

Mission Support Alliance Streamline

Issue 19, June 2011



Employee's actions help Kennewick police officer take down criminal



Nick Echols of Mission Support Alliance's (MSA) Water Utilities team received a Citizen's Appreciation Award and a Chief's Challenge Coin from Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg for his quick thinking and decisive action in helping Kennewick police officer, Josh Sullivan.

Noticing an officer being dragged to the ground by another man, Echols ran to his assistance. "It happened so quickly, you don't even think about it. This is something I would do any day, but for them to recognize me for it was pretty cool," said Echols.

Thanks to the bold intervention of Echols and another concerned citizen, Officer Sullivan escaped injury and police were able to take the suspect into custody. ■



Assortment of metal pans, containers, and a cheese grater from old Hanford town/village/settlement.

Shifting responsibilities and moving artifacts

While cleaning up the Hanford Site is complex and a high priority mission for the Department of Energy (DOE), cleanup work also involves other less visible, but just as important, programs that ensure work at Hanford does not adversely affect the environment, and that artifacts and cultural items are safely retrieved and preserved for future generations. That program is the Public Safety and Resource Protection (PSRP) Program.

The PSRP encompasses Hanford Environmental Oversight, Meteorological and Climatological Services, Environmental Surveillance, Ecological Monitoring and Compliance, Seismic Monitoring, and a Cultural & Historic Resource Program (C&HRP).

Previously managed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), the PRSP recently became part of MSA work scope after it received approval and direction from DOE to assume responsibility for this collection of programs in May.

Even as responsibility for PSRP programs shifted to MSA, it was vital to coordinate closely with PNNL during the changeover to ensure seamless continuation and uninterrupted avail-

ability of these essential services. As a key integrator for diverse projects across the Hanford Site, MSA will preserve and enhance the high level of service formerly provided by PNNL.

A recent transition project, requiring cross-organizational coordination, involved moving a sensitive collection from the PNNL-managed facilities to alternate facilities in the area.

The collection features over 4,000 prehistoric and historical artifacts along with numerous records, photos, maps, and other documents that Hanford Site research teams assembled over years of archaeological fieldwork and surveys. Maintaining these artifacts and documents helps ensure researchers will have access to valuable pieces of the Hanford Site's history in the future. As part of the

(see ARTIFACTS—pg 5)

in this issue

Safety rep corner.....	4
Tech security.....	7
ISMS verification.....	8
Fire Ops 101.....	11

Streamline



Message from the President

MSA recently graduated several employees from the Leadership Foundation training course offered through Columbia Basin College. The training is important as it helps us foster and develop our own cadre of leaders within the company. A new class begins June 29.

Leadership is a valuable skill, especially in the workplace. Some people seem to be born to lead, while others have to work at it. No matter which category you fall under, you can be sure that the ability to lead effectively will improve your work environment and help you get the best out of your employees and coworkers. Although your job may not be managing staff, by demonstrating your leadership skills in your daily activities, others will learn that they can count on you and turn to you for assistance, advice and support.

Below are some common leadership characteristics. If not all of these come

naturally, you can develop leadership skills through practice and experience.

Leaders have direction. They focus on their job and aren't easily distracted. They work proactively, seeking new ideas and ways to improve things. When people see a leader's dedication to the job, it inspires them to become dedicated too.

Effective leaders inspire and motivate others, helping others see the importance of what they are doing and motivating them to do their best, and understand that everyone works differently and takes note of others' preferred work methods.

Part of being a great leader is learning when it is best to follow. Leaders are good communicators, interacting well with others despite different

personalities, and they know how to convey messages confidently and effectively to others. They recognize that listening is a key aspect to strong communication.

Leaders are positive and solutions-driven. They don't focus on the negative, but inspire others by letting them see how important their contributions are. When faced with a challenge, a strong leader looks for a solution, encouraging others to help them. Leaders see the big picture and constantly move toward a specific goal.

When others see leadership potential in you, it's likely to bring opportunities and growth. You don't have to be a natural-born leader—you just have to know what it takes and be willing to work at it. ■



J. Frank Armijo, President

Message from the Chief Operations Officer

in•no•va•tion [in-uh-vey-shuhn]—noun

1. **Something new or different introduced. Numerous innovations have been introduced at Hanford by the MSA.**
2. **The act of innovating; introduction of new things or methods.**



Dave Ruscitto, Chief Operations Officer

Innovation is the way we do business at MSA. Two realities facing MSA today are reduced federal budgets and a talented, yet aging workforce. Innovation is an important tool

we can expand to fill this talent gap.

