

How do the refining and petrochemical industries keep communities and workers safe?

There are risks associated with operating any manufacturing facility

Petrochemical manufacturers and refiners work diligently to mitigate those risks through preventative equipment maintenance, hazard recognition, extensive training, and rigorous operating practices and procedures. What is most important to us is making sure that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day and that the community and environment are protected.

The only way to achieve our goal of zero incidents is by making safety part of the culture

Petrochemical and refining facilities build strong cultures of safety. This culture extends from the leadership who make it clear that safety is not compromised for anything to the employees at the site who are empowered to stop work if anything appears to be unsafe. It is important to remember that the people who work in these facilities are not just employees – they are friends, family, and fellow community members. Keeping each other safe extends far beyond a job duty.

Continuous learning, sharing, and strict adherence to protocols play a role as well

Petroleum refiners and petrochemical manufacturers work with regulatory agencies, their communities, and each other to achieve low incident rates through a multitude of initiatives. A Bureau of Labor Statistics Report found that the refining and petrochemical industries rank second and third out of 520 manufacturing segments for the lowest rate of injury and illness.¹ We achieve these results through behavior-based safety programs, human factor research, detailed protocols and processes, and ongoing learning.

And, we are always improving

In addition to individual company and site initiatives, the industry is working together to reduce the frequency and severity of process safety events across the board. We collect industry process safety data, analyze that data to find opportunities for improvement, and then develop tools to help facilities improve their performance. We are never done when it comes to thinking about and improving safety.

Did you know?

The rate of injury and illness in the refining and petrochemical sectors is LOWER than that of the professional services sector (such as law and accounting).²

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics Industries, Illnesses, and Fatalities Report 2016 <https://www.bls.gov/iif/>

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