



**QUARTER 3, 2024**

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## SPOTLIGHTS

Have something you would like to submit to our newsletter?

Send submission and spotlight ideas to:

[Michael.Circle@onwardenergy.com](mailto:Michael.Circle@onwardenergy.com)

# ON THE GRID

## SAFETY+

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WHEN: Sunday, August 25 - Wednesday, August 28

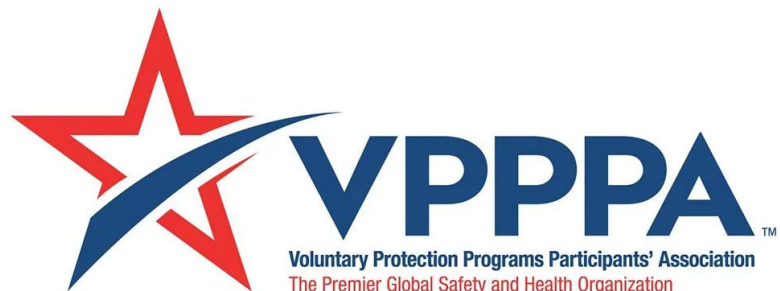
WHERE: Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center  
Denver, Colorado

WHAT: The 2024 VPPPA Safety+ National Conference marks a significant milestone as it celebrates its 40th iteration. This premier event in occupational safety has evolved from a small gathering of 45 attendees in 1984 to a comprehensive symposium that has educated nearly 70,000 professionals over the years.

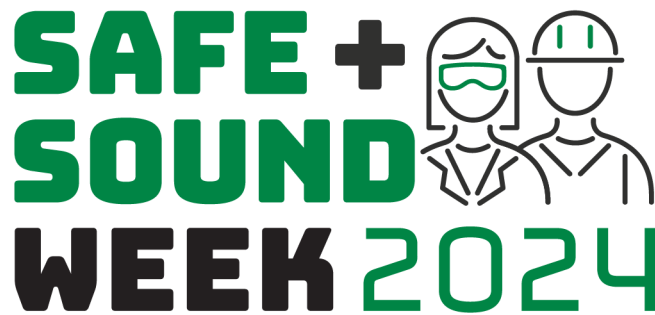
Safety+ stands out by catering to safety professionals across all career stages, from frontline workers to C-suite executives. The conference embodies the principle of continuous improvement, aiming to enhance attendees' skills, knowledge, and networks.

The event features expert-led workshops, interactive sessions, and showcases the latest safety technologies. Highlights include worksite tours, legislative updates, and opportunities for continuing education credits.

True to its roots in the Voluntary Protection Programs, Safety+ welcomes participants from all industries worldwide, regardless of VPP status. It remains committed to advancing workplace safety through collaboration, education, and innovation.



## SAVE THE DATE



**AUGUST 12-18, 2024**

Visit [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov) for more information.

Participate in Safe + Sound Week 2024: August 12-18

Safe + Sound Week is a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe. This year Safe + Sound Week will provide resources for businesses on Job Hazard Analysis (JHA). These materials will be posted before the start of Safe + Sound Week. Please check back soon!

**Why Participate?**

Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line. Participating in Safe + Sound Week can help get your program started, energize an existing one, or provide a chance to recognize your safety successes.

**Who Participates?**

All organizations looking for an opportunity to recognize their commitment to safety are welcome to participate. Last year, more than 3,900 businesses helped to raise awareness about workers' health and safety!

Check out our event archive for information on previous years' engagement.

# SAFETY AND...



Summer's here, and there's something strange in your neighborhood. No, it's not ectoplasmic entities or paranormal activity – it's the sneaky specter of heat stress! Cats and dogs living together...MASS HYSTERIA! But don't worry, folks. We've got a team more equipped than the Ghostbusters to help you bust this invisible menace.

Picture this: this twinkie represents the normal amount of heat in a summer. Instead of proton packs, our heat-busting squad wields knowledge, preparation, and a cool attitude. Their mission? To cross the streams of hydration, shade, and smart clothing choices, creating a force field against the sun's relentless rays.

First up in our arsenal: the mighty H<sub>2</sub>O blaster. Like Egon's positron collider, it's your first line of defense. Drink water regularly, even before you feel thirsty. It's the equivalent of setting your proton pack to "awesome."