Change is inevitable, and as technology expands, change accelerates and, families, teams, companies, nations and individuals anticipate, adapt and prosper or react, resist and decline. Innovation is the way we endure and flourish in an atmosphere of relentless change.

At Hanford, we are a team of innovators supporting DOE and our customers through programs such as the Mission Service Catalog and the automated job hazard analysis tool, "eye in the sky" security systems, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones, wireless communications, automated road striping, heavy-duty rough terrain fire trucks, and a mobile beryllium analytical laboratory.

Many of our workers use their expertise to come up with innovations for doing work smarter and faster, such as a locksmith shop figuring out how to unlock a jammed high security safe, consolidating weapons ranges for more efficient qualifications, or performing realistic training at HAMMER for cargo container screening.

Other innovations come from improved processes such as operating utilities like a municipal public works department and managing land use like a planning and zoning commission.

These innovations demonstrate ingenuity and initiative and allow us to thrive in this fast-paced work environment. ■

Streamline



American flag etiquette

MSA Asset Control coordinated the donation of worn and tattered flags on behalf of DOE to local Cub Scout Pack 252. The 35 scouts who participated in the ritual of destroying the flags were joined by members of West Richland's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"The significance of this ceremony for the boys is to learn to be respectful of our flag," said Scout Master Russ Warren. "This was a unique opportunity for them to participate in a traditional flag retirement ceremony." The scouts learned about the symbolism of the different parts to the flag, and when and why a flag is retired.

The ceremony concluded with a veteran bugler playing Taps during disposition of the ashes. Thanks to DOE, Asset Control and Hanford Patrol for the educational opportunities provided to the young scouts and the interface with our veterans. ■



The flags are partitioned— cut, NOT torn—at which point they cease to be flags and are then burned. The blue field of stars always remains intact.

MSA/MSC Service Awards - June

35 Years

Lauren M. Buck
Tonya K. Garberg

30 Years

Patrick R. Gardner
Mark L. Hermanson
Ronald L. Smithwick
Douglas L. Stewart
Dana G. Worthington

25 Years

Brent H. Anderson
Leonard S. Angerman
Glenn M. Anthony
Denny L. Berry
Rodney J. Gillespie
Monty J. Giulio
Jeffrey P. Meyer

Steven K. Meyer
Timothy J. Moore
Joan A. Peltier

20 Years

Arthur E. Haerberlin
Virgil G. Heiman, Jr.
John Juliuson
Barbara Jean Kerr
Jon K. Perry
Armando Plata
Teodoro Robledo

15 Years

Randall E. Scott

10 Years

Christian M. Seavoy
Robin A. Spangler
Brandyn R. Wehde

5 Years

Cleve R. Barnes
Brett L. Dahl
John R. Mace
James T. Santo

1 Year

William G. Allison
Shawn A. Basgall
Glen D. Buxton
Randy A. Cannon
William E. Coumerilh
Troy G. DeGarmo
Jason J. Freeman
Kara J. French
Scott L. Gendron
Travis E. Kloth
Tyler J. LaVoie
Stephen D. McCaughey



Michael L. Merk
Christopher J. Picken
Kirby D. Prince
Troy R. Reynolds
Bruce A. Schlotfeldt
Steven R. Stroud
Dennis A. Swoboda
Michael S. Thomas

Streamline



Safety Rep corner

Secure loads are safe loads

Securing loads saves lives. Did you know that unsecured loads cause about 25,000 accidents and over 100 deaths per year in the U.S.? Road debris alone causes 350 accidents a year.

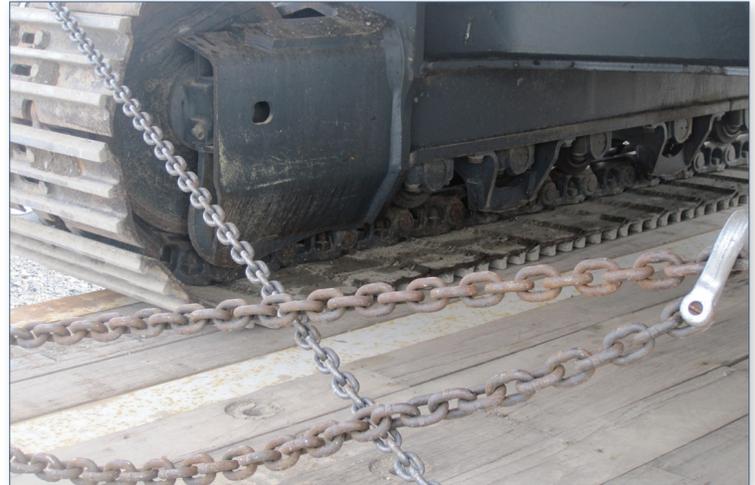
As MSA safety representatives, we receive calls daily about issues in the field. Recently, we received an early morning call regarding an excavator loaded and tied down on a tractor-trailer. The MSA teamsters could see that the load was not secured in a safe manner.

