

# ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

## On The Level - November 2017

### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

[Membership Renewal](#)  
Now

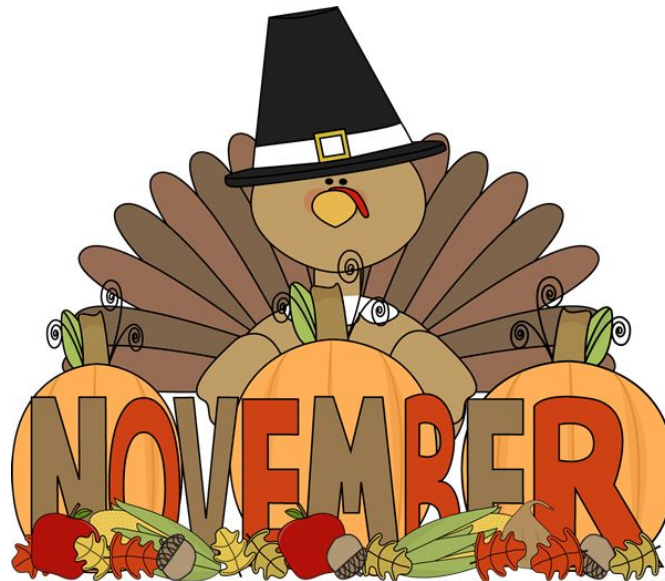
[Register for the Annual Self Evaluation Webinar](#)  
December 19

### Safety & Health News Round-Up

[Amtrak's Safety Culture is Failing](#)  
(ISHN)

[Kidde Recalls Fire Extinguishers with Plastic Handles Due to Failure to Discharge and Nozzle Detachment](#)  
(Advanced Safety+Health)

[Temp Workers File Lost-Time Claims Twice as Often: Study](#)  
(Safety+Health)



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### Thanksgiving Fire Safety Tips

Thanksgiving is only one week away! However, the key to maintaining a happy holiday is to remember to practice safety - even with friends, family and a busy schedule serving as major distractions. When you think about Thanksgiving, fire safety may not be your first thought, but keeping these tips in mind will keep you and your loved ones out of harm's way.

- Prevent fires by clearing your stove top and oven of grease and dust.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop to keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home while cooking the turkey, and check it often.
- Use kitchen timers if you must step away from the kitchen. Especially if you might be distracted by guests during that time.
- Turn pot and pan handles inward and away from the front or edge of the stove.
- Deep-frying a turkey is highly discouraged by the National Fire Protection Association. But if you do decide to deep-fry one:
  - Never use a deep fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage or in an enclosed space.
  - Be sure to wear long, well-insulated cooking gloves for the hot pot, lid and

- handles.
- o Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- o Be sure that the turkey is completely thawed and thoroughly dried before being placed in the fryer. The water from a frozen turkey can lead to an explosion hazard when mixed with oil.

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## Annual Self Evaluation Webinar

Mark Norton from Norton Safety Services will be leading this year's Annual Self Evaluation webinar. This session is an overview of the VPP Annual Self Evaluation process to include OSHA expectations, goal setting, common improvement areas and VPPPA member perspectives.

### **Details**

Date: Tuesday, December 19

Time: 1:00pm Eastern Time, 11:00am Mountain Time

Price: \$65 Member/ \$85 Nonmember

[Click here to register for the Annual Self Evaluation Webinar.](#)

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## VPP Success Story - Allegheny Wood Products

Located in Princeton, WV, and Marble, PA, the Allegheny Wood Products mills have the distinction of being the only hardwood sawmills in the United States that participate in VPP. In such a dangerous industry, safety is a key component of day-to-day operations. Each plant has a daily pre-shift meeting to discuss the schedule as well as safety concerns that may have arisen, as well as monthly safety meetings.

The mill's insistence on safety has led to a better work environment - the Princeton facility sawmill has not had a loss time incident in nine months, and the drying yard has not had an incident in over two years. You can read more about these sites and their VPP success story [here](#).



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## OSHA News Regarding Crane Operator Certification Requirements

Last week, OSHA issued a final rule for employers in the construction industry to comply with a requirement for crane operator certification. OSHA is delaying its deadline for employers to ensure that crane operators are certified by one year until November 10, 2018. OSHA is also extending its employer duty to ensure that crane operators are competent to operate a crane safely for the same one-year period. The rule became effective on November 9, 2017. A final cranes and derricks rule was issued in August 2010, but after stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the rule's certification requirements, a separate final rule was published in September 2014. The 2014 final rule extended the crane operator certification and competency requirements by three years. This new one year extension will give OSHA more time to address stakeholder concerns related to the Cranes and Derricks in Construction standard.

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## Share With VPPPA

### **The VPPPA Blog**

Do you have a story to tell? Want to write an article about a safety topic you are passionate

about? We are always looking for fresh content for our blog! We update it every other Thursday.

### **The Leader Magazine**

There is still time to submit an article for the Winter 2018 Leader magazine. The issue will focus on women in the workplace, and articles will be due **December 6**. The Spring 2018 issue will focus on profiles in safety and health. Do you have a safety lesson to share from a personal experience? Share it with our readers. Articles for the Spring issue will be due on **March 16**.

### **Membership News**

If you have any news or pictures from your site that you would like to share (an award, a VPP approval, a member who went above and beyond, etc.) please send it to VPPPA. We would love to add your updates to the next *On The Level* newsletter or to share on our social media pages.

If you would like to write for a VPPPA publication, or know of someone who is interested, please email [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

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[www.vpppa.org](http://www.vpppa.org) | Phone: (703) 761-1146 | Fax: (703) 761-1148 |  
7600-E Leesburg Pike, Suite 100  
Falls Church, VA 22043