

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

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Summary of Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Meeting

ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFETY IN PCAC PLANTS

The *15th Annual Report on Worker Safety in the 16 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 2016. Highlights follow:

- In the 16 PCAC plants, there were **15.4 million work hours** in 2016, which represents an estimated **3108 employees and 4312 contractors**. Plants worked 1.1 million hours more in 2016 than they did in 2015; the increase was in contractor hours, which are often influenced by large planned maintenance turnarounds.
- **PCAC plants ranged in size from 18,500 work hours at the smallest facility to 6,900,000 hours for employees and contractors at the largest.** That is approximately 9 workers in the smallest plant compared to 3300 workers in the largest. Three-fourths of the total hours were worked in 4 of the 16 plants: LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, Chevron Phillips Chemical, Pasadena Refining, and Air Products. Each worked more than a million hours in 2016. About 45% of the total work hours occurred at the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, due primarily to large planned maintenance turnarounds.
- **13 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses occurred during the 15.4 million hours of work**, 21 fewer than in 2015 and the **fewest injuries since PCAC reports began in 2000**. There were no fatalities in the 16 PCAC plants in 2016.
- **The weighted average was 0.17, the best ever.** A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury per 100 workers in a year, so 0.17 is well less than one injury per hundred workers in a year. In other words, **fewer than 2 workers per thousand had an OSHA recordable injury at PCAC plants in 2016.**
- **11 of the 16 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2016—the most zeros ever. “Zeros are Heroes” in CAC terms. The 11 were Afton Chemical, Albemarle, BASF, Enterprise Products, Ethyl, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, INEOS Phenol, Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal, Oxy Vinyls and Sekisui. Pasadena Refining had its best ever recordable rate, 0.25, based on 2 injuries among approximately 764 workers.
- **0.12 was the simple average, the best ever.** The simple average 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 0.12 in 2016, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- **The median was 0.00, the third time** that more than half the plants had no employee or contractor recordables. The median is the middle of the range when plants are listed from 0.00

to the highest rates. The median was 0.06 in 2015 and 1.33 in 2001. The recordable rates ranged from 0.00 to 0.71 this year, making the **top of the range the lowest ever**.

- There were **3 restricted duty cases in 2016, the fewest ever**. Restricted duty means the worker is given another assignment after an injury because he or she cannot perform the usual one.
- There were **6 lost-time cases** in 2016, compared to 15 in 2015 and 31 in 2008. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work due to the injury.
- **None of last year's 13 injuries was from chemical contact or exposure.**
- **All 16 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, using Bureau of Labor statistics.
- **PCAC's employee rate of 0.25 was better than the American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies' rate for employees (0.76)**. ACC is the trade association for most of the large chemical manufacturers in the US.
- **OSHA data show a rate of 2.10 for chemical manufacturing in general. In Texas, the rate was 0.90, better than the chemical industry as a whole**. The ACC and OSHA data available at the time of the PCAC report were from 2015.
- **PCAC's 0.17 recordable rate was also better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 6.00 hospitals, 4.00 education and health services, and 3.4 real estate rental and leasing service. One of the highest rates nationally in 2015 was for nursing and residential care in state hospitals (12.0 per 100 of those workers had workplace injuries that year). Police and fire departments are also typically high. Nationwide, the safest workplaces again were those of investment advisors and Certified Public Accountants working in offices (0.20). The PCAC plants' rate of 0.17 says they worked more safely than this traditionally safe industry category. The overall rate nationally for all of private industry was 3.00. When state and local government workplaces were added, the rate nationally was 3.30 in 2015.
- OSHA data may be found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website www.bls.gov under "workplace injuries."

Emphasizing that the safety report *numbers* are really about *people*, the presenter said 13 out of approximately 7420 workers were injured in 2016, and no one wants injuries. But this also means that **more than 7407 workers were not injured during 15.4 million hours of work in 2016** in the 16 PCAC plants.

In 2002, the OSHA rate in PCAC plants was 1.18. If 1.18 had been the rate in 2016, 78 more people would have been injured – 91 workers injured instead of 13.