Safety is the top priority for the refining and petrochemical industries. AFPM's members are committed to maintaining strong safety records while continuously improving performance to protect their people, communities and the environment. This dedication is strengthened through collaboration among U.S. refiners and petrochemical manufacturers, who share knowledge and best practices to enhance industry-wide safety. AFPM plays a vital role in facilitating these efforts through comprehensive safety programs focused on process safety, occupational safety, and training and development.

Read on to learn more about our industry safety programs.

AFPM Operational Excellence (OPEX)

AFPM's Operational Excellence (OPEX) program is a collaboration between AFPM technical and safety programs to provide member companies and our industry partners with numerous opportunities to improve safety practices and processes. OPEX includes the following initiatives and programs:

Advancing Process Safety programs

Advancing Process Safety (APS) is AFPM's flagship safety program. AFPM, long with American Petroleum Institute (API), developed this groundbreaking program to promote collaboration across industries and to continuously improve process safety through data collection and opportunities to share experiences and knowledge. Created in 2012, this voluntary program has grown to include a suite of resources that facilitate the sharing of learnings and information.

- **Walk the Line:** AFPM's human performance program that provides operators with tools and resources to prevent common incidents and improve workplace performance and safety.
- **The Process Safety Regional Networks:** Seven regional information-sharing networks that enable process safety professionals to collaborate at the site and association levels to improve overall process safety performance.
- **The Process Safety Site Assessment Program:** This AFPM/API collaboration facilitates rigorous, independent third-party assessments of written programs and operations that help facilities prevent process safety events.
- **Hazard Identification/Practice Sharing Subgroup:** AFPM member group that develops hazard identification and practice share documents addressing common industry hazards and good industry practices.
- **The Mechanical Integrity Subgroup:** AFPM/API member group that develops resources to help facilities keep their equipment and systems working safely and reliably.
- **The Human & Organizational Performance Subgroup:** AFPM/API member group that develops information and tools to improve human performance in operations that aid in reducing the likelihood and consequences of human errors.
- **Industry Learning & Outreach Subgroup:** AFPM member group that gathers and analyzes industry data to identify opportunities for APS improvement while also hosting monthly webinars.

Technical committees

AFPM's technical committees provide a forum for knowledge sharing and identifying opportunities and topics for sharing broadly at our conferences, webinars and other resources. These committees focus on various industry-critical areas, including manufacturing safety and health, immersive learning and training, reliability and maintenance planning, control and automation technology process technology, fluid catalytic cracking (FCC), hydroprocessing, coking, gasoline processes, sustainability technologies and hydrofluoric acid alkylation.

Regional Networks

The AFPM Regional Networks play an essential role in bringing site-level practitioners together to network and share events, learnings and good practices. The regional networks—held in seven regions across the country—focus on process safety, occupational safety and hydrofluoric alkylation operations.

FCC process safety resources and regional meetings

The FCC Committee develops resources for industry-based learnings from recent FCC incidents. This group develops webinars, conference sessions and FCC process safety documents. Most notably, the Committee delivers regionally based interactive and experiential one-day training workshops at operating sites throughout the United States.

Safety bulletins, hazard ID documents, practice sharing documents

The AFPM APS Program has developed a means to share important process safety information broadly with our members. Since the program's beginning, hundreds of documents have been created to support AFPM members and include safety bulletins, a compilation of similar process safety incidents and their learnings, hazard ID documents that list hazard considerations for specific tasks and practice sharing documents provided by member companies for the benefit of improving site practices industrywide.

Live events and webinars

AFPM's live events and webinars are thoughtfully designed to provide state-of-the-industry information in a dynamic and interactive format, encouraging connections between attendees, subject matter experts and exhibitors. Safety is a primary focus of several conferences each year, including the AFPM Safety Conference, Summit and Annual Meeting. In addition to live events, we host webinars throughout the year on a variety of technical and safety topics, including turnarounds, artificial intelligence, alarm management, alkylation, sustainability and unit reliability.

Safety is a continuous journey, and AFPM remains committed to fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and driving improvements across the refining and petrochemical industries. Through our programs, technical committees, regional networks and industry-wide initiatives, we empower companies and professionals to uphold the highest standards of safety. Together, we can create a safer, more resilient industry—one that protects workers, communities and the environment for years to come.

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About AFPM:

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) is the leading trade association representing the makers of the fuels that keep us moving, the petrochemicals that are the essential building blocks for modern life, and the midstream companies that get our feedstocks and products where they need to go. We make the products that make life better, safer and more sustainable — we make progress.

Topics

Occupational Safety

Process Safety