



# Orientation

Background for CAC/CAP  
Annual Reports  
on Worker Safety

**Numbers** tell the story of **people**  
injured and not injured in the workplace

2-7-2022

# Safety report is about **people**

- Tracking OSHA recordable rates each year is a way for community advisory councils/panels to **promote continuous improvement** in worker safety.
- Lets plants **evaluate** their safety performance against that of their neighboring plants. No other place to do so, as far as we know.
- Plants encouraged to **share** safety reports with employees and contractors.
- **Improvement** comes from this effort.

# Which workers are covered in these safety reports?

- All plant **employees**
- Plant **contractors**. CAC asks that plants include resident or nested contractors that work in the plant daily as well as plant turnaround and expansion contractors.

# What do contractors do?

**Contractors in the plant:** scaffold builders, welders, painters, maintenance workers during a turnaround, general plant maintenance workers, fugitive emission monitoring technicians, and loaders

**Contractors in administrative buildings:** engineering consultants, administrative assistants, purchasing, human resources, lab technicians, security, and accountants

**Employees** typically do the higher hazard, chemical-related jobs; e.g. preparing equipment for maintenance by clearing chemicals from lines and locking out energy sources before maintenance contractors begin repairing equipment

# What is OSHA?

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  - A **federal agency since 1970**. Part of US Department of Labor in the Department of Commerce
- **Regulates workplace safety** for all private industry
- **Private industry** means businesses that produce goods or provide services
- OSHA reports also include some data from state-local governments

# What is an “OSHA Recordable” ?

- **Recordable** – work-related injury or illness that must be **recorded** on an OSHA log
  - Log must be available if OSHA inspects
- Some recordables also must be **reported**
  - Fatality
  - Inpatient hospitalization
  - Amputation
  - Loss of an eye

# What counts as an OSHA Recordable?

- In simplest terms, workplace injuries or illnesses that require a **doctor's intervention**.
  - More than simple first aid
- **Wide range** of injuries and illnesses

Simplest doctor intervention is prescribing a medicine also available over the counter.

But includes everything from that to sutures to surgery to fatalities.

- Covers **workplace injuries and illnesses**

# How does OSHA address severity?

- **Fatality**
- **Lost-time injury** (unable to come to work)
  - Examples: fractures, surgery, ruptured Achilles tendon
- **Restricted duty** (at work but unable to do usual job)
  - Examples: sprained ankle, back strain
- **“Less serious” recordable**
  - Examples: stitches, prescription medicine for bee sting



# What is an OSHA recordable rate?

- A **standardized formula** so any company, big or small and in any kind of business, can calculate its rate of recordables and compare themselves to other businesses.
  - Example: Plants can compare the rates of contractor firms they might hire to see how they compare to the plant's own performance.
- Formula is **based on 200,000 work hours**, the number 100 workers would typically work in a year. (50 weeks X 40 hrs/week)

# To calculate an OSHA recordable rate, what do you need to know?

- **Number of OSHA recordable injuries or illnesses in last 12 months**
  - Plants track them all the time, not just at year's end.
- **Total work hours**
  - Some work full time, some don't. So rate is based on work hours rather than number of employees.
  - May estimate number of employees by dividing work hours by 2,080 (number of hours typically worked in a year).

# How do you calculate a recordable rate?

- **Multiply 200,000 by number of recordables. Then divide by number of work hours.**
- One injury during 200,000 hours of work in a year is a recordable rate of **1.00**, meaning one person out of 100 was injured that year.
- Higher than 1.00 is equal to more than 1 person out of 100 injured in a year. Less than 1.00 means fewer than 1 person per 100 had an OSHA recordable injury or illness.

# How do work hours affect the rate?

*Rate for one recordable in plants of different sizes*

- 1 x 200,000 divided by **1,000,000** work hours  
= a rate of **0.20**
- 1 x 200,000 divided by **100,000** work hours  
= a rate of **2.00**
- 1 x 200,000 divided by **10,000** work hours  
= a rate of **20.00**