



## TCC to Launch Innovative Process Safety Training Program at San Jacinto College

By Melissa Trevizo

The Texas Chemical Council (TCC) is partnering with the Texas A&M Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center (MKO) and San Jacinto College's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET) to launch new process safety management courses this spring. The courses will enhance process safety competency across industry. The newly established Partnership of Petrochemical Leaders at CPET will support this effort by assisting with industry leader engagement

Each professional development course -- Introduction to Process Safety, Introduction to Risk Management, Fire Protection and Emergency Response, and Industrial Safety and Technical Fundamentals -- were developed in collaboration with the MKO-- an academic leader in process safety research and best practices.

The courses include hands-on training that allow workers to practice skills in CPET's 8,000-square-foot, two-story glycol process training unit and 35 custom interior labs, including a multifunctional glass pilot lab, 20 interactive classrooms, four custom workstations, and advanced control rooms. Students will complete 24 hours of lab work at the state-of-the-art CPET facility and 24 hours of online instruction.

TCC, a statewide trade association for chemical manufacturers in Texas, sought to develop these courses as a response to a series of process safety incidents in recent years.

The Council initiated a process safety improvement project after numerous industry incidents occurred in 2019. TCC leaders collaborated with Texas A&M to conduct research and develop a plan to enhance process safety across all industry sectors. The primary focus of the plan is to create professional development opportunities for incumbent workers. However, it is expected that the material will also be used to enhance the process safety curriculum offered to students enrolled in process technology programs to get similar training before they enter industry.



*Hector Rivero*  
President & CEO



"We are very excited to partner with San Jacinto College to offer these professional development courses for industry workers. In addition to state-of-the-art facilities and highly qualified faculty, San Jacinto has demonstrated great academic leadership in partnering with Texas A&M to deliver quality process safety curriculum that will help keep our manufacturing plants safe.

**We encourage industry leaders in San Jacinto College's service area to take a closer look at these courses and identify workers across your organization that would benefit from this process safety training.**

“We are thrilled to be working with the TCC to offer these experiential safety courses to incumbent workers from our industrial partner facilities,” said Jim Griffin, associate vice chancellor/senior vice president of CPET. “The incumbent workers who enter our facility will be working with technologically advanced custom laboratories, experienced instructors at the top of their fields, and a curriculum developed by TCC and San Jac in partnership with the MKO.”

TCC is hopeful that the San Jac courses will prove successful and become a model for development of other process safety courses, and potentially offered at other colleges delivering industry-based curriculum across Texas and, eventually, across the country.

San Jacinto College plans to roll out the first courses concurrently in May, and once the full program is launched later in 2021, the set of four courses will be offered every 90 days.

Look for more information about the TCC PSM program at San Jacinto College at [www.sanjac.edu/lyondellbasell-center-petrochemical-energy-technology/incumbent-worker-training](http://www.sanjac.edu/lyondellbasell-center-petrochemical-energy-technology/incumbent-worker-training)

**Bill Efav**

Associate Process Safety Director, Dow  
Vice Chair, Texas Chemical Council Process Safety Committee



“As our industry has hired thousands of new workers to backfill for the large number of retirements at all levels in our organizations, ensuring process safety competency for our workforce is critical. Most people coming into our industry today have little if any process safety acumen when they walk in the door, and these courses seek to change that.”



**Steve Skarke**

Vice President,  
Kaneka Americas Holding, INC.



“These courses will elevate the importance of process safety competency for incumbent workers across industry, help prevent industrial accidents, and ensure the safety of our employees,” said Steve Skarke, vice president of Kaneka. “Safety is always at the forefront for industry, but with these new hands-on courses, we are looking to set a higher standard.”

**Available May 25, 2021**

**Registration opens: February 8, 2021**

- Introduction to Process Safety

**Coming Fall 2021**

- Introduction to Risk Management
- Fire Protection and Emergency Response
- Industrial Safety and Technical Fundamentals

**SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology

<https://www.sanjac.edu/cpet>

San Jacinto College has served as the training leader for the petrochemical, energy and technology workforce in the greater Houston area for more than 40 years.

With four campuses located throughout East Harris County, the College serves as a training hub to the largest petrochemical manufacturing complex in the United States, and second largest in the world with 90 industries and 130 plants. The College plays a vital role in helping the region become the “Energy Capital of the World.”

With San Jacinto College’s \$60 million LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology, the industry will benefit with a strengthening of training in key petrochemical manufacturing areas. The College relies on industry feedback by inviting representatives to be a part of its Petrochemical Advisory Council.



**MARY KAY O'CONNOR PROCESS SAFETY CENTER**  
TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

<http://psc.tamu.edu/>

The Mary Kay O’Connor Process Safety Center was established in 1995 in memory of Mary Kay O’Connor, an Operations Superintendent killed in an explosion on October 23, 1989 at the Phillips Petroleum Complex in Pasadena, TX.

The center’s mission is to promote safety as second nature in industry around the world with goals to prevent future incidents. In addition, the Center develops safer processes, equipment, procedures and management strategies to minimize losses within the processing industry. However, the center realizes that it is necessary to advance process safety technologies in order to keep the industry competitive. Other functions of the center include that it serves all stakeholders, provides a common forum, and develops programs and activities that will forever change the paradigm of process safety.

**CPET Business Office: 281-998-1806**

**Main number: 281-998-6150**  
[www.sanjac.edu](http://www.sanjac.edu)

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