Changing OSHA’s Impact

Marianne McGee
Compliance Assistance Specialist
Corpus Christi Area Office
The New Assistant Secretary

- Ed Foulke, Jr appointed the new Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA
- OSHA must refocus its efforts in the coming years
- Fewer resources will be available
His Challenge to OSHA

- Has tasked OSHA with reducing fatalities by 50% of current levels
- Believes that reducing fatalities will affect all other levels of the safety pyramid—thus injuries and illnesses should decline as well
The Challenge

- Each Region was asked to profile the types of employers experiencing fatalities and develop a plan to address fatalities using all of the area office assets available.
- This plan would include an enforcement strategy, outreach proposal, and use of cooperative programs (partnerships, alliances and consultation).
The Challenge

- Additionally each area office was tasked with analysis of its fatality statistics and determine patterns (a type industry or a type of hazard)
Region VI Analysis

- Five industries
  - Petro-Chemical
  - Oil and Gas Drilling and Servicing
  - Heavy Construction
  - Logging
  - Maritime/ Longshoring
Oil and Gas Industry

- Region VI Fatalities for 2000-2005
  - 170
- Region VI Fatalities for 2005
  - 33
Regional Emphasis Program

- Addressing Fatalities in the Oil and Gas Industry (SIC 1381, 1382, 1389)
  - Enforcement
  - Outreach
Enforcement Efforts

- Divide jurisdiction into ≥ 6 sectors
- Sites identified through CSHO observation
- Comprehensive inspection will be conducted if:
  - Rig not inspected within sector within 45 days
  - Rig owner/operator has ≤ four inspections within sector within 90 days
- Exempts 1381 and 1382 with ≤ 10 ees nationwide
Enforcement Efforts

Scope of inspection will be comprehensive

- Explosion / fire
- Fall
- Struck-by
- Caught- in between
- Electrocution
- Noise
- Lead
- Silica
Outreach Efforts

- Partnerships
- Alliances
- VPP
Partnerships

- Objective is to eliminate risk of death and serious injury
- Companies will have one year to meet the requirements of model safety and health program
- In exchange, partners will be removed from scheduled inspections for 3 years
Partnership elements

- Management letter of commitment
- S&H programs
- Employee involvement
- S&H committee
- S&H training
- S&H professional
- S&H audits
Partnership elements

- Hazard tracking system
- Lockout / Tag out
- Contractor safety program
- Incident investigation
- Injury analysis
- S&H program review
Alliances

- Used for dissemination of information
- Development of curriculum and delivery of training for workers, managers and safety professionals
Outreach and Networking

- OSHA/AESC National Alliance
  - Reduce hand and back injuries
- AESC/Fort Worth OSHA office
- Grants for oil and gas industry
  - TEEX
  - High Plains Technology Center (OK)
High Plains Technology Center

- Operates on a grant from OSHA
- Official Mid-Continent training site for Oil & Gas
- Major Focus = Safety
- Works with
  - AESC
  - IADC
  - ETC
Floor hand training for drilling and servicing
Roustabout, Pumper, Technical Intern Training
STEPS Network
South Texas Exploration Safety Network

- In the beginning….
  - Made industry contact through ASSE.
  - Sent a letter requesting a meeting. (September 2003)
  - 75 individuals from 45 companies attended.

- What could be done to reduce fatalities?
STEPS Network

- Identified obstacles to providing a safe workplace
  - Inconsistent emphasis on safety and health.
  - Not enough sharing of information.
  - Misunderstanding of OSHA requirements.
Overcoming the obstacles

- How could we get everyone to work together?
- Develop a network to share information!
STEPS Network was born

- Monthly meetings have been held since October 2003.
- The South Texas Exploration and Production Safety (STEPS) Network adopted a charter and bylaws in June and July 2004 and elected officers in August 2004
The STEPS Alliance

- The goal of the alliance is to reduce and prevent exposure to hazards in oil and gas exploration, production, and product transmission.
  - Arrange for hazard recognition training.
  - Speak, exhibit, and appear at industry conferences.
  - Share best practices.
  - Raise awareness of safety and health in the industry.
Benefits of STEPS

- Sharing of best practices. (SAFE Hands / Dropped Objects)
- Sharing of lessons learned.
- Sharing equipment. (NORM detector and meter loop)
- Increased awareness of safety in the field.
Benefits of STEPS

- Direct competitors co-sponsoring STEPS meeting.
- Contact with over 600 individuals representing almost 200 companies.
- One alliance partner achieved VPP Star and several others have expressed an interest.
Questions?