

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Summary of Tuesday, February 25, 2020 Meeting

ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKER SAFETY IN PCAC PLANTS

The *18th 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. Following the presentation, each plant shared effective aspects of its safety program. PCAC promotes continuous improvement in plant safety with this annual report.

Plants reported data for calendar year 2019. Highlights follow:

- In the 18 PCAC plants, there were **13.4 million work hours** in 2019, which represents an estimated **2,917 employees and 3,551 contractors**. Plants worked 593,000 fewer hours in 2019 compared to 2018.
- **PCAC plants ranged in size from 32,205 work hours at the smallest facility to 5,487,319 hours for employees and contractors at the largest.** That is approximately 15 workers compared to 2,638 workers. Approximately, two-thirds of the total hours were worked in 3 of the 18 plants: LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, Chevron Pasadena Refinery, and Chevron Phillips Chemicals. Each worked more than a million hours in 2019.
- **25 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses** occurred during the 13.4 million hours of work, 7 more than in 2018. There were no fatalities in the 18 PCAC plants in 2019.
- **The weighted average was 0.37.** A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury per 100 workers in a year, so 0.37 is well less than one injury per hundred workers in a year. In other words, approximately 4 workers per thousand had an OSHA recordable injury at PCAC plants in 2019.
- **8 of the 18 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2019. "Zeros are Heroes" in CAC terms. The 8 were Afton Chemical, Air Products, Ethyl, Evonik, Gulf Coast Authority, INEOS Phenol, Kinder Morgan Export Terminals and Sekisui.
- **0.46 was the simple average.** 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 0.46 in 2019, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- **The median was 0.24.** The median is the middle of the range when plants are listed from 0.00 to the highest rates. The median was 0.18 in 2018 and 1.33 in 2001. The recordable rates ranged from 0.00 to 2.30 this year.
- There were **10 restricted duty cases** in 2018. Restricted duty means the worker is given

another assignment after an injury because he or she cannot perform the usual one.

- There were **8 lost-time cases** in 2019, compared to 9 in 2018 and 31 in 2008. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work due to the injury.
- **2** of last year's 25 injuries came from **chemical contact or exposure**.
- **17 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, using Bureau of Labor statistics.
- One of the two other local community advisory councils that compile a worker safety report had completed its report at the time of the PCAC meeting. The **La Porte CAC report** predates and was the inspiration for the Pasadena CAC report. PCAC's overall weighted average of 0.37 was better than the 0.43 rate of the 45 plants in the La Porte CAC. (Those plants worked 20.6 million hours in 2018 compared to the 13.4 million work hours in PCAC.)
- PCAC's **employee rate** of 0.46 was better than LPCAC's 0.56 employee rate in 2018 and LPCAC's **contractor rate** of 0.27 was better than PCAC's 0.30. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies' rate for employees was 0.74 and for contractors was 0.41. ACC is the trade association for most of the large chemical manufacturers in the US. OSHA data show a rate of 1.9 for chemical manufacturing in general. In Texas, the rate was 1.0, better than the chemical industry as a whole. Both PCAC and LPCAC rates were better than the industry statewide. The ACC and OSHA data available at the time of the PCAC report were from 2018.
- **PCAC's 0.37 recordable rate was also better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 5.6 hospitals, 3.7 education and health services. One of the highest rates nationally in 2018 was for nursing and residential care in state hospitals (11.9 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 (0.1). The overall rate nationally for all of private industry was 2.8. When state and local government workplaces were added, the rate nationally was 3.1 in 2018.
- 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 25 out of approximately 6,468 workers were injured in 2018, and no one wants injuries. But this also means that **more than 6,443 workers were not injured during 13.4 million hours of work in 2019** in the 18 PCAC plants.

In 2002, the OSHA rate in PCAC plants was 1.18. If 1.18 had been the rate in 2019, 80 people would have been injured instead of 25.

Community Updates

Area families are invited to **MindTrek**, a free, fun science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) night on March 5 at San Jacinto College. Details in the attached flyer.

The first invitations to residents asking them to respond to the **2020 Census** will be mailed starting March 12. Census Day is April 1. Conducted every 10 years as required by the US Constitution, the census is a count of the US population. Census data are used to apportion the 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and to distribute as much as \$675 billion of federal funds. A complete count is needed so that Texas gets its fair share of both. See attached handouts to find basic facts about the census and why it is important to respond. This is the first census in which people may respond online, but they may also respond by phone or mail.