



## Message to National STEPS Leadership, January 11, 2016

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all you do. I hope everyone enjoyed a holiday season filled with fun, family, friends and unexpected blessings, and that this note finds you safe, happy and healthy. We have much to be thankful for as we begin our new year, and although commodity prices continue to add challenges, we must press on. As we who have experienced times like these before know, the industry will come back, and we will experience new and great challenges in respect to adding a new workforce. In the mean time, we must continue to adjust and plan for the future.

Instead of delving more deeply into downturn philosophy and predictions, I am attaching a PDF copy of the November/December issue of AESC's "Well Servicing" magazine President's page written by National STEPS Network Secretary Joyce Ryel. This is not an ad for WSM or AESC, but it is an insightful piece and I hope you take time to read it.

We are planning the "2016 STEP Up for Safety" campaign which will be rolled out through regularly scheduled Regional STEPS Networks in the second week of February. Marianne McGee is leading this team, and will host conference calls to discuss details and logistics. Companies will provide training and /or inspections in February and March and report activities to the UT Arlington [www.oshastanddown.org](http://www.oshastanddown.org) website, and CEU's will be offered for the first time to help maintain your professional certifications.

As we know, we have to understand a problem to have any hope of correcting it, so that is exactly how we are proceeding with this event. Sound research and statistical data are driving the STEP Up for Safety agenda. Elements cover historically frequent and potentially high consequence hazards and incidents in the US Onshore industry, including falls, struck-by/ caught between, fires and explosions, dropped objects, transportation, hydrocarbon gasses during tank gauging, and silica in hydraulic fracturing., Dr. Krista Geller (daughter of Dr. Scott Geller) is providing materials on performance and behavior based safety, and we are also including several examples of site inspection checklists. If you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions, please let us know. We are depending on your help and support to make this successful.

*The 2016 OSHA Safety and Health Conference is November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Houston! [www.oshasafetyconference.org](http://www.oshasafetyconference.org)*

SafeLandUSA will likely hit the 897,000 Oil Field worker/ student mark this month. The OSHA 5810 and the leadership course for oil and gas is progressing well, and reaching more and more industry workers. We hope additional companies decide to come on board with these programs. We are planning another Emerging Issues Focus Group meeting for mid-April. We will have an update on the pending Silica Rule and other issues, and NIOSH will bring us up to date on their Health and Safety Study. I will keep you up to date.

I will end just as I began. Thank you for all you do. Yes, these are challenging times, but we will get through them. Lets keep our heads up, keep moving forward as best we can, and keep thinking about possible ways to protect workers and become more efficient.

May our efforts continue to be blessed,

Rick L. Ingram, on behalf of the National STEPS Network Executive Committee

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