

A Pocket Guide:

Voluntary Protection Program

What is VPP? : The Voluntary Protection Program is a process that emphasizes holding managers accountable for worker safety and health, the continual identification and elimination of hazards and the active involvement of employees in their own protection.

Why VPP? : VPP was created by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 1982, and was formally introduced to Hanscom in 2006. The program encourages community involvement in everyday safety practices by educating and training the public through VPP's four elements. These practices help to ensure the ultimate safety of the Hanscom community.

The VPP Elements -- *What you need to know:*

Management, Leadership and Employee Involvement

This element focuses on involving leadership and employees at all levels in the safety and health practices of their work environment. Teams involved in this facet establish the groundwork for the program's efforts by communicating safety policies and goals through different mediums. They ensure that safety messages are passed down from leadership and are understood by employees.

Work Site Analysis

This element involves thoroughly evaluating the safety and health of worksites on base. Responsibilities of this team include having an accident and incident investigation program designed to identify problem elements and correct them in a timely manner.

Hazard Prevention and Control

This element is responsible for establishing a hierarchy of controls to ensure the safety of the workforce. These controls include steps to prevent hazards, in addition to addressing hazards when they occur.

Safety and Health Training

This element is responsible for training the workforce in order to help personnel better understand and identify potential risks that they might be exposed to; in addition to educating employees on how to report problems or concerns.