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HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY

Voluntary Protection Programs' Special Government Employee Program

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10 years old and still going strong!

The Voluntary Protection Programs' (VPP) Special Government Employee (SGE) Program was created in February 1994 to leverage the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) limited resources by utilizing trained safety and health professionals from approved VPP sites. SGEs serve as team members on VPP onsite evaluation teams. They bring valuable industry experience and knowledge to the team. By working side by side with OSHA, SGEs gain an important perspective and have an opportunity to see first-hand many best practices in worker safety and health. This exchange of knowledge is important to ensure continuous improvement in VPP. They play a critical role in assisting OSHA to protect the safety

and health of our nation's workers. Today, hundreds of trained VPP SGEs participate in this innovative program.

To keep the SGE Program momentum going and improve upon the success of the past 10 years, OSHA recently established an SGE Program Improvement Workgroup. The workgroup will evaluate critical SGE issues such as recognition/incentives, training, recruitment and communication (e.g. SGE Web site). The workgroup consists of representatives from OSHA Regional and National Offices, OSHA Training Institute (OTI), VPPPA and several experienced SGEs. In the first meeting of this workgroup, action plans to implement key strategies were developed. The workgroup will be instrumental in ensuring the SGE Program continues to grow and be beneficial to VPP.

A special "Thank You" to all of our Special Government Employees (SGEs) for making the SGE Program such a success!

Sneak Peek

Tenative Special Government Employee (SGE) Training Course – Fiscal Year 2005.

Month/Year	Region	Application Deadline
January 2005	4	October 15, 2004
April 2005	2	January 15, 2005
July 2005	7	April 15, 2005
September 2005	6	July 15, 2005