

**AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE
BETWEEN THE
HOUSTON NORTH AREA OFFICE
THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND
GREATER HOUSTON STEPS NETWORK**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Houston North Area Office and the Greater Houston STEPS Network recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful American workplaces. To that end, OSHA and the Greater Houston STEPS Network hereby form an Alliance to provide Greater Houston STEPS Network members and others with information, guidance, and access to training resources that will help them protect the health and safety of workers, particularly by reducing and preventing exposure to hazards in the oil and gas exploration and production industry and understanding of the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). In developing this Alliance, OSHA and the Greater Houston STEPS Network recognize that OSHA's State Plan and On-site Consultation Project partners are an integral part of the OSHA national effort.

Raising Awareness of OSHA's Rulemaking and Enforcement Initiatives

The Participants intend to work together to achieve the following goals related to raising awareness of OSHA's rulemaking and enforcement initiatives:

- To share information on OSHA's National/Regional/Local Emphasis Programs, Regulatory Agenda, and opportunities to participate in the rulemaking process.
- To share information on occupational safety and health laws and standards, including the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers.
- To convene or participate in forums, roundtable discussions, or stakeholder meetings on oil and gas exploration and production safety to help forge innovative solutions in the workplace or to provide input on safety and health issues.
- To encourage worker participation in workplace safety and health by through Greater Houston STEPS safety meetings.

Training and Education

The Participants intend to work together to achieve the following training and education goals:

- To develop effective training and education programs for oil and gas exploration and production companies regarding safety and health issues, and to communicate such information to constituent employers and workers.
- To assist in the delivery of safety and health topics at Greater Houston STEPS meetings.

Outreach and Communication

The Participants intend to work together to achieve the following outreach and communication goals:

- To develop information on the recognition and prevention of workplace hazards, and to develop ways of communicating such information (e.g., print and electronic media, electronic assistance tools, and OSHA's and the Greater Houston STEPS Web sites) to employers and workers in the industry.
- To speak, exhibit, or appear at OSHA's or Greater Houston STEPS Network conferences, local meetings, or other events.
- To share information among OSHA personnel and industry safety and health professionals regarding good practices or effective approaches through training programs, workshops, seminars, and lectures (or any other applicable forum) developed by the participants.

OSHA's Alliances provide parties an opportunity to participate in a voluntary cooperative relationship with OSHA for purposes such as raising awareness of OSHA's rulemaking and enforcement initiatives, training and education, and outreach and communication. These Alliances have proved to be valuable tools for both OSHA and its Alliance participants. By entering into an Alliance with a party, OSHA is not endorsing or promoting, nor does it intend to endorse or promote, any of that party's products or services.

An implementation team made up of representatives of each organization will meet to develop a plan of action, determine working procedures, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, they will meet at least three times per year to track and share information on activities and results in achieving the goals of the Alliance. OSHA team members will include representatives of the Houston North Area Office and any other appropriate offices. OSHA will encourage State Plan States' and OSHA On-site Consultation Projects' participation on the team.

This agreement will remain in effect for two years. Either signatory may terminate it for any reason at any time, provided they give 30 days written notice. This agreement may be modified at any time with the written concurrence of both signatories.

Signed this 18th day of February, 2014.

David Doucet
Area Director
Houston North Area Office
Occupational Safety and
Health Administration

Mindy Stephens
President
Greater Houston STEPS Network