We sent a safety rep to the location to meet with the MSA teamsters who had the concern. Once the Department of Transportation (DOT) compliance officer arrived, he also saw that several items

were out of compliance—mainly improper chains, binders and the position of excavator on the trailer. It was clear the rig's load was not properly secured or tied down for the size or weight of the load. MSA's teamsters did not want the vehicle to leave the yard until the load was securely tied down.

MSA teamsters worked with the driver to properly secure the load. The team repositioned the excavator on the trailer and tied it down with heavier chains and binders for safe transport.

We compliment the teamsters helping to make sure the load was in compliance and safely secured before letting it leave the yard. It was their ability to recognize the problem, and their attention to details, that allowed them to resolve the issues for a safe transport. Their awareness and teamwork helped



them achieve safe practices and results!

Learn more about secure load processes by reviewing [MSC-PRO-37561 Section 3.9.1.](#) ■

Hanford Atomic Metals Trade Council

- John Jeskey..... (509) 521-1613
- Rocky Simmons (509) 308-0777
- Bob Smith (509) 713-4647
- Mike Stoner (509) 713-4513
- Ken Gray (509) 531-0714
- Curtis Henning (509) 713-4517
- Steve Maiuri (509) 392-2547
- Mike Fitzsimmons (509) 713-4491

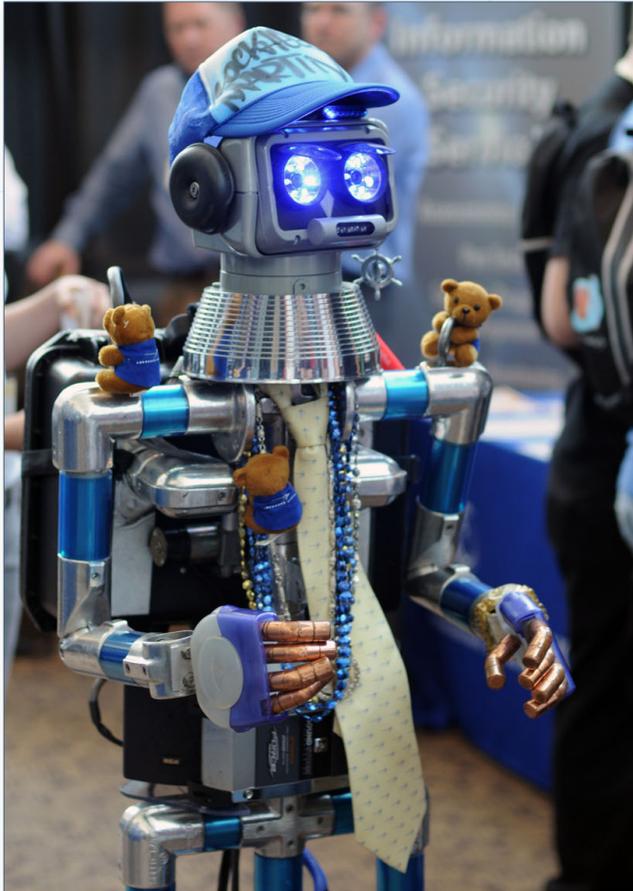
Hanford Guard Union

- Gordon Denman (509) 948-8722
- Christopher Derrick (509) 430-0216
- Jeff Rice (509) 528-9312



Taking a stand when it comes to security

Safety and Security kudos to Sherry Foreman and Casey Thurston! They came across an unbadged person entering the Federal Building one evening. Sherry and Casey challenged him and reported the incident to building security who handled the situation. Great OpSec, Sherry and Casey! ■



Sprockit, an interactive robot, was a big hit with attendees at IT Day, especially students.

IT Day puts technology companies in the limelight

Thousands of attendees got a chance to hear from industry experts presenting on a wide range of leading-edge IT topics at Lockheed Martin's 11th annual Information Technology Day (IT Day), held on May 4 at the Three Rivers Convention Center, in Kennewick, Wash.

Derek, a local web designer, described why he came to IT Day. "I'm always looking for new things that might improve how I work. Here I can try new technologies, products, and services that I would have otherwise missed."

