

# **Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council**

## **Summary of February 26, 2013 Meeting**

### **2012 Report of Worker Safety in PCAC Plants Shows Fewest Injuries and Best Average Since 2002**

*“Emphasizing that the safety report numbers are really about people, Sheridan said that the 7 plants with 0.00 rates for 2012 means that approximately 1125 workers worked for a year without a recordable injury or illness. If the recordable rate in 2002 (1.18) had been the recordable rate in 2012 (0.50), 84 people would have been injured instead of 36.”*

The 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2012, PCAC plants had their best safety performance ever, based on the number of injuries and the weighted average. “Ever” means since 2000, the first year for which PCAC collected data, or since the year that type of data began to be collected. Highlights follow.

- In the 17 plants, there were 14,300,711 work hours in 2012, which represents an estimated 3763 employees and 3112 contractors. Work hours were down 16% since 2011, primarily because there was an exceptionally large planned maintenance turnaround in a plant the prior year.
- 36 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses, 12 fewer than 2011.
- 0.50 weighted average. Means 0.50 injuries per 100 workers in 2012. Best weighted average since PCAC first collected that data (2002)
- 7 plants with no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2012.
- 1.01 simple average. Simple average based on plant, not on the hours workers have worked.
- 0.55 median. Means more than half the 17 plants had rates higher and half had rates lower.
- Fewer restricted duty cases in 2012 (7) vs. 2011 (14).

- 3 more lost-time cases in 2012 (14) than in 2011 (11).
- 14 of the 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 0.50 was better than the 0.63 rate of the 42 plants in the La Porte CAC.
- PCAC *employee* rate of 0.69 was better than LPCAC's 0.82 employee rate. PCAC's *contractor* rate of 0.28 was better than LPCAC's 0.33. Both groups surpassed American Chemistry Council member companies' rates for employees (0.85) and contractors (0.71), which were the best in the history of the trade association.
- PCAC's 0.50 recordable rate was significantly better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena; e.g. 4.30 residential building construction, 6.30 solid waste collection, 4.70 education and health services. It also was better than the chemical industry in the US (2.40).

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 also 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 the 7 plants with 0.00 rates for 2012 means that approximately 1125 workers worked for a year without a recordable injury or illness. If the recordable rate in 2002 (1.18) had been the recordable rate in 2012 (0.50), 84 people would have been injured instead of 36.