

PGVPP Q3 Meeting – August 17, 2023

Meeting started by Alex Miller at 14:30

Welcome to New Members

Safety Moment by Justin Maynard, Safety Specialist, Onward Energy

- Topic: Heat Stress
- 3 Sources:
 - Environmental – indoor/outdoor; weather/season changes; high humidity like in kitchens
 - Metabolic heat – radiation, convection, sweat, etc. Body cools through sweat evap. Not good in high humidity due to oversaturation of air.
 - Clothing
- Symptoms
 - Heat rash
 - Muscle cramps
 - Dizziness
 - Headaches
- Other Illnesses if left untreated
- Heat Stroke – heat exhaustion develops into heaty stroke. Call for med help immediately. Move worker to cooler place, remove clothing, apply cold packs
 - Body temp grater than 104 F
- Ways to prevent heat stress
 - Provide water (cold drinks)
 - Shaded area or cooler in temp
 - Discourage caffeine/alcohol
 - Hat/cooling gear
 - Schedule periodic breaks
 - Allow acclimation to weather

Comments: Alex – overheating happens quickly especially if not acclimated to the temps/environment

VPP UPDATES

- Kelli Heflin – Valencia Power, Onward Energy, VPP recert. NO 90-DAY ITEMS! Recert approved!
- Lumina – Co-gen. Recert in June. Congrats letter last week. First recert. Maintained standard for VPP while having 70% turnover in operations in 3 years. Only FOUR 90-DAY ITEMS!
- Todd Wulf – Talen power plant in MT. Last Month re-eval. Adding Best Practice contribution to Q4 newsletter

- Darrel Bauman – Energy Keepers. NO 90-DAY ITEMS!
- Brian Sullivan – OSHA Region I VPP Management – CT site had successful VPP visit

VPP Element Presentation: Employee Involvement – Bradley Kelley, Lamar Power Plant

- Call to Action to become SGE
- What is Employee Involvement
 - Employees taking safety courses – inspect ladders/PPE
 - Leading Programs
 - Helping with suggestions on safety Improvements
 - Proactive safety engagements
- How do YOU get US involved
 - Educate us
 - Empower us – power to make decisions and communicate
 - Make requirements for us and set expectations
- Engagement
 - Make requirements and set expectations
 - Require employees do audits, safety trainings
 - Make expectations measure able and attainable
- Currency
 - What motivates us as employees
 - Recognition
 - If goals are team driven and 20% gets reward for 80%'s work, the 80% might decline
- Recognition
- Questions
 - Alex Miller – How would you like management to find out about your currency? Ask or should managers learn and try to figure out what motivates on their own?
 - Could put employees on the spot.
 - Ray Delfing – Hourly employees stepping up to the plate speaks a lot of employee involvement

Committee Updates

Newsletter – Michael Circle spoke. It was amazing. Honestly, people cheered. People cried tears of joy. Great work, me.

QEW Team – Pushed back meetings.

- Meeting NEXT WEEK!

Benchmarking Team – Develop questionnaire on Auditing.

- ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!
 - OSHA has recognized this group as a Best Practice
 - Let Kelli Heflin know if you would like to get involved! (kelli.heflin@onwardenergy.com)

Open Discussion

Questions:

- Todd Wulf – Talen: Man Lift training
 - Darryl Hazuga – Brought in contractor to train all at once. Safety Service (First Choice Solutions) (Fall protection, first aid, manlift training, etc)
 - Marc Sullivan – Use United and Summit for in-person training. Summit is 3rd party vendor that does maintenance and training. United as well.
 - Also look to ensure Golf cart-operators are trained.
 - Onward Energy uses fork-lift training requirements for golf carts. Training mats from train the trainer classes.
 - Jeff Husie – Trainers from manufacturers do basic training but site still observes team before giving full approval. Team must demonstrate what they learned. *Best Practice*
 - Tom Uher – Set up an obstacle course to demonstrate training. Keeps it fun but learning.

Suggestions:

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Discussion points

- VPPPA Mentoring Program: Extra set of eyes to provide outreach, knowledge and education to new sites.
 - Kelli returning to mentoring committee, looking to drum up more interest.
 - Contact regional office to match up with mentor for your site.
 - Is there a regional contact through OSHA or VPPPA that is best?
 - Mentoring program through VPPPA. Region 8 OSHA VPP manager says call Kelli.
 - Rich Brown – posted Region 2 link (<https://www.vppparegion2.org/regioniimentors>)
 - If mentors are SGEs, it counts towards SGE qualifying activities.

2023 VPPPA Conference Schedule

Regions 2,3,5,6,7 and 10 – completed

Region 1 – Aug 22-24, Southbridge MA

Regions 4 and 9 – in Conjunction with VPPPA Safety+ Conference

Region 8 – Did a Region 8 Networking Day

- Presentations
- Tabletop scenarios
- Discussion exercises

Kelli LaBlast Class – VPPPA Conference, Tuesday at 7:30am

Next Call – November 16th, 2023

Wanna volunteer? Call/Email Alex Miller (alexander.miller@vistacorp.com) or Kelli Heflin (kelli.heflin@onwardenergy.com)

Leadership Awards

Jon Caccamise – Onward Energy

Joe Sviatko – Black Hills Energy

Closing – Kelli Heflin