EMWD Earns Cal/VPP STAR Site Certification

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is proud to be a national leader in workplace safety and is committed to a culture of accountability to protect our staff, contractors, and communities in everything we do.

EMWD is a member of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (Cal/OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) earning recognition as a STAR site. Under this program, EMWD undergoes rigorous triennial recertification to establish its commitment toward continuous improvement and best practices for workplace safety. EMWD first earned the Cal/VPP STAR designation in 1999 and has continually held that honor.

In addition to being the only public agency in California designated as a Cal/VPP STAR site, EMWD was also the first water and wastewater agency nationwide to be recognized by a state or federally-administered STAR program. EMWD is the third-longest continually tenured Cal/VPP STAR organization. EMWD is certified for its administrative offices; water operations, treatment and production division; and water reclamation and collections division.

By achieving Cal/VPP STAR status, EMWD certification is valid for three years and the agency is not subject to random or unannounced site visits by Cal/OSHA inspectors. EMWD routinely has one of the premier safety records in the water and wastewater industries and frequently exceeds several hundred days without a lost workday due to on-the-job injury.

EMWD employees are required to undergo continuous safety training that is commensurate with their job duties. Trainings include confined space, lockout/blockout, driver’s education, ergonomics, and classes on hazardous communications. EMWD also holds its contractors to the same safety standards as employees, promoting a safe working environment throughout the communities it serves. By actively promoting workplace safety, EMWD is able to not only ensure the safety of the community, but also reduce costs and increase staff efficiency.

“We are proud to have created an organizational culture of workplace safety,” General Manager Paul D. Jones II said. “By doing so, we hold one another accountable and make certain that each employee and contractor return home to their family injury-free.”

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