

Welcome

For more than 30 years, Georgia Tech has been helping to keep companies like yours safe.

Are you part of the safety in-crowd? Of those who took our March 2008 survey, 71 percent rely on Georgia Tech's Occupational Safety and Health courses as their sole source of training. Discover how Georgia Tech keeps companies like yours safe in the new [2008-2009 OSHA catalog](#).

Immediately improve safety in your workplace by learning to:

- Recognize and take action against potential hazards
- Implement an effective safety management program
- Understand and apply the latest in OSHA standards

Learn from instructors who:

- "Not only teach you, but are also a resource if you need them in the future"
- "Deliver training in a way that makes it easy to apply the same techniques learned in the classroom to their day-to-day job, further enhancing their company's safety and health."

More than 38 percent of those surveyed are pursuing a Georgia Tech Occupational Safety and Health certificate. Don't miss out on your chance to establish industry-recognized credentials. [Learn more about the certificates.](#)

Also in this issue:

- Discover the difference between [competent person, designated person, and qualified person](#). Understand which standards apply
- Learn how Georgia Tech's [OTI 501 course sparked a reunion between high school friends](#), Danny Raines and Hib Gavel
- Find out how [Frank Wampol helped his company transform its safety culture](#)
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Competent Person, Designated Person, Qualified Person? Which Standard Applies? A Primer

Do you know the definition of these terms? How they apply to your industry or construction project?

If you work in general industry or construction industry, it is your responsibility to know these terms and how they apply to your workplace. OSHA does not accept ignorance or lack of access to the information.

A Primer: Competent Person

The construction industry knows about **competent** persons. If a scaffold is erected, or if an excavation is inspected, both shall be inspected prior to use, and periodically throughout the workshift, as is necessary, by a **competent** person.

This is a person or person(s) who have accumulated skill and knowledge working in a trade, and have received any additional training to increase or improve those skills. This **competent** person also exhibits sufficient skills related to teaching or training others about the specific training topic.

The definition of **competent** person is found in the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926, (Construction Standard) Section 1926.32 Definitions: "competent person" means one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measure to eliminate them.

Designated Person

The Construction Standard, 29 CFR Part 1926, Section 1926.32, also defines a **designated person**: an "authorized person" as defined in paragraph (d) of this section, which reads a person approved or assigned by the employer to perform a specific type of duty or duties or to be at a specific location or locations at the jobsite.

OK. Which job duty does not, or would not, require knowledge, skill or training? Which other Standard specifically references a **designated person**? A common answer is NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, section 590.6(b). In each case, the assured equipment grounding conductor program, where used, requires that the program is continuously enforced at the site by one or more "designated" persons. The program cannot be used without the "designated" person or person(s).

Qualified Person

Where does the term, **qualified person**, fit in? The definition is found in the OSHA General Industry Standard, 29 CFR Part 1910, Section 1910.399, "one familiar with the construction and operation of the equipment and the hazards involved." This ties into the requirements of Section 1910.332 related to training.

The OSHA Construction Standard, 29 CFR Part 1926, Section 1926.32 defines a **qualified person** as one who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated his ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

The National Electrical Code-2008 edition revised the definition of **qualified persons** one who has the skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved.

How this definition may apply to the workplace includes if an electrical tradesperson wishes to use the Exception No. 1 of Section 200.6(E)-identification of grounded conductors, or the Exception to Section 590.6(A)-temporary installations GFCI protection, or the Exception to Section 430.102(B) disconnect at motor location-then person shall be **qualified**. If not, the exception(s) may not be used, and different wiring methods must be used.

Conclusion:

With electrical installations, **qualified persons** with the appropriate type and amount of training required by the National Electrical Code, and the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1910, give installers; i.e., electricians and electrical contractors, a choice of using alternate wiring methods. This provides a possibility of being more cost effective.

