

# OKLAHOMA SAFETY STAND-DOWN

AUGUST 24, 2022

As activity in Oklahoma's oil and natural gas fields has increased, the number of industry-related fatalities and serious injuries has risen as well. In Oklahoma alone there have been four fatalities in the oil and gas industry since February, and the U.S. oil and gas industry has recorded 25 fatal events this year. The increase in new workers and the use of temporary workers needed to meet the nation's energy demands makes enhanced safety training and safety awareness a necessity.

To increase safety awareness, **The Petroleum Alliance asks its member companies and their contractors, subcontractors and vendors to suspend work for at least one hour on August 24 for an Oklahoma Safety Stand-Down.** This stand-down is designed to allow employees the ability to attend on-site safety meetings.

The safety tips offered below are provided to initiate safety discussions at the worksite. However, employers are encouraged to focus on the potential dangers most prominent at each individual worksite and job.



**SAFETY IS CRITICAL** — Employers must make sure safety is a critical component of daily activities. It is important to ensure financial gain does not undermine safety messaging and expectations. Now is the time for companies to step back and evaluate their programs and consider what additional resources could be used to improve safety coaching and mentoring at all levels of the organization.



**BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND CO-WORKERS** — Workers should be aware of what is happening around them, identify potential hazards and determine ways to mitigate those hazards. This can be done by developing a comprehensive Job Safety Analysis and reviewing with all workers involved with the job task or any others that may be working nearby. Another key to safety is communication and planning of the project. Taking the necessary time to review the job plans and procedures helps eliminate confusion and ensures all parties are on the same page.

The biggest advocates for worker safety are workers themselves. Employees should be empowered to stop an action or condition they consider to be unsafe, allowing workers and novices alike to hold themselves and their coworkers accountable for each other's safety.



**BE AWARE ON THE ROAD** — Motor vehicle crashes cause over 40% of work-related deaths in the oil and gas industry. Long working hours in remote parts of the state means oilfield workers should monitor themselves for signs of exhaustion and remove distractions like cell phones when coming to and from the worksite and when operating vehicles while on the job. Workers should stay alert on the road, remove distractions and plan for frequent driving breaks, if needed.



**KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY** — All workers should be aware of onsite emergency action plans, including contacting emergency responders, in the event of an injury or safety threat.

The Oklahoma Safety Stand-Down is a project of The Petroleum Alliance Health & Safety Subcommittee. For more information, contact Alliance Senior Vice President of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Angie Burckhalter at [angie@okpetro.com](mailto:angie@okpetro.com) or 405-601-2124.