



THE SPECK
The Construction Specifications Institute

CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH *CONSTRUCTION JOB SITE SAFETY*

PRESENTED BY REBECCA PHILLIPS, SAFETY DIRECTOR, MERIT CONSTRUCTION



CSI Knoxville Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 11th
Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)
CONSTRUCTION JOB SITE SAFETY PRESENTED
BY REBECCA PHILLIPS, SAFETY DIRECTOR,
MERIT CONSTRUCTION
1 AIA LU/ HSW
RSVP: Lunch Provided

**AIA
1 LU
HSW**

[Click here to make Reservation](#)



The Associated General Contractors Of Tennessee
[3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN 37909](#)

No Chapter Lunch meeting this month. CSI Knoxville Chapter Awards Gala will be MONDAY evening, RSVP required.

ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 1958 - CHARTERED MAY 1959



**CSI KNOXVILLE IS A
MEMBER OF THE CSI
GULF STATES REGION**

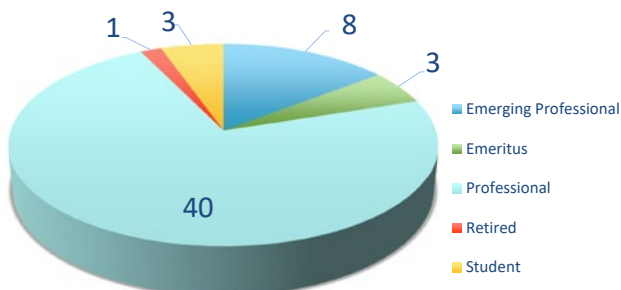
THE SPECK Editor

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THE SPECK is published monthly by the Knoxville Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images of the construction industry interest for our membership. All submittals should be sent via e-mail in a typical file format, such as .pdf, .docx, or .jpg. Please verify the accuracy of the information such as correct dates, spelling, and grammar. Deadlines are the 21st of each month and the newsletter will go out on the first.



CSI KNOXVILLE MEMBERSHIP



55 MEMBERS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER

- 04** **CSI Board Meeting** - Tuesday, November 4th
Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)
Zoom Meeting
- 11** **CSI Chapter Meeting** - Tuesday, November 11th
Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)
CONSTRUCTION JOB SITE SAFETY PRESENTED BY REBECCA PHILLIPS, SAFETY DIRECTOR, MERIT CONSTRUCTION
1 AIA LU/HSW
RSVP: Lunch Provided [Click to Make Reservation](#)

The Associated General Contractors Of
Tennessee [3306 Ragsdale Ave NW,](#)
[Knoxville, TN 37909](#)



DECEMBER

- 02** **CSI Board Meeting** - Tuesday, December 2nd
Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)
Zoom Meeting
- 16** **CSI Christmas Party** - Tuesday, December 16th
Time: 6:00 PM EST - 8:00 PM (EST)
Join us Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:00 for our Annual Holiday Party! The party this year will be held at Quest Health & Performance's Office, 5401 Kingston Pike, Suite 350, Knoxville, TN.
RSVP: [Click to Make Reservation](#)

JANUARY

- 06** **CSI Board Meeting** - Tuesday, January 6th
Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)
Zoom Meeting
- 13** **CSI Chapter Meeting** - Tuesday, January 13th
Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)
Dr. Roger Reiswig of Johnson Controls will be speaking at the CSI monthly lunch meeting in January on Major topics that are affecting the life safety industry and what you need to know. The meeting will be held at the AGC office on Ragsdale Ave. Lunch is served at 11:30 AM. Program presented at noon. AIA/CES credit available. \$25 per person. Reservations required.
RSVP: Lunch Provided [Click to Make Reservation](#)
Location: The Associated General Contractors of Tennessee
[3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN 37909](#)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER



Our Knoxville Chapter was well represented at the CSI Conference in Cleveland Ohio. Karina Kane presented at the CSI National Conference in Cleveland, OH. She did a fantastic job!!!!



Please join us for our presentation on Construction Job Site Safety Presented By Rebecca Phillips, Safety Director, Merit Construction.
The CSI Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 23rd had a great turnout!

If you have not perused the CSIK website <https://csiknoxville.org/> Please join us at one of our meetings to congratulate these terrific CSI Members in person, and to learn more about CSI.

R. Aaron Miller AIA, CSI | PRINCIPAL
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865 621-8959 mobile



CSI NEWS



CONSTRUCTION JOB SITE SAFETY



Tuesday

November 11th



12:00pm

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ DRESS FOR SUCCESS
- ✓ REVIEWING STATISTICS ON HOW TEACHING WORKERS TO SEE SAFETY MAKES A DIFFERENCE
- ✓ REGULATORY PURPOSE
- ✓ IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY



AGC Building - 3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN, 37909.



