

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Annual Report on Worker Safety in PCAC Plants

February 22, 2022

The *20th 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. Plants reported data for calendar year 2021. Highlights follow:

- In the 17 PCAC plants, there were **10.2 million work hours** in 2021, which represents an estimated **2,601 employees and 2,325 contractors**. Plants worked **1.2 million** fewer hours in 2021 compared to 2020.
- **PCAC plants ranged in size from 18,212 work hours at the smallest facility to 3,739,759 hours for employees and contractors at the largest.** That is approximately 9 workers compared to 1,798 workers. Approximately, two-thirds of the total hours were worked in 3 of the 17 plants: LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, Chevron Phillips Chemicals, and Chevron Pasadena Refinery. Each of those worked more than a million hours in 2021.
- **22 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses** occurred during the 10.2 million hours of work, 9 more than in 2020. Three PCAC plants reported COVID-19 workplace transmission cases for 2021, one case at each plant. There were **no fatalities** in the 17 PCAC plants in 2021.
- **The weighted average was 0.43.** A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury per 100 workers in a year, so 0.43 is well less than one injury per hundred workers in a year. In other words, fewer than 5 workers per thousand had an OSHA recordable injury at PCAC plants in 2021.
- **8 of the 17 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2021. "Zeros are Heroes" in CAC terms. The 8 were Air Products, Albemarle, BASF, Enterprise Products, Evonik, INEOS Phenol, Intercontinental Terminals, and Kinder Morgan Export Terminals.
- **1.32 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 1.32 in 2021, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000. The 1.32 was the highest since 2000.
- The **median was 0.25.** The median is the middle of the range when plants are listed from 0.00 to the highest rates. The median was 0.00 in 2020 and 1.33 in 2001. The recordable rates ranged from 0.00 to 10.98 this year.
- There were **6 restricted duty cases** in 2021. Restricted duty means the worker is given another assignment after an injury because he or she cannot perform the usual one.
- There were **16 lost-time cases** in 2021, compared to 6 in 2020 and 31 in 2008. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work due to the injury.
- **0** of last year's 22 injuries came from **chemical contact or exposure**.

- **15 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, using Bureau of Labor statistics.
- PCAC's **employee rate** of 0.70 in 2021 was higher than the American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies' rate for employees of 0.65. ACC is the trade association for most of the large chemical manufacturers in the US. OSHA data show a rate of 1.8 for chemical manufacturing in general. In Texas, the rate was 0.70, better than the chemical industry as a whole. The ACC and OSHA data available at the time of the PCAC report were from 2020.
- Once the Citizen's Advisory Council to La Porte Industry and the Bay Area Community Advisory Panel hold their annual safety reports, the three groups can be compared.
- **PCAC's 0.43 recordable rate was better than the national record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 7.6 hospitals, 3.00 education and health services. One of the highest rates nationally in 2020 was for nursing care facility- skilled nursing facility (15.7 per 100 of those workers had workplace injuries that year). Police and fire departments are also typically high. Nationwide, one of the safest workplaces was information services (data hosting) at 0.1. The overall rate nationally for all of private industry was 2.7. When state and local government workplaces were added, the rate nationally was 2.9 in 2020.
- 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 22 out of approximately 4,926 workers were injured in 2021, and no one wants injuries. But this also means that **more than 4,904 workers were not injured during 10.2 million hours of work in 2021** in the 17 PCAC plants.

In 2002, the OSHA rate in PCAC plants was 1.18. If 1.18 had been the rate in 2021, 60 people would have been injured instead of 22.