jones

27 – Christopher Masterson

30 – Janette Hickerson, Bryce Dorwart, John Orozco, Ashley Raynor

31 – Gerald Norman, Jim Yeager

Nov. 2 – Vince Rose

Nov. 3 – Rebecca Mills, Silvia Revilla

Nov. 4 – Ron Bilyk, Monroe Manley

Nov. 5 – Anne Davis