While presenting the latest in IT topics such as cloud computing and cyber security, the event also played host to a variety of sessions focusing on new and innovative ideas related to future IT and energy issues. The event's overall "green" technology theme presented attendees with many opportunities to learn about environmentally friendly and progressive IT options like the recent Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and datacenter upgrades undertaken by MSA that are playing a role in reducing the Hanford Site's footprint and energy consumption while improving communications and infrastructure.

Local technology companies are attracted to IT Day because it offers a chance to share locally-focused products with the community. James, an Orion Network Solutions representative, explained that his company's latest product focuses on "connecting local businesses with local customers" of their own. At IT Day, companies with products like this can be sure they are reaching the right audience. ■

ARTIFACTS—from pg 1

PSRP transition, employees from MSA's Environmental Integration Services (EIS) and Logistics and Transportation (L&T) teams moved the C&HRP repository to MSA and DOE facilities in Richland.

Days before the move, a team of MSA specialists, with assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections and Lockheed Martin Services Incorporated, began the painstaking process of inventorying and packing the artifact and document collection. Despite a short deadline and the massive task before them, the curation team successfully inventoried and prepared

the collection for delivery to their new homes.

After a final review by the curation team, workers from L&T carefully loaded two truck trailers with cases of these specially packaged artifacts and documents and delivered the items to storage facilities. L&T delivered the artifact portion of the collection to an existing storage facility in the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus, while the remaining historical documents went to an MSA facility.

For more information about the PSRP services now supported and offered by MSA, visit the "Ecological and Cultural



Reviews" service catalog page: <http://msc.rl.gov/ims/page.cfm/Environmental>. ■

Streamline



Partnering to move the Mission Forward



MSA is leading the charge for transforming the vehicles it manages for the site and other contractors to greener and more efficient types to include alternative fueled, hybrids and electric vehicles. Mike Wilson, vice president of Logistics and Transportation (third from left) talks to David Baie (red shirt), MSA's Fleet Maintenance manager, during a demonstration of a low speed electric vehicle given by representatives from Taylor Dunn.



MSA Heavy Equipment Operations in support of CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC). The Grader Operator was Mickey Pearson, the Loader Operator was Gene Johnson, and the Dump Truck Teamster was Dan Phalen.



MSA crew on the Manitowoc 14000W crane from subcontractor Lampson International, completed the assignment to remove the river water pumps from the 181K East pump house.



MSA Motor Carrier Services is supporting Washington Closure Hanford, LLC at the 100H site in the clean up and removal of railroad ties that were the result of the removal of the tracks in this area.

Streamline



A winning safety record

Technical Security logs 30 years of zero accident work

MSA's Technical Security Group managed by Emergency Services & Training has not experienced any days away from work due to injury for the last 30 years—since 1981 when they began tracking safety statistics. Comprised of diverse members working in a wide range of facilities and conditions such as working suspended up to 60 feet in the air, they all share a common trait of working safely together as a group.

So, what is the magic formula for achieving such safety supremacy? Some group members, like Gary Greene, believe it stems from the group's long history of proactively performing work utilizing Human Performance Improvement principals and other safety

measures that later constituted the foundation of the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS).

"Achieving 30 years of safe work redefines routines that include daily checks of controls, protective equipment and evaluating new and changing conditions with identification of critical steps and definition of appropriate controls," said Greene.

Having developed a specific culture that values mutual respect and concern over the years is another area the group

points to for their success. The team has been together for a long time and with an average experience level of 24 years, they work as a well-oiled engine upholding the highest standards of safety and respect for one another.

Their celebration also included physical security workers in the Locksmith Shop who simultaneously celebrated 28 years logging thousands of miles driving without experiencing any accidents or injuries. ■



Technical Security Group—30 years staying safe.

Security Ed Challenge winners—May

- Drew Austin - WRPS
- Jessica Blanco - LMSI
- Dennis Elder - CHPRC
- Greg Gibbons - CHPRC
- Ron Green - CHPRC
- Susan Hart - LMSI
- Claude Landes - WRPS
- Tracy Larsen - CHPRC
- Mary McLellan - MSA
- Robert Meyers - MSA
- Ken Phillips - WRPS
- S. Delores Roberts - WRPS
- Beth Schultz - MSA
- S. Vanleuven - CHPRC
- Joel Vesper - CHPRC

For more information, please go to [Security Ed Challenge](#) Contest on [MSA's Safeguards and Security](#) Web site.



