

FIRESTONE POLYMERS, LAKE CHARLES FACILITY ACHIEVES FEDERAL VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM STAR STATUS



On November 09, 2006, the Firestone Polymers plant in Lake Charles, LA was awarded Federal OSHA Voluntary Protection Program 'STAR' status for outstanding performance in the area of worker health and safety. Voluntary Protection Program Coordinator Bruce Stark spoke and presented the award to the VPP Steering Committee members accepted the award on behalf of all their teammates and the company.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program STAR award is given to companies that have comprehensive safety and health programs with injury rates at or below half the industry's national average. As a STAR (Safety Through Accountability and

Recognition) participant, the Lake Charles's plant teammates have designed and implemented outstanding safety and health processes that exceed the strict safety standards of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

"Firestone Polymers LLC – Lake Charles Facility has demonstrated excellence in effective safety and health management," said OSHA Regional Administrator Frank Strasheim in Dallas. "Their outstanding efforts include achieving an injury and illness total case incident rate that is 53 percent below the national average for their industry."

"To receive the Voluntary Protection Program STAR is a terrific achievement," Mathis said. "It is gratifying to know we have team of individuals in Lake Charles who are committed to being team players. To be one of the safest manufacturing facilities in the nation is a great achievement that we can all be proud of. Without the dedication and commitment to safety by our entire team at all levels, this accomplishment would not be possible."

"Lake Charles is representative of our company's focus on health and safety. Our Warren County, TN and Aiken County, SC facilities are the only two tire plants in the United States to have ever achieved OSHA VPP STAR status. The company's Kingstree, S.C., building products plant also recently joined this elite group," said Bridgestone Americas Safety and Health Director Bob Walker.

Lake Charles was also recognized for achieving a million man-hours without a lost-time injury earlier this year.



Our congratulations to all of the teammates at Firestone Polymers, Lake Charles for your outstanding achievement!