

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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## **First Michael Jenkins Award Presented**

### **Victim's parents work selflessly to educate children about safety around oilfield equipment as the push continues**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Denise Bode presented the first Michael Jenkins Award Thursday evening during special ceremonies at the Omniplex. Commissioner Bob Anthony joined her on stage for the presentation. The award is in memory of Michael Jenkins who lost his life in an accident on oilfield equipment in 1993. Seven Oklahoma children have died in and around oilfield equipment in recent years.

Michael's parents, Bill and Ellen Jenkins, received the award in recognition of their efforts to get the message to Oklahoma's children. Commissioner Bode stated, "The Jenkins came to us last year with a request that we step up oilfield safety education efforts. The Jenkins have devoted untold hours to educating the children of others so not one more parent need go through the grief they have suffered. This award is an effort to recognize and encourage greater work in such safety education. But it is just the first part of our campaign to encourage our kids to be safe."

The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) announced last night that it has also agreed to step-up activity. It announced that it is airing \$100-thousand worth of public service announcements on radio and TV about the dangers of oilfield equipment. It has also created a safety video called "Play It Smart" for use in the classrooms with the OERB's Petro Pro program.

Commissioner Bode added, "OERB's timing in stepping up the airing of these safety ads is critical because it is the summer when our children are most likely to explore this equipment."

Commissioner Ed Apple, who was instrumental in initiating the idea of a safety video, applauded the Award and the safety efforts it represents.

In addition to the OERB, the "Safe Kids Coalition" has been active in helping to educate children about oilfield hazards.

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