



## **2021 Award for Excellence** in environmental, health, safety and security

### **PPG**

Barberton, Ohio

PPG Industries has an aggressive program to eliminate spills and releases. In an effort to adhere to principles of responsible care in 2020 PPG Barberton, in conjunction with its human and organizational performance, instituted a Walk the Line (WTL) program. The Optical manufacturing area was the first operating area to implement the Walk the Line initiative.

Walk the Line is the process of inspecting every valve and connection before performing several procedures such as transferring material, preparing for maintenance, and returning equipment to service.

Instead of relying on assumptions made in wordy procedures, the procedure requires an operator to inspect every point on the relevant line to ensure that the equipment is in the correct position. A checklist, in the form of graphical step-by-step diagrams, has been generated for common procedures with each point listed to assist in this inspection.

Since the implementation to WTL, the Barberton plant has experienced an 84% reduction in significant spills

and releases to secondary containment. The WTL program resulted in the rework of procedures through the combined efforts of management and hourly employees. This change resulted in the elimination of ambiguities in the prior documentation and improved current procedures to be more understandable to new employees in the area. In addition, WTL projects included line and valve labeling which specifically correlated to the updated procedures and increased the clarity for the operating area. While the reduction of spills is significant, perhaps the greatest success of instituting the WTL program has been to reduction in human error. Examples of typical human errors include where valves were being incorrectly closed, or inadvertently opened. In addition, on-the-job trainings being administered without well-defined procedures.

Future plans of Walk the Line includes expanding it in other areas of the plant with the target of 18 months for plant-wide implementation.

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*The Ohio Chemistry Technology Council recently announced the recipients of their Annual Awards for Excellence which recognizes Ohio chemical companies who have demonstrated exceptional performance in environmental, health, safety and security over the previous year. Awards were presented to 17 facilities from around Ohio, all of which had significant contributions and achievements in 2020.*