

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Summary of February 25, 2014 Meeting

2013 Report of Worker Safety in PCAC Plants Shows Fewest Injuries and Best Average Ever

"If the recordable rate in 2002 (1.18) had been the recordable rate in 2013, 90 people would have been injured instead of 34."

The 12th Annual Report on Worker Safety in the 17 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.

In 2013, PCAC plants had their best safety performance ever, based on the number of injuries and the weighted average. "Best" means the fewest injuries as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and as based on the number of hours worked. "Ever" means since 2000, the first year for which PCAC collected data, or since the year that type of data began to be collected. It is generally agreed that due to improvements in safety since then, it is unlikely that there were fewer injuries or lower rates prior to 2000.

Highlights follow:

- In the 17 plants, there were 15.2 million work hours in 2013, which represents an estimated 3522 employees and 3775 contractors. Work hours were up 7% from 2012. Nearly a third of the total work hours occurred at the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery due to large planned maintenance turnarounds.
- 34 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses, 1 less than 2012. No fatalities since 2008.
- 0.45 weighted average, based on the 15.2 million work hours. *Best weighted average ever*. A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury among 100 workers in a year, so 0.45 is less than half this rate.
- 5 plants with 0.00 recordable rates, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2013. The Sekisui plant has had a 0.00 rate for 12 of the last 14 years.
- 0.76 simple average. Simple average based on number of plants, not on the hours worked. Simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- 0.30 median. Means more than half the 17 plants had rates higher and half had rates lower than 0.30. Median was 1.33 in 2001.
- More restricted duty cases in 2013 (12) than in 2012 (7), which was the lowest ever. Restricted duty means the worker is given another assignment because he or she cannot perform the usual one.

- Same number of lost-time cases in 2013 (14) as in 2012. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work.
- All 17 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
- PCAC's overall weighted average of 0.45 was slightly better than the 0.47 rate of the 42 plants in the La Porte CAC.
- PCAC *employee* rate of 0.60 was slightly higher than LPCAC's 0.56 employee rate. The *contractor's* rate of 0.31 was the same in both groups. Both groups surpassed American Chemistry Council member companies' rates for employees (0.75) and contractors (0.65), which were the best in the history of the trade association.
- PCAC's 0.45 recordable rate was significantly better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena; e.g. 3.70 residential building construction, 6.70 solid waste collection, 4.50 education and health services. It also was better than the overall chemical industry in the US (2.30).

The report also contains information on the severity of injuries and the percentage from chemical contact or exposure (6%, which is 2 cases). 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.

Emphasizing that the safety report *numbers* are really about *people*, Sheridan said that 5 plants with 0.00 rates for 2013 means that approximately 420 employees and contractors in those facilities worked for a year without a recordable injury or illness. If the recordable rate in 2002 (1.18) had been the recordable rate in 2013 (0.45), 90 people would have been injured instead of 34.