

# Valero Benicia Refinery relentlessly pursues safety

## Safway Services

"It's the little things that can get you," advised Valero Benicia, California, Refinery Safety Department Manager Keith Washington. "Lifting a 5-ton part with a crane gets managed safely through good engineering and planning. We take that same focus and apply it to the little things, such as not walking and using your cell phone."

Valero Benicia's commitment to safety extends to on-site contractors like Safway Services, an access and industrial service company. All Safway personnel go through rigorous safety training and participate directly in the refinery's safety programs.

"We generate a safety culture and ingrain it in each and every Safway employee at the refinery," said Jeff McDermott, Safway project manager superintendent at the refinery. "I always tell anyone new to our crews that when they come on-site, the first thing we're paying them to do is to be safe."

Washington confirmed Safway's safety orientation.

*"When Safway erects a scaffold, their craftsmen don't get tunnel vision," he said. "They stop and take the time to let everybody know what they're doing and how it will impact their job. Safway is especially good at communicating with the other crafts and trades."*

## Beyond the standard

The Valero Benicia Refinery employs about 450 people on the 900-acre site, which has a total feedstock throughput capacity of 170,000 bpd. Products include propane, butane, California Reformulated Gasoline Program gasoline, ultra-low-sulfur diesel, jet fuel, fuel oil, residual oil and asphalt.

Safway and Valero Benicia have partnered to demonstrate outstanding safety results with programs beyond the industry standard. Both companies have earned Cal/OSHA's VPP Star Status multiple times (three times for Valero Benicia and twice for Safway). Valero Benicia Refinery employees have achieved 1 million safe work hours annually without a recordable injury three times since 2000, and Safway Service personnel have provided more than 700,000 hours of service without a lost-time incident.

The VPP requires policies and procedures for activities that would be considered normal, everyday work activity in other locations. Further, a qualified person must write the procedure, as well as review that procedure, on a regular basis.

"For us, this means teaching people to erect scaffold using documented procedures developed by Safway scaffold experts," said McDermott. "Further, we routinely review those procedures to make sure

they're appropriate."

While an outsider may think this extra effort wastes time, Washington believes safety increases productivity.

"Safety training is exactly the same as training in a craft," he said. "When a person knows his tools and has the right tools, he

operates at maximum efficiency. When a person understands the hazards around himself, always acts based on safety training and knows how to communicate with other craftsmen, he stays more focused and can operate at a higher level.

"We treat each other like family out

here. That lets us take safety to another level, and it ensures everyone gets to go home to their real families safe."

Safway has been an industry leader since 1936.

**For more information, visit [www.safwaygroup.com](http://www.safwaygroup.com) or call (800) 558-4772. ●**

## THE SMART WAY™

SAFETY PLANNING PROCESSES TECHNOLOGY PEOPLE

**SAFWAY** Group

## FOR SMART MULTISERVICE SOLUTIONS, GO TO THE SOURCE.

**SAFWAY GROUP: ONE COMPLETE SOURCE  
FOR ACCESS, INSULATION AND COATINGS.**



When we all work together, we all work more efficiently. Safway Group brings together the most trusted names in multiservices to ensure better communication and efficiency between teams. The result? Safe, productive work sites – and the lowest total installed cost.

**With Safway Group, you'll always get the job done The Smart Way™.**

[WWW.SAFWAYGROUP.COM](http://WWW.SAFWAYGROUP.COM)



Safway Group Companies:



Please visit us at SSPC GREENCOAT 2015, booth no. 127