Streamline



Team effort gets the job done

MSA workforce simultaneously passes ISMS Phase I & II

Although MSA is just shy of completing its second year in operation, MSA workers continue exceeding customer expectations at DOE's Hanford Site.

Recently, MSA hit a major milestone by successfully passing both Phase I and Phase II verifications of the ISMS. Of significance was the fact that MSA and its workers accomplished this feat in just over a year and while being reviewed for two phases of the ISMS verification at the same time—a monumental achievement considering the complexity and size of the Mission Support Contract.

True partnerships, transparency, worker and steward involvement, being invited to outbrief meetings and having an independent review team were just some of the characteristics that led to success according to Dave Molnaa, president of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC).

"Obviously, I was impressed with MSA's whole approach to ISMS," commented Molnaa. "MSA's approach in achieving ISMS verification has set the standard for the Hanford Site. DOE should insist that all contractors follow this approach in the future. The workers, stewards, and affiliates were absolutely impressed with MSA. MSA's approach to ISMS is the key to successful Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) verification and obtaining the prestigious Star

Award. MSA should be commended for identifying and resolving key issues prior to the ISMS review."

Other attributes to this success was a "workforce with a diligent and innovative commitment to the protection of the environment, the public and each other in the way they conduct work," added MSA President, Frank Armijo. "One innovation that played a major role in our early success was the formation of the ISMS Surveillance Team. We formed this team so they could provide observations to executive management regarding ISMS implementation successes and weaknesses out in the field," said Armijo.

The collaborative team, comprised of volunteer bargaining unit and exempt employees, set the stage for a comprehensive review of safety processes and implementation issues at each level of work taking place. Individuals selected for the surveillance team brought many levels of expertise and trained on surveillance processes and techniques training prior to participating in surveillance activities.

Armijo praised the team's accomplishment saying, "we at MSA are excited about our award-winning environmental program and our first class safety culture."

Additionally, MSA established their Environmental Protection Program



The external audit and verification teams called out MSA's surveillance team concept as a real strength in the company's ISMS program. They also underscored several other areas where MSA strengths proved instrumental in the overall success of MSA's safety programs, such as:

- MSA's coordination and commitment of a significant amount of resources to many site-wide initiatives for not only improving the safe working environment for their employees, but also for all site wide contractors and their employees;
- MSA's establishment of an ISMS executive mentoring program to coach, guide and mentor executive level staff in ISMS guiding principles and core functions, ensuring critical ownership and involvement of the executive staff;
- MSA's clear, well-documented management system for occupational radiological controls;
- A robust Corrective Action Management process that is imbedded at various levels;
- MSA's craft workers' impressive level of knowledge, skill and competency in safety; and
- MSA's dedication to going beyond contractual requirements to ensure all quality assurance requirements are adequately flowed down to the final point of implementation of procedures.

and brought their Environmental Management System (EMS) into compliance with DOE mandate less than four months after opening their doors. ■

Streamline



Teamwork key to MSA passing major electrical audit

Electric Utilities team pivotal in passing audit without any findings

Scott Baker, manager of MSA's Electric Utilities (EU) group proudly showed off his 'war room' where his team worked nights and weekends in order to pass the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) audit this spring.

"A lot of utilities hire outside consultants and still get dinged or fined," said Baker. We passed our audit with a small team with no findings or fines. I could not be prouder."

As regional entity of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, WECC is responsible for

coordinating and promoting bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection. MSA's audit included over 25 reliability standards applicable to RL functions that had a significant number of requirements embedded into those standards.

In preparation of the audit, the group formed an internal compliance team for reviewing MSA's reliability standards and eventually submitted 500 pieces of compliance evidence to WECC. ■



L to R: Randy Krekel of RL's Site Infrastructure, Services and Information Management and Scott Baker, manager of Electrical Utilities.

Health & Safety Expo draws over 77,000 visitors

MSA takes home Best Corporate Presence award



Brandi Sawicki of MSA Subcontracts and Procurement, hands out candy at the 2011 Safety Expo.

Hanford Site contractors and many local area safety companies and contributors gathered for the 17th annual Health and Safety Expo held at the TRAC Center in Pasco, Wash. More than 200 vendors participated in the event that promotes local safety and health services to over 77,000 attendees. The free event offers participants information about health and safety and hosts events during the day that educate both young and old on safety best practices at work and home. MSA sponsored nine separate displays for the Expo and won the Best Corporate Presence award, selected by the Health and Safety Expo

Committee, in recognition of their outstanding company wide commitment to the event.

Hanford employees dedicated an enormous amount of time and resources in managing interactive displays, such as a drunk driving accident simulator and safe driving courses.