When using an "assured equipment grounding conductor program," associated with temporary wiring and installations, a **designated person** is essential for meeting the requirements established by the program. A **designated** person could also be qualified. With respect to scaffolding and excavations, persons with the appropriate skill and knowledge, who are considered to be **competent** maintain control and safety of the scaffolds and excavations. What makes the **competent person** unique is the level of control this person has. The **competent person** has the authority to take immediate measures to take prompt corrective action to remedy an unsafe situation.

No matter what the job task is or which trade is involved, personnel need the appropriate level of training to perform a job task safely and efficiently. OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926, Section 1926.20, General safety and health provisions require *the employer shall permit only those employees **qualified** by training or experience to operate equipment and machinery.*" This is merely the first of a number of requirements dictating training for employees.

Why do we keep making references to training? Because a person cannot be considered **competent** or **qualified** without having received the appropriate training that is required by the sections mentioned above.

There are advantages to providing the training to meet the definitions of **competent**, **designated** and **qualified**. The number one priority is always safety. Benefits include a safer workplace and greater efficiency, along with improved employee morale, and possibly lower insurance rates.

Steven J. Owen, electrical consultant, has been active in the electrical industry for more than 33 years. He is certified as a master electrician/contractor in 44 states; as a National Electrical Code instructor for continuing education in 33 states; an OSHA authorized trainer for construction and general industry; an electrical inspector by IAEI, ICBO & SBCCI; a chief code analyst by SBCCI; a lightning protection designer, inspector, installer by LPI; a power distribution engineering technician by NICET; principal voting member of CMP-3 of NFPA 70 - NEC; and a member of ABC, ASCET, ASSE, IAEI, ICBO, IEEE, NETA, NFPA, NICET, and RSES.

Mini High School Reunion: OTI 501 Safety Course Reunites Old Friends

Forty-one years and one Georgia Tech OSHA class later, high school friends and safety officials Danny Raines and Hib Gavel are back in touch.

Raines, a safety consultant with Raines Utility Safety Solutions LLC, and Gavel, health and safety manager for Bridon American, graduated from Lanier Senior High School in Macon, Ga., in 1967. Both pursued safety careers and lost touch with each other.

In August, they reconnected in the OTI 501 Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry.

"I hadn't seen the boy since high school," Raines said. "If he hadn't said his name, I wouldn't have recognized him. I kept my hair--he didn't."

"The first few minutes were spent with each person introducing themselves," Gavel said. "Danny was the last person on the top row of the amphitheater. He was reading a newspaper and put the paper down when I introduced myself."

"When we got to him, he introduced himself then asked if I were Hib Gavel from Macon whom he graduated with?" Gavel said. "We had lunch and talked about things back home."

The reunion almost didn't happen. Gavel had been scheduled to take the Nashville, Tenn., course until his company sent him to England that week.

"Otherwise, we wouldn't have been in the same class," Gavel said. "The Atlanta course gave me an opportunity to see my parents and as luck would have it run into Danny again."

Raines and Gavel took the course to ensure their safety credentials were up-to-date.

"You must stay abreast because things do change," Raines said. "You need to get the refreshers and the 501 is a good course that is well presented with excellent handouts and PowerPoint presentations. You have to have them."

If you have five years of experience in the safety and health field and have taken the OTI 511, check out our upcoming OTI 501 courses. Who knows, maybe you will reconnect with an old friend.

Advanced Safety Management: Principles and Programs Help Transform Construction Company's Safety Culture

Frank Wampol, civil division safety officer for B.L. Harbert International, a construction firm based in Birmingham, Ala., wanted to transform his company's safety culture. Georgia Tech gave him the tools to do so.

In December, he was promoted to corporate safety director for his efforts.

"My mindset is that people want to be an active part of accomplishing something positive—not simply avoiding a negative outcome," Wampol said.

"B.L. Harbert International senior management wanted to build and develop a safety culture within our company," Wampol said. "So often, safety is only measured by a negative—how many accidents you have had."

"Our senior management encouraged me to take classes and reimbursed me for them," Wampol said. "We partnered all the way—they helped me get the tools we needed."

In August 2007, he took EST 7001 Advanced Safety Management: Principles and Programs to complete his Advanced Certificate in Construction Safety and Health.

