

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Safety Culture at Fluor Federal Services Earns a 2012 Better Workplace Award from the Association of Washington Business (AWB)

Richland, WA - Fluor Federal Services of Richland, Washington was presented with the AWB 2012 Better Workplace Award Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at AWB's annual Legislative Day at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. Governor Christine Gregoire served as the keynote speaker. "I want to congratulate the recipients of this year's award and the Association of Washington Business for making the effort to recognize private employers who care deeply for the safety and success of their workers. I applaud the innovation demonstrated by today's recipients, an attribute that is essential to our economic recovery efforts here in the great state of Washington," said Gregoire.

The Governor presented the award to Fluor Federal Service's Labor Relations Manager Frank Blowe and the Building and Trades Craft Safety Representative Steve Maki. The award commends Fluor for its commitment to workplace excellence, innovation and safety. "On behalf of Fluor Federal Services, we thank the AWB for recognizing all of our Richland-based employees who make working safely a priority everyday," said Frank Blowe.

Fluor Federal Services, an operating unit of Fluor Corporation, has 600 employees, the majority of whom support the environmental-remediation work at DOE's Hanford Site in the southeastern part of the state. Workers are cleaning up radioactive and chemical waste that remains from nuclear weapons production during WWII and the Cold War. This cleanup work is in compliance with the Tri-Party agreement which legally obligates Washington and the Federal government to safely remove the waste and protect the environment and the Columbia River from any possible contamination.

In September 2011, Fluor Federal Services employees earned their fourth "STAR" in DOE's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). This was the ninth time they were honored with DOE's "Star of Excellence" Award for having annual injury/illness performance 75% lower than national averages. The company's incidence rate for total recordable injuries per 200,000 hours worked is 0.4 compared to the national average of 3.8 per 200,000 hours worked for the heavy-construction industry.

One of Fluor Federal Service's employees won the highest individual award given by DOE-VPP for the second time. Steve Maki, Craft and Safety representative for the Southeastern Washington Construction Building Trades Council, earned the "Contractor Champion Award." He is the first person to ever earn this honor twice.

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“I see real commitment from both our crafts and management. I see us doing our work efficiently and safely, and with great quality. After all, that’s all we really have to offer both as building trades and as a company – quality work, in a safe manner, in a timely fashion. I was proud of the workforce for stepping up,” said Steve Maki.

Fluor Federal Services was the first, and is the longest-tenured, true construction contractor in the DOE Complex to earn and maintain certification in VPP. The company was originally recognized as a STAR Site in June 2001, and since then, employees have passed three on-site reviews to retain this designation.

The company’s safety program includes a disciplined approach to ensuring work tasks are completed safely. It includes an extensive analysis of the planned activities, identifying potential hazards and then adopting the appropriate controls. The job safety analysis involves both a computerized evaluation, as well as a person-to-person assessment to ensure that every aspect of the job is considered.

Another aspect of the program is the Design for Safety Process, which has been identified as a DOE-VPP Best Practice. The process uses three-dimensional modeling and various “check lists” as conceptual, preliminary and final designs are developed. This approach has helped engineers visualize situations that could arise during construction, maintenance and operation of a facility or system that could compromise safety.

A total of seven Washington companies were honored for safety, job training, and benefits programs at the AWB luncheon. Fluor was the only company that won this year in the category of workplace safety for an organization with more than 250 employees. The association honors Washington companies that have set the bar for workplace safety, job training, advancement and compensation programs. Nearly 8,000 AWB member companies are eligible to submit nominations that are reviewed by a panel of workplace benefits and safety experts.

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