Each year, the event garners more participation that, in turn, leads to a higher community turnout and serves as a leading forum for educating Hanford workers and the public about health and safety. ■

Streamline



CYBER SECURITY: *Social Engineering*

Simply put, social engineering is trickery — trying to get people to release personal or confidential information for illegal gain. This can take on the form of unsolicited phone calls that try to trick you into revealing private information or e-mail phishing, where you receive a supposed “official” e-mail requesting you to provide information.

Generally, the goal of social engineering is the same as computer hacking—to gain unauthorized access to systems or information in order to commit fraud, network intrusion, identity theft, or simply to disrupt a system or network.

One of the most prevalent types of social engineering tools used for

an attack is a phone. Con artists call and pose as a person of authority or relevance, gradually extracting information out of the user.

Hackers also obtain information online by pretending to be a network administrator, asking for a user’s password via network e-mail. Remember, never give out secure information to unsolicited sources.



MSA takes social engineering very seriously and cyber security stays on constant alert for such attacks. MSA encourages all of its employees to use the computer security mailbox for reporting suspicious e-mails or concerns. The computer security mailbox is [^Computer Security HLAN](#). Employees also can contact cyber security by phone at (509) 372-8453 or call the Mission Service Desk at (509) 376-1234, who will direct your requests to cyber security. ■

CONOPS vital to success at WSCF



Javier Ruiz, a WSCF Chemical Technologist relaxes after playing the victim in a personnel contamination emergency response drill.

MSA’s Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility (WSCF) is where MSA workers conduct site analytical services. According to Rick Budzeck, WSCF’s building operations manager, Conduct of Operations (CONOPS) is an important factor in the day to day operations. “CONOPS means to make sure the facility is operational so analytical staff can do their jobs safely,” said Budzeck.

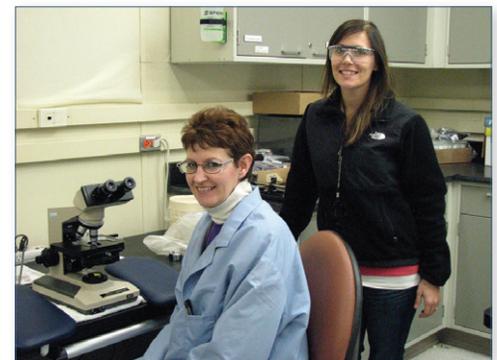
The means to that end are impressive. Work packages usually receive two field walk downs—one during the development stage with the planner to identify any unique or unknown attributes, and another involving the field work supervisor prior to work execution. These actions ensure that work can move forward safely, there are no known impediments, and risks have been mitigated.

The work at WSCF is unique, and it follows that there are unique hazards. The people who typically do the work on a daily basis work at the facility every day, and they understand CONOPS requirements. They have a questioning attitude, and when something does not seem right, they stop and consult their supervisor.

Supervisors know that workers need to be safe and feel safe. Understanding issues from the employee’s perspective is key, not just to solve problems, but to foster and maintain a positive worker involvement. On those occasions

where outside people come in to assist, WSCF personnel are always assigned to work closely with them.

WSCF has embraced expectations regarding the recent change implementing DOE Order 422.1, *Conduct of Operations*, by developing a draft CONOPS applicability matrix and is in the process of developing training on the new order. The message that WSCF conveys is *job well done!* ■



Margie Grant and Jamie Edwards (L to R) are frequently at work in the Asbestos Lab at WSCF.

Streamline



MSA employee tests her mettle

A humbling day as a firefighter, and a new appreciation of what they do

By DEANNA SMITH, MSA Communications

I connected my respirator and took a deep breath trying to remain calm and not look like a total wuss as we entered the smoke-filled building. Beside me was my “shadow,” Mitch Giddens, a 20-year firefighting veteran with Hanford’s Fire Department.

It was pitch black and smoke seemed to be everywhere. I was supposed to go inside and maneuver through a simulated maze in the search and rescue building. We were suited up in protective hoods, helmets, oxygen tanks, masks, reinforced rubber boots, and gloves so thick they seemed to impede the process of hauling, pulling, pushing and climbing. But, I guess being clumsy is a lot better than being burned. The 80 pounds of gear was more acceptable with the temperatures in the 60s, but I can only imagine how miserable it would be on a typical hot Tri-Cities summer day.