"The class provided real nuts and bolts of how to measure key indicators and key performance markers," Wampol said. "The instructor, Mike McCarroll, taught us what things in construction safety are measurable."

Next, Wampol asked his workers compensation insurance carrier for a short list of the safest companies and visited them.

"Georgia Tech and these real-world examples helped us develop a concrete plan on how to proceed," he said. "In the short term, we needed to measure where we were—we were good, but wanted to be great."

Wampol worked with McCarroll and his insurance carrier to develop a survey to discover company-wide safety perceptions for a benchmark.

Once the benchmark was established, the company then developed a plan that took into account its safety weaknesses including a lack of accountability.

"We had policies, guidelines, training, safety inspections, but little accountability," Wampol said. "Now we do safety audits. We discover where our training deficits are and work to correct them. These audits focus on safety program participation, key performance measurements within the supervisor's direct control."

Evaluations now are required during training to ensure workers learn required elements. When necessary, remediation is provided.

The company also charged its corporate safety committee, with revamping the company's safety incentives.

"Accident rates are just not good measures and don't indicate participation in safety programs," Wampol said. "It's a huge step forward for us. We are in the process of tying our safety bonuses and career path to the employee's participation in safety programs. We are raising it to that level of importance."

As the corporation changed the focus of its safety program, the number of workers compensation claims dropped. Since this change 48.6 percent of comp claims occurred in 2005 compared to only 19 percent in 2007. In addition, 2004 claims accounted for 54.3 percent of net incurred cost whereas 2007 claims accounted for only 5.7 percent. The number of recordable incidents has also declined.

"There is participation at every level of management," Wampol said. "Employees feel better about our safety programs and are more proactive. There is an opportunity for input, and I'm seeing them take ownership."

His Georgia Tech training contributed to his promotion—"no doubt.

"The Georgia Tech experience is essential," he said. "You network with like-minded people. I still communicate with my classmates and Georgia Tech OTI faculty and share ideas. That resource is priceless."

Certificate Details: Learn more about the Safety and Health Certificates

Georgia Tech OSHA Certificates

Georgia Tech OSHA certificates emphasize practical safety skills—ones that help you keep your company safe. Build the technical expertise you need to quickly adapt and effectively work in an ever-changing field. Learn more about each certificate:

- [Industrial Safety and Health Certificate](#)
- [Construction Safety and Health Certificate](#)
- [Safety and Health Program Management Certificate](#)

- [Hazardous Materials Management Certificate](#)
- [ADVANCED Industrial Safety and Health Certificate](#)
- [ADVANCED Construction Safety and Health Certificate](#)

- [PREMIER Occupational Safety and Health Certificate](#)

Congratulations to the following OSHA certificate recipients from June through October 2008:

PREMIER Occupational Safety and Health Certificate

Greg Bartlett
Jeffrey K. Dennis CET, CIT
Deborah Ann McClanahan
Gary Toothe, CET, CIT

ADVANCED Industrial Safety and Health Certificate

Greg Bartlett
Jeffrey K Dennis CET, CIT
Deborah Ann McClanahan
Brian Vick

ADVANCED Construction Safety and Health Certificate

Greg Bartlett
Jeffrey K Dennis CET, CIT
Deborah Ann McClanahan

Industrial Safety and Health Certificate

Donna Amon
Michael Andrews
George Balbona
Melissa L. Black
Steve Cain
Steve Chambers
R. Jason Clark
Debbie Coalwell
John D. Crawford
Ray Davidson
James Dionne
James C. Eastman
Sarah Easton
Charlie Foreman

Monica Diane Franklin
Adib Guirguis
Tenn Harbin
Joseph Allan Heilbroun
Oscar L. Jackson, Sr.
Jason Kelley
Terry Lennox
Bill McGough
Randy Patterson
Ron Sinks
Benny Wayne Thompson
Kimberly L. S. Watson
William Harold Wharton
Gene Wylie, Jr.

