



News Release

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CORPUS CHRISTI FACILITY EARNS SECOND CONSECUTIVE SAFETY AWARD FROM NPRA

AUSTIN, Texas – Flint Hills Resources, LP’s Corpus Christi refining complex today received the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association Distinguished Safety Award, one of the industry’s highest safety commendations. This is the site’s second consecutive year to earn the award, which recognizes plants that meet stringent guidelines and have achieved outstanding safety performance.

“Flint Hills Resources employees in Corpus Christi are clearly committed to safe operations,” said Duane Gilliam, NPRA’s outgoing board chairman. “While not unprecedented that a refinery earns this accolade in consecutive years, it certainly hasn’t happened that many times in our history. We salute FHR’s continued push for safe performance.”

Flint Hills Resources’ Corpus Christi facility and its employees have earned safety recognition from the association for 11 consecutive years.

Winners were recognized at the NPRA Annual Safety Awards Banquet during the association’s National Safety Conference here. The Corpus Christi facility also earned the Gold Award for reducing its total U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordable incident rate by more than 25 percent as compared to the three-year average, and the Meritorious Achievement award for achieving an OSHA recordable incident rate below 1.5. Flint Hills Resources’ Minnesota refinery joined the Texas site in earning the Safety Achievement award for 2003 safety performance.

Employees at the Corpus Christi refining facility completed 2003 with only three OSHA recordable incidents, for a 0.3 rate, which was the second lowest in plant history. This incident rate is 96 percent lower than the 7.2 average for all U.S. manufacturing facilities and it’s 83 percent lower (or six times better) than the 1.8 average rate for U.S. refiners, according to 2002 OSHA data. The facility’s employees have worked more than 1,222 days or more than 7 million hours and processing more than 307 million barrels (nearly 13 billion gallons) of crude oil – without an injury or illness resulting in days away from work.

These accomplishments place Flint Hills Resources among the nation’s safest refining operators, according to National Petrochemical & Refiners Association statistics. Since the NPRA safety awards program began in 1982, only eight other companies have earned the coveted DSA for two consecutive years.

“We are honored to have our safety performance recognized by the industry,” said Dave Allen, Flint Hills Resources vice president and manager of the Corpus Christi facility. “Our employees daily demonstrate their commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards and ensuring that we meet our goal of an injury-free workplace. Steadfast employee commitment and involvement will aid us as we try to keep this record going.”

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Flint Hills Resources' safety record reflects employees' active participation in programs to promote on-the-job safety. The Corpus Christi refining facility has earned re-certification of its "Star Status" in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. The site also earned the Superstar Award from the Region 6 Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association for 2003 performance.

NPRA's Distinguished Safety Award is part of its program to promote accident prevention and to publicly recognize the petroleum refining and petrochemical manufacturing industry's excellent safety record. Recipients must pass a comprehensive review of individual safety performance programs, achieve both an employee and contractor total recordable incident rate of 1.0 or less, and have no lost-time incidents for the evaluation period.

Flint Hills Resources, based in Wichita, Kan., is a leading producer of fuels and other petrochemical products. The company operates refineries in North Pole, Alaska, Corpus Christi, Texas and Pine Bend, Minn., which process about 790,000 barrels of crude oil daily. More information is available at www.fhr.com.

OSHA recordable incident rates are standard industrial safety performance measures that represent health and safety incidents per 200,000 work-hours, a unit of measure chosen by the agency because it approximates the annual work of 100 employees. Lost-time incidents are those injuries or occupational illnesses that result in time away from work.