Next, we have the shade seeker. Channel your inner Ray Stantz and scout out cool spots like it's your job. Trees, awnings, or buildings can be your temporary containment units against the heat. No one will be asking... "What did you do, Ray?"

Don't forget your protective gear! Instead of beige jumpsuits, opt for light-colored, loose-fitting clothes. They're your personal ecto-containment system, reflecting heat and allowing your skin to breathe.

But wait, there's more! Like the Ghostbusters' tool belt, pack some extras: sunscreen, a hat, and maybe a portable fan. These are your ghost traps for UV rays and humid air.



Remember, heat stress is no joke. If you start feeling dizzy, nauseous, or develop a headache, it's time to call for backup. Seek a cool place and get help if symptoms persist. Don't be terrified beyond the capacity for rational thought. Just act.

This summer, when the heat's making you feel like you're trapped in the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, just remember: you've got the tools, you've got the talent, and you've got the know-how to show that heat who's boss. Stay cool out there, and don't cross the streams!

# BEHIND SAFETY

## INSPIRED BY BRADLEY KELLEY, OPERATOR - LAMAR POWER PLANT

As a fledgling employee of a National Tire and Battery that HATED it when corporate came sniffing around in 2010, I understand that employees find it difficult to speak up when they have a safety concern. Some employees speak up, yet still hold back, leaving their 'real' comments for their coworkers when corporate is out of ear shot.

Some plants have built an incredible safety culture where bravery is not needed to speak out on an unsafe job request or when extra budget space must be made for a renovation of a dangerous area of the site. However, many sites across the country still reel at the thought of bringing up safety concerns, creating more hazardous conditions.

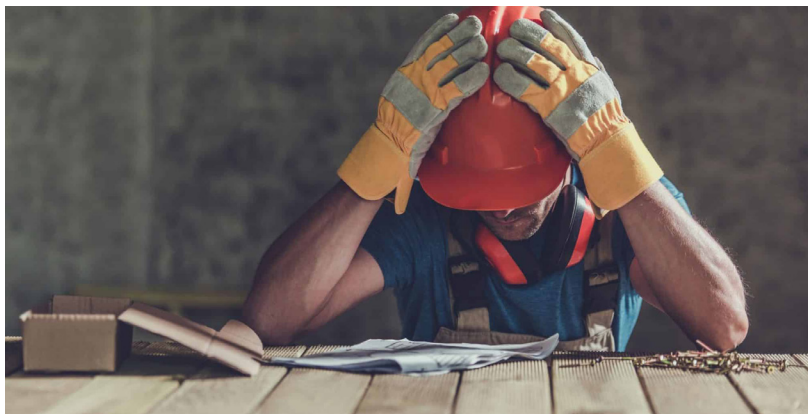
While many feel like blaming the crews, the truth is, many sites have leadership issues, prohibiting people from feeling safe when bringing up hazards. It could be entirely unintentional, but still, the problem exists.

What Mr. Kelley of Lamar Power Plant in Paris, Texas, brings to the table, is a way to spark action from the background safety conversations that happen after the safety team leaves.

If you don't feel comfortable talking about safety issues, take notes of what is said, discuss these topics with your peers and present them as concerns, anonymous requests, or safety minute-meetings during safety meetings.

In the end, building a strong safety culture has to involve every one, but it can start behind the scenes. Just be sure it is growing from behind the scenes, not just stifling productive progress.

One last note: If you feel, as a manager, that your site is not communicating their safety concerns, work with them to better build that trust and give them the ear necessary to get their concerns out there.

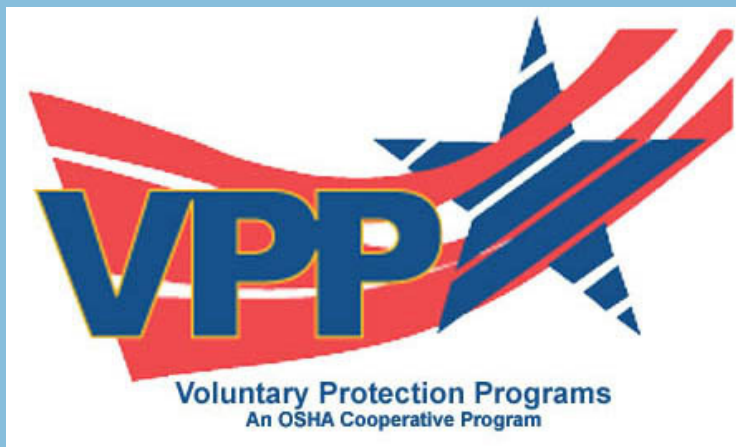


## VPPPA SAFETY+ NATIONAL CONFERENCE

When: Aug 25th-28th, 2024

Where: Gaylord Rockies  
Resort and Convention Center

What: The National Conference of VPP sites and potential VPP sites to gain in knowledge and understanding of VPP.