Construction Safety and Health Certificate

Michael Andrews
Melissa L. Black
David A. Burks
Francisco J. Castro
Steve Chambers
Chris Clegg
James Cook
Ray Davidson
Juan Dumler
Michael J. French
John De Frieze
William Gibson
Miguel "Mike" Gutierrez
Robin Hargett
Robert Lewis Humphries, III

Paul Laney
Steve Legg
Luis R. Marquez
Danny L. McCall
Bob Milton
Kimberly H. Rice
Thomas Robinson
John M. Sheehan
Christopher Shelton
Manira Simpson
Ron Sinks
Cherise M. Smith
Joel T. Stephens
Samuel Tamekloe
Brannon Ward
Richard Whritenour
Leslie Woodcock

Hazardous Materials Management Certificate

Wade M. Allread
Cathy S. Brannon
Jeffrey K. Dennis CET, CIT
Monica D. Franklin

Ronald B. Smiley
Carron Smoak
Brian Vick

Safety and Health Program Management Certificate

Greg Bartlett
Jeffrey K Dennis
Tzatzilha Torres Guadramma
Ronald B. Smiley
Vick A Springfield
Kathryn Stewart
William Thomson
Gene Wylie, Jr

Course Information: Upcoming Courses

OTI 500: Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health for the Construction Industry

- Nov. 10-14 • Columbia, S.C.
- Dec. 1-5 • Birmingham, Ala.
- Jan. 20-23 • Savannah, Ga.
- Feb. 9-13 • Atlanta
- March 9-13 • Wilmington, N.C.
- March 30-April 3 • Chattanooga, Tenn.

OTI 501: Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health for General Industry

- Dec. 1-5 • Birmingham, Ala.
- Jan. 20-23 • Savannah, Ga.
- Feb. 9-13 • Atlanta
- March 9-13 • Wilmington, N.C.
- March 30-April 3 • Chattanooga, Tenn.

OTI 2264: Permit-Required Confined Space Entry

- Dec. 1-19 • Online
- March 2-20 • Online

HAZ 1000: 24-Hour Hazmat Technician-Level Emergency Response Course: Industrial Spill and Disaster Response

- Dec. 2-4 • Smyrna, Ga.

HAZ 1002: 8-Hour Annual HAZWOPER Refresher

- Dec. 5 • Smyrna, Ga.
- March 24 • Smyrna, Ga.

OTI 510: Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry

- Dec. 8-12 • Atlanta
- Feb. 9-13 • Atlanta

OTI 511: Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry

- Dec. 8-12 • Atlanta
- Feb. 9-13 • Atlanta

EST 7000: Scaffolding Safety

- Dec. 8 • Atlanta
- Jan. 19-Feb. 9 • Online

OTI 3010: Excavation, Trenching, and Soil Mechanics

- Dec. 9-12 • Atlanta

OTI 7845: OSHA Recordkeeping Rule Course

- Dec. 12 • Atlanta
- Feb. 13 • Atlanta

OTI 7500: Introduction to Safety and Health Program Management

- Jan. 5-23 • Online
- Jan. 26 • Atlanta

OTI 7505: Introduction to Accident Investigation

- Jan. 12 • Atlanta
- Feb. 2-20 • Online

OTI 502: Update for Construction Industry Outreach Trainers

- Jan. 13-15 • Atlanta
- March 3-5 • Atlanta

OTI 503: Update for General Industry Outreach Trainers

- Jan. 13-15 • Atlanta
- March 3-5 • Atlanta

EST 7001: Advanced Safety Management: Principles & Programs

- Jan. 27-30 • Atlanta

OTI 521: OSHA Guide to Industrial Hygiene

- Feb. 2-6 • Atlanta

OTI 2045: Machinery and Machine Guarding Standards

- Feb. 16-20 • Atlanta

OTI 2225: Respiratory Protection

- March 10-12 • Atlanta

EST 6000: Managing Environmental Compliance

- March 10-12 • Atlanta

OTI 2250: Principles of Ergonomics Applied to Work-Related Musculoskeletal and Nerve Disorders

- March 17-20 • Atlanta

OTI 6000: Collateral Duty Course for Other Federal Agencies

- March 23-27 • Atlanta