We entered the building on hands and knees trying to locate a mannequin and drag it back out. I crawled keeping my right hand on the wall as instructed—what Mitch called a “right hand search.” Literally, the walls began closing in around me forcing me lower and lower until I was crawling on my belly. It was here that I experienced difficulty breathing through the mask and—I *might as well admit it*—a bit of panic. If someone had asked me before if I was claustrophobic, I would have just laughed. Then, I felt a firm reassur-



HAMMER Training facility burn building.

ing hand on my shoulder and a caring voice say, “Are you okay?”

I had been, until then.

On the morning of May 6, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) along with firefighters from Hanford, Richland, Kennewick, Pasco and a bevy of other firefighters from across Washington, Idaho and Alaska hosted Fire Ops 101 at Hanford’s HAMMER Training Facility.

Fire Ops 101 took a motley assortment of media and elected officials such as Kennewick City Manager, Marie Mosley and Kennewick City Councilman Don Britain, as well as Rob Hastings from DOE-RL and my fellow MSA colleague, Saul Martinez, through a gauntlet of fire exercises designed to make us all understand what firefighting is really like. Translation: *difficult, dirty and downright exhausting.*

Thirty-five civilians put on fire gear and engaged in a series of firefighting exercises from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. We put chain saws and Jaws of Life into car roofs, cut through windshields, and crawled through tight, pitch-dark corridors carrying heavy equipment and hoses in search of mannequins while facing immense heat from a variety of fires. We climbed a five-story ladder—an ordeal I wasn’t sure I would

complete, as I am definitely afraid of heights. I think I even uttered a few choice words on my way up the ladder—all 120 feet of it. However, through Mitch’s encouragement and from the Kennewick firefighters on the rooftop who ultimately helped me off the ladder, I faced and conquered my greatest fear in one piece.

I experienced a “ventilation” exercise—splitting holes in a roof to let out dangerous gases—performed CPR while being thrown around in the back of a speeding ambulance, and paired with another team to extinguish a very hot liquefied petroleum gas fire. Just a normal day in the life of a firefighter.

The buzz among the participants was that everyone seemed to be coming away with a newfound respect for both the physical demands of firefighting, as well as the increasingly sophisticated strategies employed in the effort.

My last exercise of the day was the burn building where we were supposed to put out fires on multiple floors. We entered carrying a hose, which kept slipping off my left shoulder. With Mitch’s help, I managed to put out the first floor fire and made it up the stairs. However, once at the top of the stairs, the fire and heat did a number on me.

(see FIRE OPS—pg 14)

Streamline



Forklift drivers take top prizes

MSA workers place first and third

HAMMER kicked off the annual Hanford contractors' Forklift Rodeo on May 20 at the HAMMER training facility in support of the state's Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Advisory Board. The competition included a comprehensive written exam followed by a forklift obstacle course giving operators an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to safely and efficiently maneuver a forklift through a course that includes numerous tasks and hazards.

Adan Garza and Curt Morgan, who represented MSA, took first and third place, respectively. MSA also brought home first place in the team competition. Garza and Morgan advance to the Regional Forklift Rodeo being held at HAMMER on Saturday, June 11.* They will be competing for individual honors against William Samson of Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) who took second place and Denice Strawn of CHPRC who placed fourth. Garza and Morgan also will join their MSA teammates to battle for the top team ranking in the contractor competition.

The Regional Forklift Rodeo will feature participants from across the state who will compete for top titles, prizes, and cash, not to mention bragging rights. ■

** Due to publishing deadlines, the results of the Regional Forklift Rodeo will be noted in the July Streamline newsletter.*



(L-R): Patti Callender (MSA), Al Morris (EnergX, one of our judges), Gene Rowlette (WRPS), Darek Sandall (WRPS), Curt Morgan (MSA), William Samson (WRPS), William Spires (MSA), Denice Strawn (CHPRC), Paz Barraza (CHPRC), Russell Waltermann (CHPRC), Sam Orona (EnergX, one of our judges), and Adan Garza (MSA).

Adan Garza, 1st place at the Forklift Rodeo. Adan had to strategically manipulate a 6 foot pvc pipe on his forklift's tines through a 6 foot 5 inch side corner without knocking over cones or dropping the pipe.

Streamline



Contaminated tumbleweeds decline *Biological controls in place succeeding*

As summer heats up and vegetation begins to dry out, the Hanford Site becomes a fertile breeding ground for high-speed, long-distance, flying tumbleweeds. Tumbleweeds, also known as Russian thistle, become mobile dodging spheres across the entire Hanford Site.

Tumbleweeds cause a more serious problem when they grow or are blown in radiological areas. Contaminated tumbleweeds and other vegetation must be disposed of at the Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility (ERDF).

