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## DOE Employee Receives HQ Award for Fire Protection



*Craig Christenson (l), ORP Fire Protection Engineer, receives the Walter W. Maybee Award from David Klaus (center), U.S. Department of Energy, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance; and Matthew Moury (r), DOE Associate Under Secretary for Environment, Health and Safety at the May 4 DOE Nuclear & Facility Programs Workshop held in Las Vegas.*

RICHLAND, Wash.— On May 4, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection's (ORP) Craig Christenson was awarded DOE's top national award for fire protection – the Walter W. Maybee Award – at the 2016 DOE Nuclear and Facility Safety Programs Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada. First given in 1998, only 12 recipients have previously received this award, making Christenson the 13th recipient.

Christenson is ORP's fire protection engineer, whose primary duty is to provide oversight for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and the Tank Farm (TF) Operating Contractor. In this position, he serves as the technical authority and safety system oversight for fire protection engineering. During 2005-2008, he identified issues with some of the WTP structural steel fire protection measures using specialized intumescent fire protection coatings and helped implement improvements to ensure the coating met standards.

His receipt of the award is in recognition for his more than 29 years of experience in the fire protection engineering field, and recently his service in support of the WTP and TF contracts. Not only has he worked to ensure safety bases documents, requirements, orders and standards (among some requirements) are met, in situations where standards may not be clear or fit the



situation, or obstacles have created impossibilities, Christenson has developed unique or innovative solutions to address the relevant issues. Due to his expertise and status as a committee member and contributor to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee on Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities, he is routinely sought out by other DOE fire protection engineers and managers, and DOE contractors for technical assistance related to NFPA standards.

The Walter W. Maybee Award for Fire Protection is named for one of the most distinguished past members of the DOE fire safety community. The award is given to people the committee concludes to be a personification of the ideals of this community and who have achieved a significant degree of accomplishment within the realms of fire protection engineering and emergency services.

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