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SPOTLIGHTS

Have something you would like to submit to our newsletter?

Send submission and spotlight ideas to:

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ON THE GRID

KEEP IT SECRET.



KEEP IT SAFE.

KEEPING SECRETS

KEEPS UNSAFE

This article was inspired by John Scott from Onward Energy's SWG Arapahoe plant. Thanks, "Not Corey"!

*G*ANDALF IS A BIG DUMMY.

I said it. The man knows nothing of safety. If he did, he kept it secret. Running through the mines of Moria, he said nothing about the bridge on which he stopped the balrog's progress towards the Fellowship of the Ring. I mean the edges were not protected and I am pretty sure it was over the four-foot requirement for fall protection.

Keeping safety concerns secret (as Gandalf wished Frodo to do concerning the One Ring ("Keep it secret, keep it safe.)) keeps every one Unsafe.

However, sometimes we worry about the "look" or the reception of a safety concern. I want to applaud the SWG Arapahoe crew for taking me around the site to show me some of their concerns. Any one who ever has a concern should feel completely safe and comfortable bringing it to our attention. Remember the mantra, "See something, say something".

Please never hesitate to tell someone if something seems unsafe or any other form of "See something say something" you've learned takes place.

Also, how good is Lord of the Rings?!

-Michael Circle

Extreme Heat Can Be Deadly to Workers

Most states are experiencing an unprecedented heat wave and the U.S. is on track for the hottest summer on record.

Heat is a well-known and recognized occupational hazard for outdoor and indoor workers that can cause serious or fatal illness when they are not provided the necessary protections and training.

Each year, thousands of workers become sick from occupational heat exposure, and too many of those illnesses result in fatalities. New employees whose bodies have not had time to adjust to working in the heat are most vulnerable — nearly 3 out of 4 workers who die from heat-related causes die in their first week on the job.

Employer Responsibility

It's the law! Employers have a duty to protect workers against heat. Employers have a legal and moral responsibility not to assign work in high heat

conditions without protections in place for workers, where they could be literally worked to death. This is true even in Texas, despite its recent law limiting local ordinances on heat illness protections.

- At a minimum, employers should provide adequate cool water, rest breaks, and shade or a cool rest area for employees.
- Give new or returning employees the chance to gradually acclimatize (or become used to working in hot temperatures), to be trained and plan for emergencies, and to monitor for heat signs/symptoms.
- Train employees on heat illness **prevention, signs** of heat illness, and how to act immediately if they or another employee appears to be suffering from a heat related illness.

Worker Rights

Every worker covered under the **OSH Act** has the right to a safe and healthful workplace.

Employers are Responsible for Protecting Workers from Heat Illness

By law employers are responsible for providing workplaces free of known safety hazards, including extreme heat.

It is your responsibility to:

- ✓ Provide workers with water, rest and shade.
- ✓ Allow new or returning workers to gradually increase workloads and take more frequent breaks during the first week of work as they build a tolerance for working in the heat.
- ✓ Plan for emergencies and train workers on prevention.
- ✓ Monitor workers for signs of illness.

[osha.gov/heat](https://www.osha.gov/heat)





EVEN IN AUGUST

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued a heat hazard alert to remind employers of their obligation to protect workers against heat illness or injury in outdoor and indoor workplaces.

The department also announced that OSHA will intensify its enforcement where workers are exposed to heat hazards, with increased inspections in high-risk industries like construction and agriculture. These actions will fully implement the agency's National Emphasis Program on heat, announced in April 2022, to focus enforcement efforts in geographic areas and industries with the most vulnerable workers.

The action comes as President Biden announced new actions today to protect workers from extreme heat and new investments to protect communities, as historically high temperatures break records and expose millions of people to the serious dangers of heat in the workplace.

