

DOE Idaho Operations Office wins Safety & Health Outreach Award from Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association, Inc.

Region X (Pacific Northwest) of the Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association, Inc. has given the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office its 2009 Safety & Health Outreach Award for volunteering with DOE contractors to teach safety to hundreds of Eastern Idaho school children.

“The Voluntary Protection Program teaches that safety is important in every aspect of life,” said Carol Henning, Quality & Safety Division Industrial Safety Team Lead with the DOE's Idaho Operations Office. “That's why we like to get out into the community to talk about and demonstrate safety.”



DOE-Idaho's Quality & Safety Division Industrial Safety Team Lead Carol Henning shows the safety outreach award that the department's Idaho office and two of its contractors won this year.

Between June 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009, more than 20 volunteers from DOE's Idaho office, its Idaho National Laboratory and its Idaho Cleanup Project visited Bingham County elementary schools. They taught pet, bicycle, pedestrian, tool, fire, farm and outdoor safety, and proper use of personal protective equipment.

The volunteers also staffed booths and taught these safety topics during the Idaho National Laboratory's annual Science & Engineering Expo at the Museum of Idaho in downtown Idaho Falls.

Plans are to continue with safety outreach to the community. Within the next few months, the contractors' VPP program offices and employee safety teams will meet and select target audiences and safety outreach activities for 2010.

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By Timothy B Jackson