

OSHA /MCEPS To Request Safety Stand Down At Oklahoma Exploration and Production Sites

In response to the recent rise in oil field Operations fatal accidents, David Bates, Area Director for U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in partnership with the Mid-Continent Exploration & Production Safety Network (MCEPS) is requesting all Oklahoma Exploration and Production companies to voluntarily participate in a safety stand down.

Since October 1, 2011, the start of OSHA's 2012 fiscal year, the Oklahoma City Area Office has investigated 9 work-related deaths in the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma and one catastrophe where 3 employees were hospitalized following a drilling rig fire. This is a significant rise in the number of deaths in this industry in our state as compared to the last few years. Due to this, the OSHA Oklahoma City Area Office recently completed an enforcement campaign throughout the state with emphasis on Oil & Gas Exploration and Production worksites in an effort to curtail the number of workplace fatalities that have occurred in 2012. The stand down is a cooperative initiative requesting companies in this industry to conduct a voluntary stand down at their jobsites.

You can obtain more information about the industry accidents at the next MCEPS meeting on Thursday, June 21st from 9:00am to 12:00 pm at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. At this meeting, OSHA will give a presentation detailing each of the fatalities investigated in Oklahoma. Training material will also be provided for attendees to take and use at their sites for inspections and employee training following the meeting. The MCEPS meeting is free and open to companies and employees in the industry. Following the June 21st MCEPS meeting, industry companies across Oklahoma can commit to cease work to participate in the OSHA/MCEPS Safety Stand Down.

Registration for this free event is being conducted through the OSHA Education Center *at the University of Texas at Arlington website at uta.edu/ded/mceps*

What is a Stand Down?

Exploration and Production companies, who know the value of safety training and comprehensive jobsite inspection, use a Safety Stand Down to stop all work and provide a focused safety toolbox talk meeting on all their jobsites. This meeting provides effective communication of safety policies, goals and expectations through all levels of a team.

[OSHA](#) and our Stand Down partners, MCEPS, believe there is tremendous value in committing 30 minutes to one hour of your day's work to talk about safety, leading to increased employee safety morale. Stopping to talk about safety brings it to the forefront of everyone's mind. It is very important to communicate your firm's safety message to front line workers who constitute the largest group of our industry's workforce. It's easy to participate.

MCEPS promotes safety, health and environmental improvement in the exploration and production of oil and gas in Oklahoma, Kansas, and the Texas Panhandle. The MCEPS Network fosters a work environment that relies upon open communication and trust to raise the awareness of personnel in oil and gas production, operations, and servicing to industry hazards and safe practices.

For more information, on the MCEPS /OSHA Safety Stand Down Programs, please contact:

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