

# **APPA Safety Awards Program Webinar**

**Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026**

# Today's Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Program Overview

Changes Introduced Last Year & Insights

Fees & Scoring Criteria

Application Walkthrough

FAQs & Mistakes to Avoid

Q&A

# Program Overview

## What are the Safety Awards?

- Recognize utilities for outstanding safety performance
- Based on OSHA recordable incident rates and safety program practices
- Categories by employee-hours worked

## Why Apply?

- Benchmark your safety performance
- Gain recognition for your team's commitment to safety

# Introduction

Members of the Information Sharing & Engagement Subcommittee:

- Chair Solomon Brackett with the City of Troy, Alabama
- Craig Batchelor with ElectriCities of North Carolina
- Sam Holt with City of Tallahassee, Florida
- Tammie Krumm with Missouri River Energy Services, South Dakota
- Brent Fason with Conway Corp, Arkansas

# Changes Introduced Last Year & Insights

In 2024, APPA updated the Safety Awards Program to address feedback from members. Below are some of the key changes applied.

- Removal of the 3-year application submission → any utility can apply annually
- Calculation of scores → scores are calculated based on size grouping

Thanks to the updates introduced last year, more utilities applied and APPA was able to capture valuable safety data:

- 30% increase in eligible applicants after updates made the application more accessible to utilities of all sizes
- Average injury rate: 2.27, with a median of 1.79, providing a clear benchmark for improvement. Safety culture practices among last year's applicants:
  - 97–100% have annual safety training plans
  - 95–100% track and investigate injuries
  - 86–100% conduct daily job safety briefings
  - 67.5% use the APPA Safety Manual

# Fees & Scoring Criteria

## Application fee tiers:

- Tier 1: Groups A–C \$50
- Tier 2: Groups D–F \$175
- Tier 3: Groups G–H \$225

## Scoring is based from:

- Incident rate based on OSHA data
- Leading and lagging indicators on safety practices

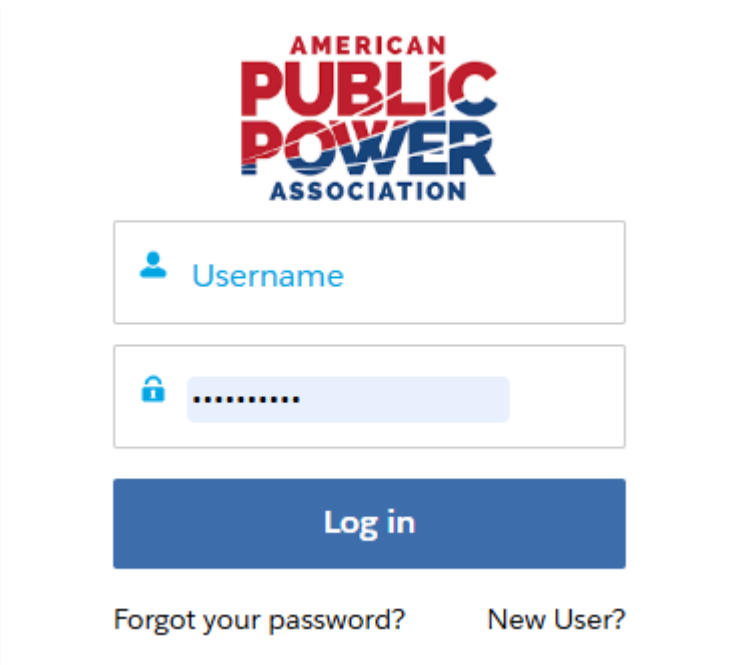
# Tier Levels

Tier	Group	Worker-Hours of Exposure
1	A	Less than 15,000
	B	15,000 to 29,999
	C	30,000 to 59,999
2	D	60,000 to 109,999
	E	110,000 to 249,999
	F	250,000 to 999,999
3	G	1,000,000 to 3,999,999
	H	more than 3,999,999

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Logging In

- Access the application through your PublicPower.org account
- Logging in ensures your contact information is pre-filled
- **You can save progress and return later**
- To preview the application questions, refer to pages 10-17 of the [Guidebook](#)
- For assistance on logging into their account, refer to page 18 of the [Guidebook](#)



The screenshot shows the login interface for the American Public Power Association. At the top is the logo, which consists of the words "AMERICAN", "PUBLIC", "POWER", and "ASSOCIATION" in a stylized font. Below the logo are two input fields: the first is labeled "Username" with a person icon, and the second is for a password, indicated by a lock icon and a series of dots. Below these fields is a blue "Log in" button. At the bottom of the form are two links: "Forgot your password?" and "New User?".



# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Utility Information

- Confirm utility name and contact details
- Ensure accuracy for award certificate and communication

6. Entrant Utility Information \*

Utility Name

City

State

7. Organization Type \*

☐ Electric Utility

☐ Joint Action Agency

☐ State Association/Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Other

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Employee Hours of Exposure (Electric Employees Only)

- Enter total worker-hours for all employees (operations, maintenance, clerical, etc.)
- **Formula: (Avg. # of Employees) × (Avg. Hours per Week) × (Avg. Weeks per Year)**
- Example: 100 employees × 40 hrs/week × 50 weeks = 200,000 hours

8. Employment Information \*

A. Total Electrical Worker-Hours of Exposure for Year 2025

B. Total Number of Electrical Employees

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Incident Data

- Report recordable cases, DART cases, and fatalities
- Use OSHA definitions for consistency
- **DART Formula: DART Rate = (Total DART Incidents × 200,000) ÷ Total Employee Hours Worked Utility Information**

9. Please reference the following definitions below to fill out case fields.

- Recordable Illness/Injury Cases- Any Case that resulted in employee(s) needing medical attention beyond first aid measures.
- DART- Cases where the employee missed day(s) away from work, had restricted job duties and/or transferred to another job as a results of the injury.

