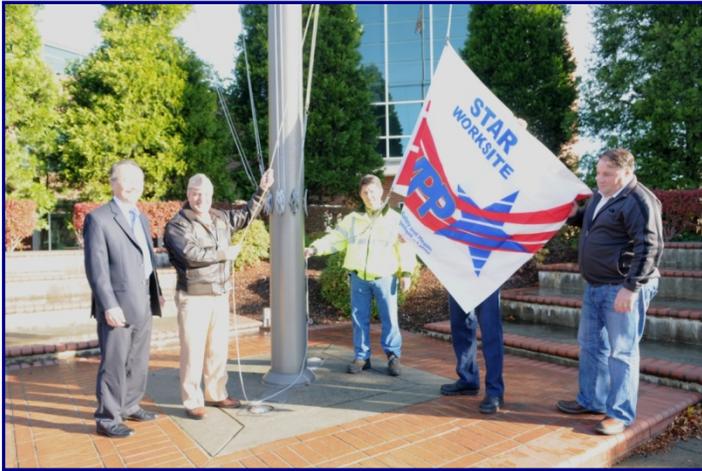


NAVAL STATION EVERETT AWARDED VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS STAR STATUS



Captain Michael Coury, Commanding officer of Naval Station Everett hoists the VPP Star flag during a 27 October 2010 ceremony. From left to right: Mr. Ikeda (OSHA), CAPT Coury, Fred Matazzoni (Safety), Dallas Smith (Firefighter), and Roy Arrington (Port Ops).

Captain Michael Coury, Commanding officer of Naval Station Everett (NSE), Washington hoisted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) *Star* flag during a 27 October 2010 ceremony. NSE has been designated by OSHA as one of their VPP *Star* sites. NSE operates under the motto “The Sailors Choice.” The command provides home port services to the USS Abraham Lincoln, USS Shoup, USS Momsen, USS Ford, USS Ingraham, USS Rodney M Davis, USCGC Blueshark and USCGC Henry M. Blake.

OSHA awarded *Star* status to NSE after conducting a comprehensive inspection of the command’s safety programs, work process practices, site facilities, and interviews with employees. Under the Command of Navy Region Northwest (NRNW), NSE is the first organization and installation to attain VPP *Star* status.

VPP demonstrates cooperative action among government, industry, and labor to address worker safety and health issues and expand worker protection. VPP participation requirements center on a comprehensive safety and health management system with active employee involvement to prevent or control safety and health hazards at the worksite.



The guided-missile frigate USS Ingraham (FFG 61) returns home to Naval Station Everett after a scheduled 6-month deployment.

OSHA approves successful employers by designating them to one of three VPP program levels: *Star*, *Merit*, or *Star Demonstration*. *Star* is the highest and most challenging participation category. The VPP *Star* award designation indicates that the organization receiving the award has successfully demonstrated ongoing planning, implementation, integration, and control of four interdependent elements:

- Management Leadership & Employee Involvement
- Worksite Analysis
- Hazard Prevention & Control
- Safety & Health Training

A designated *Star* site must have had all its occupational safety and health program elements operating effectively for at least one year. Also, its three-year injury and illness rates, compared to a like industry class in the private sector, must be below the national average published annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for that industry. The injury and illness statistics involved are the total case incident rate (TCIR) and a day away, restricted, and/or transfer case incident (DART) rate.

NSE had a three-year TCIR and DART rate history for 2007-2009 which was 52.8% and 4.5% below, respectively, compared to the 2006 BLS Industry averages.

A summary analysis is shown below:

Year	Hours Worked	Total Cases	Total Case Incidence Rate (TCIR)	Days Away from Work, Restricted duty or Job Transfer (DART) Cases	Days Away, Restricted Job Transfer Rate
2007	428000	2	0.93	2	0.93
2008	412,000	4	1.94	3	1.46
2009	440,000	7	3.18	6	2.73
Totals	1,296,000	13		11	
3 Year Rate 2007-2009			2.01		1.7
BLS Rates for NAICS code 561210 2006/2007/2008	Year Used: 2006		5.9		3
Percent above or below BLS National Average			-52.8		-4.5

NSE Safety Director and Regional implementation team lead Bill Higgins said, “This is a culmination of two years of focused work for everyone here and is really the starting flag for a future in operations based on total involvement at all levels of the chain of command.”

Captain Michael Coury, Commanding Officer of NSE said, “This award is the culmination of two years of hard work by not only the safety department but all hands.”

OSHA Region X interim VPP Administrator Dean Ikeda added, “The VPP has reserved the award for employers that achieve exemplary safety and health programs.”

Here are some of the actual activities and milestones that contributed to NSE becoming a VPP *Star* site:

- ❖ December 2006 - Initial baseline assessment using the Department of Defense VPP Center of Excellence (DoD VPP CX).
- ❖ February 2007 - Formal commitment to VPP at ‘All Hands’ quarters and training.
- ❖ February 2007 - Safety Office Personnel attended ‘Assessor Training’ to assist in implementation.
- ❖ February 2007 - Safety Committee assumes VPP roles; membership is designated; and formal charter signed.
- ❖ March 2007 - Mass ‘VPP 101’ sessions conducted for 400 people.
- ❖ March 2007 - Instituted VPP Passport Program, an incentive program for individual employees, which recognizes and rewards individuals who educate themselves, communicate, and participate in the program.
- ❖ June 2008 - Employee participation added to Mishap Review Boards. Mishap review boards are conducted for each mishap with lost time or any mishap where broad lessons can be learned.
- ❖ June 2009 - VPP Implementation action plan completed.
- ❖ July 2009 - DoD VPP CX conducts ‘Readiness Assessment.’
- ❖ October 2009 - Application submitted to OSHA.
- ❖ March 2010 - OSHA On-site Audit.
- ❖ March 2010 - OSHA 10 hour courses completed for Safety Committee Members.
- ❖ March 2010 - Safety Committee Charter revised to include specific committee membership requirements.
- ❖ October 2010 - Formal award of *Star* by OSHA Region X.

NSE's greatest asset is our people. By achieving the VPP Star, we have leveraged the best efforts at all levels. Our operations range from the routine mooring of aircraft carriers to a National Association for the Education of Young Children certified child care center. Everyone at NSE is involved in practicing the tenets of Safety in all they do both on and off duty.

For questions regarding NSE's path to VPP *Star* certification, contact the NSE Safety Office at 425-304-3460.

For more information on the OSHA VPP and how to qualify, visit these websites:

OSHA VPP Guidance

<http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/>

VPP Participants' Association

<http://www.vpppa.org/>

VPP Eligibility Checklist

<http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/vppflyer.pdf>

VPP Application Information

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/application_sitebased.html

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/psm_app_supplement_final.html

Naval Safety Center VPP Guidance

<http://www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/Pages/osh/SMS/SMS.aspx>

DoD VPP Center of Excellence

<http://www.vppcx.org>