

# **PRESS FACT SHEET**

## **WHY THE STAND DOWN**

In response to the recent rise in oil and gas industry fatal accident in Oklahoma this year, OSHA and the Mid-Continent Exploration & Production Safety Network (MCEPS) is requesting all Oklahoma Exploration and Production companies voluntarily participate in a safety stand down. There have been 9 workplace deaths in the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma in 2012, and one incident where 3 employees were hospitalized after a drilling rig fire. This is a significant rise in the fatal workplace accidents compared to the last few years.

## **WHAT IS A STAND DOWN**

A stand down is a voluntary commitment to conduct safety training and jobsite inspections at worksites. There is a tremendous value in dedicating 30 minutes, one hour, or more of a workday to talk about the causes of accidents in the industry.

## **WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE STAND DOWNS TAKE PLACE**

Companies working in the oil and gas exploration and production industry in Oklahoma can agree to conduct a stand down at their work sites following the June 21<sup>st</sup> MCEPS meeting. The stand downs can take place any time at their worksites up to July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **HOW CAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATE IN THE STAND DOWN**

Companies can register to participate on line through the OSHA Education Center at the University of Texas Arlington (UTA) website at [www.uta.edu/ded/mceps](http://www.uta.edu/ded/mceps). Here, companies can complete a commitment form and report out form.

## **WHAT IS MCEPS**

MCEPS is the Mid-Continent Exploration & Production Safety Network, which is a cooperative alliance between OSHA and the oil and gas industry. Representatives of the industry and OSHA meet the third Thursday of each month to promote safety, health and environmental improvements. MCEPS is part of the National STEPS network, a national effort in partnership with OSHA, industry and educators to make the oil and gas industry the safest of all industries.