"Historically high temperatures impact everyone and put our nation's workers at high risk," said Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su. "A workplace heat

standard has long been a top priority for the Department of Labor, but rulemaking takes time and working people need help now. Today, at the President's request, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

issued a heat hazard alert to make sure employers follow current standards and that workers across the country know their rights. This action, combined with OSHA's increased heat-safety enforcement efforts, shows that we are determined to protect the safety and health of millions of people whose jobs become more hazardous in harsh weather."

Since 2011, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 436 people have died due to workplace heat exposure, with an annual average of 38 deaths between 2011 to 2019. In addition, an average of 2,700 cases involving heat illnesses lead to days lost at work, putting an additional economic burden on workers and employers. Statistics show that people who work in conditions without adequate climate-control face higher risks of hazardous heat exposure and that these situations disproportionately expose people of color to hazardous heat.

In October 2021, OSHA began the rulemaking process to consider a heat-specific workplace standard by publishing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings in the Federal Register.

"As the Occupational Safety and Health Administration works toward proposing a rule to protect workers from heat illness, we are taking several measures today to better pro-

tect workers in extreme heat," said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. "Employers have a duty to protect workers by reducing and eliminating hazards that expose workers to heat illness or injury."

OSHA uses hazard alerts to provide specific information on safety and health hazards to employers, workers and other stakeholders. An alert describes the hazard and offers recommendations on how hazardous exposures can be eliminated or reduced and what actions employers should take to protect employees. The alert issued today does the following:

- Highlights what employers can and should be doing now to protect employees.
- Ensures employees are aware of their rights, including protections against retaliation.
- Highlights steps OSHA is currently taking to protect workers.
- Directs employers, employees and the public to crucial OSHA resources, including guidance and fact sheets on heat.

Heat Illness Prevention

"State laws that attempt to limit workers' access to basic heat-illness prevention measures send a dangerous message that employers are not responsible for providing employees with a safe work environment. In fact, that is simply not the case. Regardless of their

job or where in the nation they work, workers have the right to a safe and healthy workplace. OSHA will use every tool and mechanism at our disposal to enforce those rights and make sure that every employee ends their workday safe and healthy," Parker added.

As the rulemaking process for a proposed heat-specific workplace standard continues, OSHA has moved to protect workers from excess heat in the workplace by taking the following actions:

- Developing an enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards.
- Launching of a National Emphasis Program on heat inspections.
- Creating the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health's Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Work Group to understand challenges and share best practices to protect workers.
- Launching a Heat Illness Prevention campaign to educate employers and workers on the dangers of working in the heat.

Learn more about OSHA and how to protect workers from heat illness.

REGION VIII NETWORKING DAY

Westminster, Colorado—Members of the Power Generation VPP Work Group hosted a networking day for VPP sites from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration’s (OSHA) Region VIII. The June 7th event welcomed 112 participants and featured guest speakers including OSHA Regional Administrator, Jennifer Rous.

“This was an excellent experience and a great opportunity to meet others in safety and learn from each other,” Keli Heflin, Director of Safety at Onward Energy and the event’s planner, said. “There are so many ways we can keep our sites safe and each of us have found different ways to do it, so days like this allow us to build even stronger safety management systems together.”

Over the course of the day, there were four Best Practice presentations and two tabletop exercises which asked the attendees to discuss questions presented by a moderator. The first question was “What are your biggest challenges on site” and the second was “Share some of your best practices”.

OSHA also presented annual Leadership awards to Jon Caccamise (Onward Energy), Joe Sciavo (Black Hills Energy) and Ryan Hellman (Hellman and Associates). Companies who have been in the VPP program for 10 years or more received the Decades of Excellence award, and the SGE of the Year award was announced.

“This networking day was a tremendous success,” Heflin said. “We look forward to continuing this format of a one-day networking event in the future.”