A. Total Number of Recordable Cases

B. Out of those Recordable Cases, how many fall under the DART category?

10. DART Time Charges (Calendar Work Days Only) \*

Total Number of Day(s) Missed from Work, Days Restricted and Days on Transferred Job

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

11. Generation *			
	Total number of recordable cases	Total number of DART cases*	Total number of fatalities
Construction	<input type="text"/>		
Operations & Maintenance	<input type="text"/>		
Emergency Response Activities	<input type="text"/>		
Support Services	<input type="text"/>		
Other	<input type="text"/>		

12. Distribution *			
	Total number of recordable cases	Total number of DART cases*	Total number of fatalities
Overhead - New Construction, Maintenance, and Replacement	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Underground - New Construction, Maintenance, and Replacement	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Substation Operations and Maintenance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tree Trimming	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Response Activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Meter Services	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Support Services	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

13. Transmission *			
	Total number of recordable cases	Total number of DART cases*	Total number of fatalities
Overhead - New Construction, Maintenance, and Replacement	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Substation Operations and Maintenance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tree Trimming	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Response Activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Support Services	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

14. Services *			
	Total number of recordable cases	Total number of DART cases*	Total number of fatalities
Administration	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Custodial	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Warehousing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## Incident Data

- Breakdown by different categories: *Generation, Distribution, Transmission, Services*
- Use OSHA definitions for consistency

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Lagging Indicators

Answer questions on leading indicators:

- Near-miss / Near-hit reporting
- Unsafe conditions tracking
- First aid injuries
- Recordable injuries
- Fatalities
- Investigation process for root cause analysis
- Disciplinary process for safety violations
- *Note: The responses on these questions impact scoring*

### Lagging Indicators: Investigation Questions

15. Does the utility have reporting and investigation processes for incidents which include: (6 points awarded for responding "yes" to a minimum of three of the following types of reporting categories) \*

	Yes	No
Near Miss / Near Hit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unsafe Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Aid Injuries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recordable Injuries		
Fatalities		

16. Does the utility have a defined process for changing its safety practices/rules? (6 points) \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

17. Do employees have the authority to stop working in unsafe conditions? (6 points) \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

18. Does the utility have a written and followed procedure for injury investigation to find root cause(s) with a focus on utility improvements instead of unsafe employee behaviors? (6 points) \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

19. Does your utility have a disciplinary process that is followed when safety violations occur? (6 points) \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Leading Indicators

Answer questions on leading indicators:

- Use of a documented Safety Manual (including APPA Safety Manual)
- Daily job safety briefing
- Regular safety meetings (weekly, monthly, quarterly)
- Designated safety officer or committee
- Annual training plan with safety topics
- Tracking safety metrics
- Pre-use vehicle inspections
- Crew inspections and site audits

20. Does your utility follow a documented Safety Manual? (5 points)

If so, does your utility use the APPA Safety Manual? (Please note that this question will not affect the utility's scores, the purpose is for APPA Manual) \*

- ☐ Yes, we follow a Safety Manual
- ☐ Yes, we utilize the APPA Safety Manual
- ☐ No

22. Does your utility require regular safety meetings? (5 points) \*

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ No

21. Does your utility require documented completion? (5 points) \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

23. Does your utility have an employee, consultant, or committee, that fulfills the responsibility of a safety officer? (5 points) \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24. Does your utility have an annual training plan? (5 points)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

25. Does your utility track safety metrics? (5 points)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### Leading Indicators: Inspection Questions

26. Does your utility require pre-use vehicle inspections? (5 points) \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

27. Does the utility require supervisors and/or managers to conduct periodic crew inspections and site audits? (5 points) \*

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ No

# Safety Awards Application – Walkthrough

## Essay Questions

- Reflect on your safety program:
  - Has it improved over the past year?
  - What are the greatest needs in public power safety programs?
- *Note: The essay questions are not scored, but they help APPA gather valuable insights from members to improve current safety programs and guide future initiatives*

### Leading Indicators: Essay Questions

28. Do you believe your safety program has improved over the past year? Please expand on why you feel your safety program has improved, declined or remained the same. \*

29. What are the greatest needs in public power safety programs? Please provide a narrative of ideas and activities which could be used to improve public power safety programs. \*

# Tips & Common Mistakes to Avoid

## Do's

- Calculate worker-hours accurately using payroll or timecard data
- Review incident data carefully before submission
- Answer all safety program questions completely
- Submit before the deadline (reach out to APPA if need to request extension)
- Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document for more information
- Reach out to APPA if uncertain of a specific question

## Don'ts

- Don't estimate worker-hours without a clear formula
- Don't leave required fields blank
- Don't wait until the last minute to submit



# 2025 Safety Awards Program Timeline



# Questions?

For questions, please contact [Safety@PublicPower.org](mailto:Safety@PublicPower.org)

If you would like to ask one of the committee members a question. The following is their contact information:

- Solomon Brackett, [solomon.brackett@troyal.gov](mailto:solomon.brackett@troyal.gov)
- Sam Holt, [samuel.holt@talgov.com](mailto:samuel.holt@talgov.com)
- Craig Batchelor, [cbatchel@electricities.org](mailto:cbatchel@electricities.org)
- Tammie Krumm, [tammie.krumm@mrenergy.com](mailto:tammie.krumm@mrenergy.com)
- Brent Fason, [brent.fason@conwaycorp.com](mailto:brent.fason@conwaycorp.com)

# Resources

Resources related to the Safety Awards Program:

- [2025 Safety Awards Application](#)
- [Overview of Safety Awards Program](#)
- [Safety Awards Guidebook](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [2024 Safety Awardees](#)