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Apply at bma1915.com/contact



Course Name:

Construction Job Site Safety

Course Date: **Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at Noon**

Course Number: CSIK-007

Provider Name: CSI National

Provider Number: S000

Continuing Education: 1.0 LU; 1.0 HSW

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Rebecca Phillips, Safety Director

Rebecca Phillips became Merit's Safety Director on June 27, 2016, bringing over 25 years of experience in the building industry. Throughout her career, Rebecca has developed strong leadership and management skills, overseeing EHS excellence across both general and construction sectors. Her dedication to safety plays a crucial role in Merit's continued drive toward achieving zero injuries.

Rebecca upholds the highest standards of occupational safety and health compliance. By collaborating closely with Project Managers and Superintendents, she provides essential guidance to ensure the safety of Merit employees, subcontractors, and visitors on construction sites. Her role includes helping team members understand and comply with state and federal regulations. As an authorized OSHA outreach trainer, she creates accessible training programs that simplify complex safety requirements.

Rebecca's expertise extends beyond site inspections. She oversees safety for large-scale projects, consistently achieving outstanding records with significant reductions in lost time injuries. Her leadership has been instrumental in helping Merit achieve the lowest possible experience modification ratings in the industry.

With a hands-on approach, Rebecca provides on-site training that enhances understanding of safety regulations. Her dedication to maintaining a risk-free work environment is reflected in her unannounced visits to job sites, where she ensures hazards are mitigated, reinforcing Merit's commitment to safety as its top priority.

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course introduces participants to practical construction safety strategies that benefit workers, supervisors, design professionals, and anyone involved in active job site operations. Through real-world examples, current safety research, and hands-on learning, we will explore why personal protective equipment (PPE) matters for everyone on site, not just field crews. Participants will review data demonstrating the impact of hazard awareness training and learn proven methods for helping workers "see" safety before incidents occur. The course will also clarify the purpose behind regulatory requirements and show how tools like Job Safety Analyses (JSA), Job Hazard Analyses (JHA), and Safe



Starts improve shared understanding of risk. Finally, attendees will gain practical guidance for implementing health and safety best practices that are realistic, maintainable, and effective throughout design, construction, and facility operations.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE JUSTIFICATION

This course directly supports Health, Safety, and Welfare by equipping participants with knowledge and skills that reduce risk of injury on construction sites and improve the long-term safety of built environments. Attendees will learn to identify hazards, understand the purpose and application of regulatory safety requirements, and implement best practices that protect workers, design professionals, and the public. By emphasizing PPE use, hazard recognition through tools such as JSA/JHA/Safe Starts, and integration of safety considerations during the design phase, the course advances participant competency in creating safer construction processes and healthier project outcomes. Each component of the training is focused on safeguarding human life and well-being, consistent with AIA HSW criteria.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. **Dress for Success:** PPE isn't just for workers: Learn why and how PPE plays an important role for everyone who works, supervises, manages and tours construction work sites.
2. **Reviewing statistics on how teaching workers to see safety makes a difference:** Learn effective strategies to minimize worker injury. Training, discussions and hands-on-site reviews.
3. **Regulatory purpose:** Gain understanding the purpose of regulatory requirements and why identifying hazards through JSA, JHA, and Safe Starts helps workers to understand why safety regulations exist. Learn how factoring in safety during design goes beyond the construction phase.
4. **Implement Best Practices for Health and Safety:** Learn how to apply best management practices that workers can and will adhere to.

LOCATION

CSI Knoxville meet at the AGC Building at 3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN, 37909. Lunch is served at 11:45 and the Program begins at noon. Reservations are encouraged in order to get a head count for meals. First time guests to our chapter can attend this Program Free of Charge.

To register as a first time guest, follow the link below and enter the code: **V366kFFI**.

https://csiknoxville.org/meal_reservations

We hope to see you soon, at CSI Knoxville!



REBECCA PHILLIPS, TRAINER / OSHA GENERAL AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY · SAFETY DIRECTOR

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Merit is deeply committed to safety, with the guiding motto: "Building futures with Safety in mind. It's our choice we make every day." A safe job site is crucial for maintaining our team's well-being, product quality, and project timelines. Merit's award-winning safety program has earned numerous accolades for Safety Excellence, including recognition from the Associated General Contractors Construction Safety and Excellence awards.



CONTACT REBECCA
PHILLIPS

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Fax **865-966-4101**



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HINDSIGHT

**PHOTOS FROM
CSI CHAPTER MEETING ON OCTOBER 14TH**



HINDSIGHT

PHOTOS FROM CSI GOLF TOURNAMENT
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD



HINDSIGHT

PHOTOS FROM CSI KNOXVILLE ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY

Pumpkins, People, and Pure Fun! Our CSI Knoxville annual pumpkin carving party was an absolute blast yesterday! We loved seeing everyone's creativity come to life with some seriously impressive carving and painting designs. What a great way to celebrate the season with our awesome community. Happy Halloween, everyone!



