



SAFETY INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association
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The West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association (WVONGA) has had a long-standing commitment to worker safety as activity in the Marcellus Shale region has accelerated in the last decade. Some of our initiatives include:

- 1) **2003.** SafeLandUSA, originally developed as a protocol used in offshore production, becomes the recognized safety standard for onshore oil and gas operations,. Texas and Louisiana were the first onshore areas to adapt and use the program. Prior to the introduction of SafeLandUSA, West Virginia companies had historically developed and delivered company-specific site safety protocols and plans, often with the assistance with third-party consultants and trainers.
- 2) **2005.** WVONGA entered into an agreement with Pierpont Community and Technical College to provide training for oil and gas workers. This training incorporated what was offered through International Association of Drilling Contractors, IADC, which includes safety protocols required to get a "Rig Pass"---a required certification for everyone working in exploration and on a drilling platform.

This program evolved into a 2-year Associate degree and was also adopted and offered by Northern Community College.

Students earning the Associate degree also earn the following professional certifications:

- a. Medic First Aid/CPR
 - b. SafeLandUSA HSE
 - c. OSHA 30 hour General Industry Certification
 - d. IADC WellCap – fundamental or supervisory level well control
 - e. Off-road diesel forklift operations certificate
- 3) **2006.** WVONGA joins the BrickStreet Association Program. WVONGA members that voluntarily join this safety and loss control program, in exchange for discounted premiums, must adhere to required assessments and ongoing training to include:
 - a. Return to Work programs
 - b. Required Regulatory Programs
 - c. Safety Programs
 - d. Accident Investigation
 - e. Loss Analysis
 - 4) **2007.** WVONGA enters in an Alliance Program with OSHA. West Virginia and the Association were the first in the continental US to collaborate and sign such an agreement. This three-year agreement included resources from the WVU Extension Service Safety & Health program to provide training and consultation in accordance with the OSHA 10 and 30 hour specifications for the oil and gas industry, including:
 - a. OSHA Course 5810 - *Hazards Recognition and Standards for On-Shore Oil and Gas Exploration and Production*
 - b. OSHA Course 511 – *OSHA Standards for general industry*
 - c. OSHA Course 510 – *OSHA Standards for the construction industry*

- 5) **2009-10.** WVONGA, in collaboration with WVU Extension Service Safety and Health / OSHA, endorsed and incorporated the training programs called SafeLandUSA. Many of our members now require SafeLand training for employees and contractors.

SafeLandUSA is a volunteer organization comprised of major and independent operating companies, industry associations, and educators with the purpose of developing a standardized orientation which sets minimum requirements for the US Onshore E&P Industry.

- 6) **2011-Present.** SafeLandUSA has been incorporated into the National STEPS network. STEPS is an acronym for Service Transmission Exploration and Production Safety. WVONGA staff and members are actively involved in all the regional chapters: Appalachian STEPS (WV), Buckeye STEPS (OH) and Pennsylvania STEPS. Each chapter holds bimonthly training from certified industry experts on a range of topics that recently included:

- a. Fall Protection
- b. Environmental concerns at drilling sites
- c. Rigging and signal person training
- d. Inspections of lifting equipment
- e. Transportation Safety and Concerns
- f. Condensate safety
- g. Process Safety Management
- h. Job Safety Analysis procedures

The National STEPS network, and by extension its state chapters, recently entered into an alliance with OSHA and NIOSH to provide training and consultation to companies in the oil and gas industry.

- 7) WVONGA has a very active and committed Safety Committee. We have delivered safety training to our members on a regional basis as well as regular webinars covering a wide range of topics important to the oil and gas industry. Our safety needs assessment, submitted annually by our members, help determine the topics addressed.

Our on-line knowledge base is used quite extensively and includes training videos, best-practice documentation, downloadable forms, and downloadable resources that our members can use in their own training, toolbox talks, etc.

- 8) WVONGA also provides access to resources from JJ Keller & Associates, a leading developer of workplace safety information, including compliance manuals, OSHA rule interpretations, best practices, posters, and a continuously-updated online library of safety resources.
- 9) WVONGA is currently exploring the adoption of the *OSHA Strategic Partnership Alliance*. This partnership would facilitate unique agreements designed to encourage and assist efforts to eliminate serious hazards and enhance workplace safety and health practices. The foundation of such a partnership requires the establishment of specific goals, strategies, and performance measures to improve worker safety and health.
- 10) WVONGA is sponsoring and providing support for the Public Service Commission's Pipeline Safety Training in February 2015. We see this as an ongoing partnership for this annual program.

- 11) WVONGA created and delivered the first SHALESafe Conference and Expo in the fall of 2013 and is scheduled again for the fall of 2015. **SHALE = Safety, Health and Leadership Excellence.**

This conference was attended by over 100 safety professionals in the Marcellus region and received excellent reviews for the national speakers brought in to educate and motivate the attendees.



The 2015 conference has been designed to extend the safety dialog to the issues of security, company culture, and safety leadership, including topics on:

- a. Security = Safety: Presented by the WV Department of Homeland Security Fusion Center, this will be a multi-part session that covers the security spectrum from site security to threat assessments to dealing with belligerent/violent people to security communication tools and techniques
 - b. Defensive Driving
 - c. Incident Investigations: Internal or external investigators? Or both?
 - d. Contractor Safety: Roles/Responsibilities/Expectations of both hiring companies and contractors
 - e. The Safety of Ergonomics
 - f. Emergency Planning
 - g. Effective Safety Training Techniques
 - h. Behavioral Safety: What is it and should we be using it?
 - i. Building and maintaining a safety culture
- 12) WVONGA is in the early stages of the "WVONGA Training Academy". We have scheduled a number of classes, including:
- a. SafeLandUSA
 - b. Defensive Driving
 - c. CPR/FirstAid
 - d. Various "toolbox" talks, delivered by webinar, with topics that include slips and falls, ladder and harness safety, chemical awareness, reporting regulations, and more