

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

www.pasadenacac.org

Summary of Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Meeting

PCAC HEARS ANNUAL WORKER SAFETY REPORT

Approximately 6900 employees and contractors sustained a total of 34 workplace injuries or illnesses during 14.3 million hours of work in 2015.

The 14th Annual Report on Worker Safety in the 18 Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) Plants was presented by facilitator Diane Sheridan, who emphasized that the *numbers* in the report tell the stories of *people* injured, and not injured, in PCAC plants. Plants reported data for calendar year 2015. Highlights follow:

- In the **18 plants**, there were **14.3 million work hours** in 2015, which represents an estimated **3443 employees and 3456 contractors**. Work hours increased from the 13.6 million hours worked in 2014.
- PCAC **plants range in size** from 4036 work hours at the smallest facility to 5,600,00 hours for employees and contractors at the largest. Two-thirds of the total hours were worked in 3 of the 18 plants: LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, Pasadena Refining, and Chevron Phillips. About 39% of the total work hours occurred at the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery due partly to large planned maintenance turnarounds.
- **34 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses** occurred during the 14.3 million hours of work, 15 more than in 2014 but the same number as in 2013. There was one (contractor) fatality in 2015, the first since 2008.
- The **weighted average was 0.47**. A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury among 100 workers in a year, so 0.47 is less than one injury per hundred workers in a year. Another way to say is that, out of 1000 workers, there were 4.7 people with OSHA recordable injuries.
- **9 of the 18 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2015. "Zeros are Heroes" in CAC terms. The 9 were Afton Chemical, BASF, Enterprise Products, Ethyl, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Houston Products Processing, INEOS Phenol, Kinder Morgan, and Oxy Vinyls. LyondellBasell Refinery had its best ever recordable rate, 0.11.
- **0.48 was the simple average**. It is based on the number of plants, not on the hours worked. Thus it treats big plants and small plants the same, rather than recognizing the differences in the number of hours worked. It is affected mostly by small plants, in which a single injury can result in a high recordable rate. Compared to the 0.48 in 2015, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- The **median was 0.06**. The median is the middle when plants are listed from 0.00 to the highest rates. The median was 0.00 in 2014 and 1.33 in 2001.

- There were **fewer restricted duty cases** in 2015 compared to 2014 – 7 instead of 8. Restricted duty means the worker is given another assignment because he or she cannot perform the usual one.
- There were **more lost-time cases** last year – 15 in 2015 compared to 5 in 2014 and 14 in 2013. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work. The number of restricted duty and lost-time cases combined was 68% of the 34 recordables. OSHA analysis says that nationally, including all kinds of businesses, the more serious injuries are about half the total.
- All but 2 of the 18 PCAC plants had **recordable rates better than companies nationwide in the same general kind of business**, when compared by North American Industry Classification System codes
- One other local community advisory council compiles a worker safety report like PCAC. The **La Porte CAC report** predates and was the inspiration for the Pasadena CAC report. PCAC's overall weighted average of 0.47 was slightly better than the 0.49 rate of the 44 plants in the La Porte CAC. (Those plants worked 19+ million hours in 2015 compared to the 14.3 million work hours in PCAC.)
- PCAC's **employee rate** of 0.53 was better than LPCAC's 0.60 employee rate in 2015 while the PCAC **contractor rate** of 0.42 was higher than LPCAC's 0.35. The American Chemistry Council member companies' rate for employees was 0.82 and for contractors was 0.47. ACC represents most of the larger chemical manufacturers in the US. OSHA data shows a rate of 2.30 for chemical manufacturing in general.
- PCAC's 0.47 recordable rate was better than the national **record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 4.50 truck transportation; 6.20 hospitals; 3.60 retail trade; 4.20 education and health services. One of the highest rates nationally in 2014 was for nursing and residential care (12.1 per 100 of those workers had workplace injuries that year). Nationwide, the safest workplaces again were those of investment advisors and Certified Public Accountants working in offices (0.20). The overall rate nationally for all of private industry, plus state and local government, was 3.40 in 2014.
- OSHA data may be found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website www.bls.gov under "workplace injuries." Comparisons of 2015 PCAC plant data were made to the most current national data, which were from 2014.

Also reported at the PCAC meeting was information on the percentage of injuries from chemical contact or exposure (18%, or 6 cases out of the 34 injuries). The report shows comparisons between employees and contractors; lists plants taking part in voluntary, third-party, worker-safety related audit programs; and tells whether they are batch or continuous process plants. Chevron Phillips achieved OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status in 2015.

Emphasizing that the safety report *numbers* are really about *people*, Sheridan said 34 out of approximately 6900 workers were injured in 2015, and no one wants injuries. But this also means that more than 6800 workers were *not* injured. In the plants with 0.00 rates, about 943

people worked for a year without a recordable injury or illness. Zero is the goal when discussing OSHA recordable injury and illness rates.