

Nation Ford Chemical, VanDeMark Chemical

Setting standards in EHS&S



For 13 years, SOCMA has honored companies that are leading in the areas of environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S). And in 2019, the association implemented a refreshed judging criteria for its Performance Improvement Awards. Twenty-nine facilities achieved this impressive standard. The awards were presented during SOCMA Week in New Orleans.



VanDeMark Chemical



Nation Ford Chemical

The top honor – the Gold Award – is given each year to only one or two facilities. These facilities must be in the Excellence Tier, which means they excel in all five of the ChemStewards Core Principles. This year, two facilities were recognized for their commitment to excellence and their determination to exceed industry standards and strengthen their EHS&S programs – Nation Ford Chemical and VanDeMark Chemical.

Nation Ford Chemical received the Gold Award for the second consecutive year by demonstrating their commitment to success by investing more than \$1 million in a new 2,500-square-foot Employee Training Facility to improve the functionality of safety training. Nation Ford also conducts communications meetings with key stakeholders that have led to zero incidents and no OSHA recordable rates in

2019. Judges were impressed that Nation Ford's technical staff spent 100 manhours creating a database to catalog prevalent EHS&S regulations and classification of all chemicals at the facility. Nation Ford also installed an industry-leading emergency containment system between its operations and the nearby river that resulted from a non-required plant study on "What-Ifs" concerning catastrophic releases from events such as tornadoes.

Key highlights of Nation Ford's safety program:

- Award winning EHS&S program, well-trained workforce, stellar environmental record
- 2-time Gold award winner, 9-time Silver winner since 2009
- 98% reduction of recordable rate in 10 years

- Safety first both inside the plant with employees and outside of the plant with stakeholders

- Positive employee rewards for safety suggestions

- 100% transition to leading indicator tracking

- Annual health and safety day, plant shutdown

- Nation Ford considers ALL ChemStewards Core Principles when developing its robust safety program

- Buy in from all employees is key to Nation Ford's successful safety program

VanDeMark Chemical received its first-ever Gold Performance Improvement Award in 2019. Exceptional stakeholder communication and a commitment to



a strong safety culture are among the outstanding EHS&S efforts that wowed the judges. A crucial part of stakeholder communication is the company's interaction with community groups, providing critical information on a routine basis. Underpinning the company's strong safety culture, VanDeMark has a Stop/Call/Wait policy, where employees are encouraged to stop operations for any concern. The company also has an incentive-based program that targets leading indicators as a mechanism to drive 100 percent compliance on key safety procedures. Key highlights of VanDeMark's successful program include:

- Development of a community advisory panel where employees and the community work together to resolve issues
- Holding Community Awareness Day, an open house where stakeholders can visit and experience life inside the facility
- Providing technical bulletins beyond basic HazCom that display a risk matrix to help employees identify and develop targets for emphasis
- Introduction of a robust stage gate process for all new chemicals, including testing and a stage gate checklist
- Implementing KPIs focused on leading indicator performance that are linked to an employee incentive program
- Offering injury prevention training during employee onboarding
- Implementing a waste minimization project in 2018-2019 to reduce methylene chloride that included upgrading a multi-stage condensing recovery system to reduce air emission by more than 90% and segregating wastewater streams to allow for some on-site carbon treatment, which greatly reduces volume of water for off-site disposal.

Congratulations Nation Ford and VanDeMark for setting the standard in EHS&S in 2019!

For more information about SOCMA's Performance Improvement Awards, contact Emylyn Noma at enoma@socma.org.

2019 **PERFORMANCE** Awards

Improvement



GOLD AWARD

GOLD	NATION FORD CHEMICAL	Fort Mill Facility
	VANDEMARK CHEMICAL INC.	Lockport Facility

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

SILVER	DanChem	Danville Facility
	McGean	Cleveland, OH Facility

BRONZE	Sun Chemical Corporation	Bushy Park Facility
	Hampford Research Inc.	Stratford Facility
	Monument Chemical LLC	Houston Facility

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

SILVER	Baker Hughes	Rayne Blend Plant
	Optima Chemical Group LLC	Douglas Facility
	Cambrex Corporation	Cambrex Charles City Facility

BRONZE	Ashland	Kenedy, TX Facility
	Baker Hughes	Barnsdall Chemical Plant
	Monument Chemical LLC	Brandenburg, KY Facility

EHS&S IN PLANNING & OPERATIONS

SILVER	Monument Chemical LLC	Baytown, TX Facility
	Monument Chemical LLC	Brandenburg, KY Facility

BRONZE	Baker Hughes	Bayport Manufacturing Facility
	Strem Chemicals, Inc.	Newburyport Facility
	Ashland	Ashland, OH Facility

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

SILVER	Baker Hughes	Kilgore Blend Plant
	Monument Chemical LLC	Houston Facility

BRONZE	Siegfried USA, LLC	Pennsville, NJ
	Baker Hughes	Taft Manufacturing LLC
	Norac Pharma	Azusa, CA
	Polysciences, Inc.	Warrington Facility
	GFS Chemicals, Inc.	Powell, OH

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & WASTE MINIMIZATION

SILVER	Sun Chemical Corporation	Bushy Park Facility
	Baker Hughes	Sand Spring Chemical Plant

BRONZE	MFG Chemical LLC	Dalton, GA Facility
	ChemDesign Products, Inc.	Marinette, WI
	Ashland	Columbus - Harmon Facility

SPECIAL AWARDS

Educational Award	ChemDesign Products, Inc.	Marinette, WI
Sustainability Award	Ashland	Merry Hill, NC Facility