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FEATURE

## Guardian Compliance hosts open house, tour

Guardian Compliance recently welcomed more than 200 friends to its open house — an occasion for clients and employees to get together socially and tour the company's new 25,000-square-foot consolidated environmental LDAR services and fabrication production facility in Deer Park, Texas. The event also afforded a great opportunity to facilitate Guardian's ongoing integration of Encompas and Environmental Analytics.

Attendees enjoyed more than 300 pounds of boiled crawfish and 16 briskets while the company band performed classic covers and original tunes.

For more information, call (800) 519-2786 or visit [www.guardian-compliance.com](http://www.guardian-compliance.com).



Guardian Compliance's 25,000-square-foot consolidated environmental LDAR services and fabrication production facility in Deer Park, Texas.



From left, Craig Cantu and Jeremy Smart of Guardian Compliance welcome Gerad Head of CITGO to the open house.



Enjoying the event are, from left, Jeremy Osterberger of BIC Alliance and Jennifer Buhigas and David Spath of Guardian Compliance.

FEATURE

## OSHA NEP audits continue on schedule

According to OSHA Area Director Mark Briggs of the Houston South Area Office, the OSHA Chemical Process Safety Management (PSM) National Emphasis Program (NEP) is on schedule to start in October, the start of the fiscal year, in Region VI. While the program has been ongoing in other regions for the past couple of years, Region VI has been primarily conducting only unprogrammed inspections. Unprogrammed inspections are the response to accidents or referrals.

At the recent Texas Chemical Council/ Association of Chemical Industry of Texas Environmental, Health and Safety Seminar in Galveston, Texas, Briggs provided an update on the chemical NEP results, including most common citations, and advice on how to help facilitate a smooth inspection at your site.

As of Dec. 31, 151 inspections have been opened. Of these, 52 were unprogrammed (34 percent) and 99 were programmed (66 percent). Ninety-six inspections have issued citations or closed without citations. On average there were

nine citations per inspection, with an average of \$25,129 in penalties per inspection.

"At OSHA we do realize this penalty amount is often nothing compared to the cost it will take to fix the problem," said Briggs.

The top five citations by PSM element were mechanical integrity (22.5 percent), process safety information (21.6 percent), process safety hazards (17.9 percent), operating procedures (12.1 percent) and training (4.4 percent).

"About 82 percent to 83 percent of the citations are contained within the areas we expected them to be," said Briggs.

According to Briggs, the most important thing to keep in mind for a smooth inspection is communication.

"At the very beginning, let's communicate — let's understand what each party is asking, what each party is saying and, if you can, explain to us why you're asking what you're asking," said Briggs.

For more information on the NEP, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) or call (800) 321-6742.