

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - March 2015

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Electrical Safety Changes

Electricity: It's something we rely on countless times throughout the day, yet we often take for granted. You walk into a room and simply flip a switch for light. You turn on the television with the push of a button.

Workers who deal with electric power generation know there's a lot more that goes into the electrical process. They also know it can be very dangerous work. On April 11, 2014, in order to make electric power generation work safer, OSHA promulgated a final rule revising 29 CFR 1910.269 and 29 CFR

Part 1926, Subpart V, the general industry and construction standards for work on electric power generation, transmission and distribution installations. These revisions include new requirements



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for transferring electrical safety information between the host employer and contract employer and new requirements for analyzing the arc flash hazard and providing the appropriate arc-rated clothing and PPE to employees. Although this final rule became effective on July 14, 2014, the rule was only temporarily enforced until the middle of February of 2015 due to legal challenges. It became permanent on Feb. 13, 2015, when OSHA, the Edison Electric Institute, the Utility Line Clearance Coalition and the Tree Care Industry Association signed an [agreement \[PDF*\]](#) resolving all legal challenges to the final rule.

"The long-overdue final rule updating a 40-year-old standard will save nearly 20 lives and prevent 118 serious injuries annually," explained Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety & Health. "Electric utilities, electrical contractors, and labor organizations have long championed these much needed measures to better protect the men and women who work on or near electrical power lines."

[Click here to see examples of the types of injuries and fatalities the standard aims to prevent, and for more information, including a Q&A.](#)

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Apply to VPPPA Awards & Scholarships

Although you don't do your job solely to receive praise, wouldn't it be nice to be recognized for your hard work, while also inspiring your peers?

[VPPPA features a number of programs](#), including awards, scholarships and an achievement program to recognize the extraordinary efforts of member sites and individuals who go above and beyond in their efforts to improve safety and health for the American workforce.



Winners will be announced at the national conference during a special reception on **Sunday, Aug. 23**.

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Member Spotlight: Johnny Collazo



"Just to see the facial expressions of accomplishment from all the hard work that everyone was involved in is priceless." Sounds like a remark someone would make when praising their own worksite. Not the case for Johnny Collazo, VPP Site Coordinator for Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, LP, in Port Arthur, TX. Collazo was referring to the most rewarding part of his job; one that, among many other duties, requires him to mentor other sites' facilities in their pursuit of VPP Star Status.

Formerly employed as a welder for 33 years, Collazo got involved in labor negotiation committees which led to his involvement with safety committees through the union (Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, OCAW, and the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union, PACE), now known as United Steelworkers (USW). For more than half a decade Collazo has been his site's VPP coordinator where he is tasked with preparing an annual evaluation report, working as a member of the incident review team and overseeing the site's behavior safety program. Chevron Phillips' web-based behavioral safety program, which records and measures workers' duties and activities, allowing management to observe, and then correct the most at-risk behaviors of each worker, has been so successful that it has twice been recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a best practice program.

With all of the responsibilities that Collazo has, it's amazing that he has any time to do any additional work outside of the plant. Just don't try telling him that. In fact, performing outside work is one of the many parts of his job he finds most enjoyable. Outside of the Port Arthur site, he's a member of the VPPPA Region VI Board of Directors. He audits and mentors other sites through the VPP process through the Special Government Employee (SGE) program. Speaking of the long journey that sites face in the VPP process, Collazo says, "When you see the finished product of VPP, you can't get any more motivation than that. That sense of accomplishment is all the inspiration and motivation I need."

Where does Collazo's positive attitude and willingness to help other sites come from? "There's a constant sincerity throughout the Chevron Phillips corporation," Collazo explains. "Our company's

commitment to VPP has provided for a very large initiative to help others in the industry through various events."

Collazo may get the most satisfaction out of helping other sites achieve their goals, but judging by the safety success of the Chevron Phillips site in Port Arthur, it's clear that he has a lot to be proud of at his own site.

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Share your VPP Journey By April 10

We know taking the VPP journey is tough. It takes hard work to initially get into VPP and then even more work to sustain success. Why not represent all your company's hard work through VPPPA's Illustrated Journey Contest?

No words are necessary, simply use your own artwork and photos. **The most creative entry will receive a two page spread in the summer issue of *The Leader*.** This is a great chance for members to share their experiences and showcase their company's achievements!



[The rules and requirements to enter this contest can be found here.](#)

Submit your entry, including your name and member ID number, by April 10, 2015, to, membership@vpppa.org, or via dropbox. You can also mail your entry to VPPPA's National Office: VPPPA Inc., Attn: Membership, 7600-E Leesburg Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22043

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2015 American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition

Dr. David Michaels, PhD, MPH, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, and David Weil, PhD, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, will address attendees at the 2015 American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce).

AIHce provides the tools you need to *protect worker health* as well as plentiful networking opportunities to help you build and foster strong relationships with other occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. Keynote speaker Alison Levine, Team Captain of the first American Women's Everest Expedition, will kick off the conference with a compelling case that the leadership principles that apply in the world of extreme adventure apply to today's business and workplace environments. On Tuesday morning, David Michaels, PhD, MPH, Assistant Secretary of Labor, OSHA, USDOL, and David Weil, PhD, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, USDOL, will moderate a discussion focusing on challenges of the fissured workplace, and creative ways to deal with it.

The American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce) is a "must-attend" event for occupational and environmental health and safety professionals of all levels and specialties. To read more about the AIHce 2015 General Sessions, and to register for the conference, visit www.AIHce2015.org/general-sessions.



On The Level is prepared by VPPPA's Communications Department. These reports are for the use of VPPPA members ONLY.

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