General Contractors Wanted



Before



After



The City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department seeks licensed general contractors to perform work for participants of City housing programs for low-to moderate-income residents.

Program needs include:

- New home construction
- Single-family renovations
- Exterior and interior renovations

To qualify, contractors must have:

- Home Improvement License or Contractor's License
- Credit Review
- Proof of insurance, including worker's compensation
- References
- Meet Housing & Neighborhood Development contractor criteria

Interested?

Contact Charles Sherrod

Csherrod@knoxvilletn.gov or call 865-215-2610

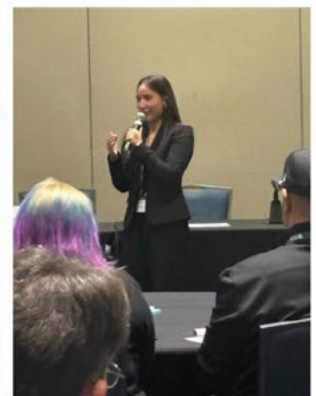
Housing and Neighborhood Development Department,
City of Knoxville



HINDSIGHT

PHOTOS FROM CSI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Karina Kane, our CSI Knoxville Student Collaboration president, knocked it out of the park at the CSI National Conference in Cleveland, Ohio! She led an inspiring session on "Stronger Together: Navigating the CSI Ecosystem to Lead with Confidence (Student Engagement)" for a fantastic crowd of about 70 people. The questions were brilliant, the energy was high, and Karina absolutely rocked the stage! We are so lucky to have her leading our students.



CSI GULF STATES REGION LEADERS – 2024-2025

Region Officers:

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CSI KNOXVILLE MEMBERS – NOVEMBER 2025

Suzan Jordan CSI, CCPR®, CDT®

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Douglass Lowrie CSI

Curtis Rolen CSI

Samer Shatara CSI

Paul Pierson CSI, Member Emeritus

James Odle CSI

Kathy Proctor FCSI, Member Emeritus, CDT®

Deborah Brooks CSI

Jerry Smith CSI

Patricia Corbitt CSI

Gary Bergeron FCSI

Susan Davis CSI, CDT®

Ken Buschle FCSI, Member Emeritus, CDT®

R. Aaron Miller CSI

Peter Tarbell CSI

Stacy Colbaugh CSI, CDT®

Juan Rodriguez CSI, CDT®

Darson Buckner CSI

Paul Crow CSI

James Rose CSI

Kathryn Richardson CSI, CCCA®, CDT®

Geoffrey Cavalier CSI

Alisha Gotham CSI

Whitney Kaul CSI

Andy Salley CSI, CDT®

Kristin Wormsley CSI

Josh Buchanan CSI

Abigail Allshouse CSI, CDT®

Tyler Goza Pettiford CSI

Danielle Mathews Hemsley CSI

Michelle Mokry CSI

Lauretta Pruitt CSI

Peter Giddings CSI

Michael Houle CSI, CDT®

Taniya Vinod CSI

Katie Goethert CSI

Kelley Hicks CSI

Chuck Whited CSI

Dipakkumar Patel CSI

Allison Kelly CSI

Jacqueline Randolph CSI, CDT®

Karina Kane CSI

Brien Montecinos CSI

Andy Eisner CSI

Leah Greenwood CSI

Trey Wilcox CSI

Margaret-Jean Smith CSI

Joshua Hankins CSI

Holly Parish CSI

Duane Grieve, FAIA CSI

Vivian Betancourt CSI

Rachel Carlson CSI

Angela Smith CSI

Ben Hoffman CSI

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM
Personal Information

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____
Nickname: _____
Title: _____
Firm Name: _____
Website: _____
Primary Address: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Primary Phone: _____
Primary Email: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Occupation Code: _____ Firm Type Code: _____

Membership Dues and Chapter Designation

Membership Dues (See types of membership above) \$ _____
Home Chapter (See member list) _____ Included
Membership Certificate (Optional) \$ 15.00
Total (All funds until) \$ _____

Signature* _____
*Required to validate your enrollment form. (For use by CSI please specify "Member Dues" and if renewing membership include member ID or name last.)

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Check ☐
Card # _____ CVV Code _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature* _____
*Signature required for credit card authorization. If using a credit card, please do not email form for security purposes.



Membership has its benefits

Your CSI member benefits include generous discounts on CSI standards and formats such as MasterFormat® Groups Subgroups And Divisions, as well as discounts on numerous resources to assist you in the preparation of specifications, as well as other construction documents.

Not a CSI Member? Join Today!

www.csiknoxville.org



2025-2026 CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER LEADERS

OFFICERS

President	Aaron Miller	amiller@mhminc.com	(865) 621-8959
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Faculty Advisor	Vacant	

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Golf Tournament	Wes Crow	wcrow@johnsongalyon.com	(865) 770-0727

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