

ON THE LEVEL

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Historic VPP Bill Signed

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe [signed a historic bill](#) that makes the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) permanent in Virginia.

Senator Kenneth Alexander (D-Norfolk) and Delegate G. Manoli Loupassi (R-Richmond), cosponsored the bill, which passed unanimously in the Virginia General



Assembly. The VPP Act enjoyed broad support from several groups in attendance, including the Virginia American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Manufacturers' Association (VMA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) and many companies that participate in VPP.



VPPPA Chairman, Mike Maddox, applauds the bill. "Governor McAuliffe and leaders of the labor and workforce safety sector made history. VPP companies do more than save lives; they are more productive, have greater employee satisfaction and give American companies a competitive edge in the global marketplace. We look forward to other states following Virginia's lead."

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Temporary Worker Protection

Did you know that both the staffing agency and the host employer are responsible for the safety and health of [temporary workers](#)? The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has taken steps to raise awareness of temporary worker protection due to various concerns, including the fear that employers may only utilize temporary workers to avoid meeting all compliance obligations under the worker protection laws, and the fact that temporary workers are often not given adequate safety and health training or explanations of their duties.

OSHA recommends that the temporary staffing agency and the host employer define their "respective responsibilities for compliance with applicable OSHA standards in their contract." That way, there will be no confusion as to the employer's obligations to the worker. Each employer should consider the hazards it aims to prevent and ensure full compliance with OSHA standards. OSHA offers guidelines to help protect temporary workers:



- The key is to have communication between the agency and the host to ensure that the necessary protections are provided.
- Staffing agencies have a duty to inquire into the conditions of their workers' assigned workplaces. They must ensure that they are sending workers to a safe workplace.
- Ignorance of hazards is not an excuse.
- Staffing agencies need not become experts on specific workplace hazards, but they should determine what conditions exist at their client (host) agencies, what hazards may be encountered and how best to ensure protection for temporary workers.
- The staffing agency has the duty to inquire and verify that the host has fulfilled its responsibilities for a safe workplace.
- And, just as important: Host employers must treat temporary workers like any other workers in terms of training, safety and health protections.

If you think your job is unsafe or you have questions, contact OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742). For other valuable worker protection information, such as Workers' Rights, Employer Responsibilities and other services OSHA offers, visit [OSHA's Workers' page](#).

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One Week Left to Register for the Arc flash Webinar!

Safety and health standards change constantly. Therefore, it can be difficult to stay up-to-date on them,

and comply with the requirements.

On June 25th, at 11 a.m. EDT, join Regional director of Flame Reistant Clothing on the Atlantic Coast, Kevin Best, as he explains the key updates to OSHA 1910.269 and NFPA 70E, relating to arc rated clothing and PPE, in the webinar, "Understanding Arc Flash and Important Updates."



The cost of the webinar is \$65 for members or \$85 for nonmembers.

For more information, contact VPPPA's Conference & Education Department at education@vpppa.org or (703) 761-1146.

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Don't Miss the Awards and Scholarships Deadline!

Don't miss the chance to be honored for all of your hard work this year! If you feel you've made a difference in the safety and health industry, you should apply for one of VPPPA's [annual awards](#).

If someone you know is interested in a future career in the industry, apply them for one of VPPPA's scholarships to help further their education. Check out all of the [VPPPA honor programs](#).

Apply by June 26th! Winners will be announced at the national conference during a special reception on **Sunday, Aug. 23**.



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Roster Contest Ends Next Week!

Don't miss the deadline to submit your updated site roster into our roster contest. Submit your site's up-to-date roster by **June 26th** for a chance to **win a \$50 gift card!** To enter the roster contest, update the roster that was included in your membership mailing. Sites that have returned their roster are already entered into the contest.

By helping us update your roster, you're also helping yourself and your co-workers receive all of the benefits of VPPPA membership.

Return your updated roster by fax, (703) 761-1148 or email to membership@vpppa.org by **June 26**. If you need another copy of your roster, please contact our Membership Department via the email address above or call (703) 761-1146.



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