# VPP ELEMENTS

## WORKSITE ANALYSIS

For participants in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program, conducting thorough worksite analysis is essential for finding and addressing health and safety hazards.

As one of the key elements of VPP, the worksite analysis process involves practices like safety inspections, job hazard analysis, incident investigation, safety and health surveys, and analysis of injury/illness data. The goal is to proactively study conditions and operations to pinpoint risks before injuries or illnesses occur.

"You have to really dig into all aspects of the worksite with a critical eye," said Michael Circle, Safety Specialist at Onward Energy. "Our teams inspect everything from equipment and processes to procedures and policies. We ask 'what could go wrong here' at every step."

The VPP requires sites to conduct comprehensive baseline worksite hazard analysis initially, with full re-analysis done every three years at a minimum. In addition, companies must have an effective system for more routine hazard analysis, such as pre-use analysis for new equipment, processes or facilities.

Incident investigations also play a critical part in worksite analysis under VPP. All accidents and near misses must be thoroughly investigated to determine root causes and develop preventive actions. Workers are actively involved throughout the investigation process.

"Effective worksite analysis is all about identifying hazards from every possible angle, not just catching the obvious stuff," Circle said. "You have to really look at comprehensive data, get front-line employees involved, and be persistent to fully understand and address risk areas."

VPP participants credit the in-depth worksite analysis as a main way the program helps them go beyond OSHA compliance in making their workplace safer. By vigorously studying hazards and potential hazards, the process allows sites to implement prevention strategies more effectively.



Tell us your stories about individual or group efforts that enhance the safety culture at your site! We would love to share your accomplishments, strategies, experiences and personal stories right here!



In a sea of more than 2,000 fellow safety and health practitioners, it can be difficult to attendees to connect with experts in the field who can answer questions and provide guidance not only about VPPPA's Safety+, but about growing their EHS&S network. Combined with jam-packed schedules filled with keynote speakers, professional development sessions and networking events, attendees' time to learn from the experienced Safety+ and VPPPA veterans can slip away.

That's why we created VPPPA's Ambassadors – long-serving VPPPA members, volunteer leaders and veterans of VPP from all backgrounds to help forge relationships. To help plant the seeds that will grow into your network of high-performing front-line and management professionals. All dedicated to the pursuit of continuous EHS&S improvement.





## MEETINGS

# 2024

2:30 to 4:00 pm (EST)

### Q1 Meeting – February 15th

Note Taker – Mark Miranda

Safety Minute–?

VPP Element – Jon Condry

### Q2 Meeting – May 16th

Note Taker – Jason Shaw

Safety Minute – Marc Sullivan

VPP Element – Joe Sviatko

### Q3 Meeting – August 15th

Note Taker – ???

Safety Minute – Rob Coit

VPP Element – Michael Circle

### Q4 Meeting –November 14th

Note Taker -- Mark Miranda

Safety Minute – Justin Maynard

VPP Element – Todd Wulf

## VPP ELEMENTS

### MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP AND EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT.

The applicant must describe top-level management leadership in the applicant or participant's SHMS. (Note: Management must clearly describe its commitment to meeting and maintaining the requirements of VPP. The applicant must also describe how employees are involved in safety and health.)

### Worksite Analysis

You must describe methods used to recognize, identify, and analyze hazards. Effective worksite analysis provides the information managers and employees need for a thorough understanding of all hazards to which they may be exposed.

### Hazard Prevention and Control

You must describe and give examples of how hazards are addressed, including preventative maintenance, occupational health care program, emergency preparedness, and hazard elimination employing the hierarchy of controls.

### Safety and Health Training

You must describe its formal and informal safety and health training program for managers, supervisors, and employees. The information must include training protocols and schedules of training.

