

For more information, contact:
Emma Ragauskas, Member Relations Manager
eragauskas@ppsa.org; 770-209-7300

PPSA Announces First Female Winner of the Safety Leader of the Year Award
Top industry award first introduced in 2019

ATLANTA (July 21, 2020) – The Pulp and Paper Safety Association (PPSA) has announced the winner of its 2020 Safety Leader of the Year: **Carrie Andecover**, Safety & Environmental/HR Manager for WestRock’s recycle mill in Eaton, IN.

Andecover is only the second person to receive PPSA’s Safety Leader award (introduced in 2019), and is the first woman.

Described in her nomination as an example of “what a safety leader looks like,” Andecover was praised for her dedication to co-workers — especially during “these days of uncertainty amidst Coronavirus and other giant obstacles.” The nomination went on to describe her as someone who sets the example of how to properly influence others in the industry “by taking on life’s challenges head-on” and as “an inspiration to all who battle various problems; that through true perseverance, we can positively impact others and the relationships we are fortunate to have through our chosen vocation.”

In the first part of 2019, Andecover was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer and today is in full remission, leading her site safety teams with even more vigor. She continued to work even as she tackled aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatments. According to her nomination, she reinvigorated the safety committee by involving them in site efforts to continue to work on reducing the potential for life changing events through winder safety and PIT / PED interface initiatives, while she battled her own personal pain and discomfort.

Andecover has worked in the pulp and paper industry for 29 years. In addition to her tenure at WestRock, which began in 2014, she also worked for Georgia-Pacific from 1991 – 2014 in a variety of roles including Accounts Payable, a production employee on die cutters and folder-glueers, and as a safety coordinator. Her career in safety started nearly 20 years ago with a “small project” after being approached by her mentor, Lee Nester. In 2012, Andecover graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Account/Management, and this December she will graduate with honors from Columbia Southern University with a Master’s in Business Administration. She is the proud mother of a 19-year-old son.

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ABOUT PPSA AND THE SAFETY LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In the early 1940s, a group of safety professionals gathered together to form what is now the leading industry association solely focused on safety. The Pulp and Paper Safety Association is a non-profit, non-political organization that remains devoted to safety throughout the forest products industry. Each year, during its annual safety and health conference in June, PPSA recognizes individuals, teams, corporations, facilities and organizations that have made significant contributions to the industry. All nominations are made anonymously, including the Safety Leader of the Year award. The next submission will take place in advance of the 2021 Annual Conference, June 13 – 16, in St. Petersburg, FL.