

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKER SAFETY

The *19th 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 2020. Highlights follow:

- In the 18 PCAC plants, there were **11.5 million work hours** in 2020, which represents an estimated **3,025 employees and 2,480 contractors**. Plants worked **2.0 million** fewer hours in 2020 compared to 2019.
- **PCAC plants ranged in size from 34,012 work hours at the smallest facility to 4,226,615 hours for employees and contractors at the largest.** That is approximately 16 workers compared to 2,032 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 of those worked more than a million hours in 2020.
- **13 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses** occurred during the 11.5 million hours of work, 12 fewer than in 2019. No PCAC plant reported any COVID-19 workplace transmission cases for 2020. There was **one fatality** in the 18 PCAC plants in 2020.
- **The weighted average was 0.23.** A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury per 100 workers in a year, so 0.23 is well less than one injury per hundred workers in a year. In other words, fewer than 3 workers per thousand had an OSHA recordable injury at PCAC plants in 2020.
- **10 of the 18 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2020. "Zeros are Heroes" in CAC terms. The 10 were Afton Chemical, Air Products, Albemarle, BASF, Ethyl, Evonik, INEOS Phenol, Kinder Morgan Export Terminals, OxyVinyls Pasadena PVC, and Sekisui.
- **0.47 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 0.47 in 2020, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- The **median was 0.00**, meaning more than half the plants at zero recordable injuries or illnesses. The median is the middle of the range when plants are listed from 0.00 to the highest rates. The median was 0.24 in 2019 and 1.33 in 2001. The recordable rates ranged from 0.00 to 3.04 this year.
- There were **7 restricted duty cases** in 2020. 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 2020, compared to 8 in 2019 and 31 in 2008. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work due to the injury.
- **1** of last year's 13 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.
- PCAC was the first of three local community advisory councils that compile a worker safety report to complete its report for 2020, so comparisons between the CACs used the 2019 data for the other two groups. The **La Porte CAC report** predates and was the inspiration for the Pasadena CAC report. PCAC's overall weighted average of 0.23 was better than the 0.43 rate of the 43 plants in the La Porte CAC. (Those plants worked 20.5 million hours in 2019 compared to the 11.5 million work hours in PCAC for 2020.) The **Bay Area Community Advisory Panel** recordable rate was 0.85 in 2019.
- PCAC's **employee rate** of 0.35 was better than LPCAC's 0.56 employee rate in 2019 and PCAC's **contractor rate** of 0.08 was better than LPCAC's 0.27 and BAYCAP's 1.15. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies' rate for employees was 0.73. 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 2019.
- **PCAC's 0.23 recordable rate was also better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 8.1 hospitals, 4.3 education and health services. One of the highest rates nationally in 2019 was for prefab, wood building manufacturers (13.8 per 100 of those workers had workplace injuries that year). Police and fire departments are also typically high. Nationwide, among the safest workplaces were fine arts schools at 0.1 injuries per hundred. The overall rate nationally for all of private industry was 2.8. When state and local government workplaces were added, the rate nationally was 3.0 in 2019.
- 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*, Sheridan said 13 out of approximately 5,505 workers were injured in 2020, and no one wants injuries. But this also means that **more than 5,492 workers were not injured during 11.5 million hours of work in 2020** in the 18 PCAC plants.

In 2002, the OSHA rate in PCAC plants was 1.18. If 1.18 had been the rate in 2020, 68 people would have been injured instead of 13.