SUCCESS STORIES

- Klamath Energy Reaches **One Million** Hours With No Lost Time!
-- Terance Chapman, PGVPP Member
- Valencia Power (Onward Energy) passed their recertification with no 90-Day Items!
- Jon Caccamise and Brandon Hagen (SWG Arapahoe, Onward Energy) completed SGE training.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

- Receive workplace safety and health training in a language workers understand
- Work on machines that are safe
- Refuse to work in a situation in which workers would be exposed to a hazard
- Receive required safety equipment, such as gloves or a harness and lifeline for falls
- Be protected from toxic chemicals
- Request an OSHA inspection and speak to the inspector
- Report an injury or illness, and get copies of your medical records
- Review records of work-related injuries and illnesses
- See results of tests taken to find workplace hazards

Labor Rights Week

Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2023

dol.gov/LaborRightsWeek



SGE OPPORTUNITIES

REGION 2

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Listed below are upcoming SGE opportunities that are currently open in *OSHA REGION 2*. If you are available to participate on any of these VPP evaluation teams, please reply directly to Richard Brown at Wbrown.richard@dol.gov. Please obtain permission to participate from your supervisor before volunteering for a SGE assignment.

1. Steris, Whippany, NJ – Need one SGE – Dates: October 2 – 6, 2023
2. Torcon MWF - Phases I & II, Red Bank, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: October 16 – 20, 2023
3. Parsons NJMVIS Lakewood, Lakewood, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: November 6 – 8, 2023
4. McWane Ductile, Phillipsburg, NJ – Need three SGEs – Dates: January 22-26, 2024
5. COGEN Technologies, Linden, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: February 12-16, 2024
6. Nucor Steel Auburn Inc., Auburn, NY – Need three SGEs - Dates: February 26 - March 1, 2024
7. L’Oreal USA, Franklin Manufacturing, Somerset, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: March 11 – 15, 2024
8. Pratt & Whitney - HMI Metal Powders, Clayville, NY - Need three SGEs – Dates: March 18 – 22, 2024
9. Parsons NJMVIS Winslow, Ancora, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 3 – 5, 2024
10. Veolia ES Technical Solutions LLC, Schenectady, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 15 - 19, 2024
11. Johns Manville Roofing Systems, Plattsburgh, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: May 13 - 17, 2024
12. Mollenberg-Betz Inc., Buffalo, NY – Need one SGE – Dates: May 20 – 24, 2024
13. Covanta Niagara, Niagara Falls, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: June 3-7, 2024
14. Valtris Specialty Chemicals, Bridgeport, NJ – Need three SGEs - Dates: June 10 – 14, 2024
15. Covanta Onondaga L.P., Jamesville, NY – Need two SGE – Dates: August 12 - 16, 2024

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*Thank you for your service as
Special Government Employees.*

For information about VPP, visit us at: www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/

SGE OPPORTUNITIES

REGION 8

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Listed below are upcoming SGE opportunities that are currently open in [OSHA REGION 8](#). Please reach out to Brad Baptiste, Regional VPP Manager, Region VIII if you are interested!

- *Cargill Corn Milling in Wahpeton, North Dakota. This is a site based VPP Star recertification evaluation. The site employs 197 people, and the site is non-union. This evaluation is scheduled to take place October 31 – November 2, 2023.*
- *NuStar Energy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is a site based VPP Star recertification evaluation. The site employs nine people, and the site is non-union. This evaluation is scheduled to take place November 14-16, 2023.*

If you would like to volunteer to serve as an SGE on any of these evaluations, then please contact Brad Baptiste at baptiste.brad@dol.gov

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*Thank you for your service as
Special Government Employees.*



VPP ELEMENTS

MEETINGS

2023

2:30 to 4:00 pm (EST)

Q1 Meeting – February 16th

Note Taker – Chris Magnuson
Safety Minute – Dustin Johnson
VPP Element – Hud Griffith

Q2 Meeting – May 18th

Note Taker – Jason Shaw
Safety Minute – Justin Maynard
VPP Element – Michael Circle

Q3 Meeting – August 17th

Note Taker – Michael Circle
Safety Minute – Mark Miranda
VPP Element – Bradley Kelley

Q4 Meeting – November 16th

Note Taker – TBD – Need
Volunteer

Safety Minute – Daryl Bauman
VPP Element – Ray Delfing

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.

