

## **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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### **LUNENBURG CORRECTIONAL CENTER IN VICTORIA, VA, RECEIVES ITS THIRD "STAR" DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY'S VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**RICHMOND, VA** – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that Lunenburg Correctional Center, in Victoria has been re-approved as a STAR Worksite under Virginia's Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), the program's highest level of recognition. The facility was honored with their third Certificate of Recognition issued on March 26, 2015.

"I am very proud of Lunenburg Correctional Center for embodying the VPP commitment to safety and health, day in and day out," said Commissioner Davenport. "I congratulate Lunenburg Correctional Center on their hard earned recertification as a STAR Worksite."

Lunenburg Correctional Center's commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its very low injury and illness rates. Lunenburg Correctional Center has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 0.99 compared with a 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 8.8 for this industry, representing a TCIR rate 89% lower than the national average for the industry. The site's three-year average DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred injury and illness cases) is 0.86, compared with the 4.4 national rate, which is 80% below the national average for the industry.

As part of the recognition for achieving STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the VPP "STAR Worksite" flag. The Lunenburg Correctional Center is the first Correctional Center VPP STAR site in the nation and currently one of only two Correctional Centers in Virginia and the

United States. VPP includes two levels of participation – Merit and STAR - with STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the best programs qualify. Since the inception of Virginia's VPP in 1996, only 65 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 44 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR designation. Lunenburg Correctional Center has set a standard of excellence that is second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer, and employees, which include the agreement of company leaders to operate exceptional safety and health management systems that meet a rigorous set of occupational safety and health criteria. Employers agree to voluntarily participate in the program and to directly involve employees in all aspects of the company's safety and health management systems. Requirements include an extensive application process, submission of written safety and health policies and procedures, demonstration of successful implementation of those programs through injury and illness rates that are below the national average for the employer's industry, and an intensive weeklong inspection by a team of VPP experts.

Worksites that participate in VPP substantially improve safety and health protections for thousands of Virginia employees through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents. VPP STAR sites regularly report decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates (an average of over 60% below the respective industry average), and improved productivity and employee morale. Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents enhances a company's economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion, and new hiring.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry offers two voluntary protection recognition programs – VPP, generally for larger employers and the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer. Virginia VPP is financed with 50% state

funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor – OSHA, under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Labor and Industry ([doli.virginia.gov](http://doli.virginia.gov)) office closest to you or by calling Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager at (540) 562-3580, ext. 123 or [Stern.Milford@dol.gov](mailto:Stern.Milford@dol.gov) and Jennifer Rose, CSP, Consultation Program Manager (for SHARP) at 804-786-8707 or [Rose.Jennifer@dol.gov](mailto:Rose.Jennifer@dol.gov).

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