In years past, workers routinely came across contaminated vegetation such as tumbleweeds. Biological control specialists attributed this large

number to the reliance on using the same herbicides year after year that over time became less effective, late herbicide applications, and the challenge of coordinating access for multiple contractor waste sites.

Things turned around in 1998 with the creation of the Integrated Biological Control (IBC) Program, which provided oversight and new ways for combating the trend of biological-related contamination of vegetation, including tumbleweeds. The IBC established the rotation of chemicals to prevent resistance, created agreements among the contractors that resulted in improved access to waste sites, and instituted chemical applications for the tumbleweeds before the new growing season. The first

few years of the program saw success with the largest consecutive reductions of contaminated vegetation from 84 occurrences in 1999 to only 16 in 2002. From 2003 to 2009, tumbleweed contamination incidents again were on the rise, with a record 107. The IBC began working with outside specialists and chemical manufacturers to stabilize containment.

In 2010, control efforts produced positive results as we experienced only 31 contaminated vegetation events, primarily tumbleweeds. Occurrences so far in 2011 are trending downward, indicating that the biological control efforts put into place since 2009 are succeeding in making the Hanford Site a safer place for all. ■



MSA's John Crosby (commercial pesticide operator) and BASF's John Smith (scientist)

NITRO applicator applying herbicides to 216 S Ponds south of the 200 West area

Streamline



MSA's Vehicle Safety Board conducted a parking lot safety awareness campaign in the 2490 Garlick parking lot on May 2. Helping that morning from L to R: Rocky Simmons, Brad Victry, Wayne Schofield, Andy Foster, Bob Smith, Rene Larocque, Paul Kruger, and Meghann Simpkins. The parking lot received upgrades to improve safety for both pedestrians and drivers.

FIRE OPS—from pg 11

My air mask was fogging up and I was breathing hard, to say the least. We made our way back down and I came out of the burn tower sweating and a little disoriented.

At one point in the day, as I dragged myself back to a rehab area—Gatorade, blood pressure check and some rest—I was asked by one of the firefighters if I might consider working for the fire department. After a brief eye roll, all I could say was, “No, I’m too much of a wuss.” A girl who cannot even drag a hose for 10 minutes without getting winded probably doesn’t need to be on

the front lines. Nevertheless, I suspect, like me, plenty of others out there were very glad to relegate such hair-trigger heroics to the pros. However, we won’t name names.

As for the Fire Ops 101 training class? We came. We saw. We wilted—at least some of us did. And, in our carefully controlled safe environment, we were reminded exactly what it means to walk in someone else’s shoes.

I will always have a profound appreciation and respect for what our firefighters face on a daily basis keeping us all safe. They rock. ■



Photo: L-R Mitch Giddens, Hanford Fire Department and Deanna Smith of MSA Communications.

Streamline



DOE Integrated Safety Management
Champions Workshop 2011

SAFETY 360°
enhancing worker situational awareness

September 12-15, 2011 Three Rivers Convention Center <http://www.ism2011.com/>

June/July Calendar Items

- **June (all month)** - Hanford Story to be aired Saturdays @ 8 am and Sundays @ 9:30 am on Charter Channel 99
- **June 16** – PZAC meeting
- **July 4** – Holiday/Independence Day
- **July 21** – PZAC meeting
- **July 26** – HAMTC Golf Tournament



Hanford Site-wide Beryllium Program

For information on the Hanford Site-Wide Beryllium Program please go to <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/Beryllium>, or call (509)539-3579.

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Upcoming HERO Events

Dust Devil Baseball and BBQ Nights 2011

Three different dates:
July 2, 2011
July 30, 2011
August 18, 2011

Boat Races 2011

July 30-31, 2011

Seattle Sounders Soccer

Baseball: Mariners vs. Red Sox
August 14, 2011

Alaska Cruise

August 28 - September 4, 2011

Dreams Puerto Vallarta

December 3 - 9, 2011

Spring Break Cruise 2012

April 1 - 8, 2012

The Hanford Employee Recreation Organization (HERO) is for employees working for Hanford contractors who contribute and fund the HERO budget. Only employees working for the MSA, Lockheed Martin, CHPRC, WRPS, Babcock and CSC Occupational Health Services are eligible to participate in HERO-sponsored events. Learn more about HERO and all the events you could be taking part in by visiting the HERO Web site at <http://www7.rl.gov/rapidweb/hero/>



COMPANY STORE

Check out MSA's new employee company store! You can also find it on the MSA Web site at <http://msc.rl.gov/ims>.