PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

The Future

Economic Transition

Joseph Hankins of NW Tire Recycling tests baling equipment the company will use to recycle old tires into bales for a variety of uses. Fluor Hanford assisted the firm with start-up funds and development of business and marketing plans.

Fluor Hanford successfully met its 1996 commitment to DOE and the community to assist in the creation of 3,000 new jobs – 2,888 through the Fluor Hanford team; 137 through the CH2M Hill Hanford Group (tank farms) – by the end of fiscal 2001.

The Future

Economic Transition

A large compressor is loaded for a move to a company in northern Idaho. The compressor and a large well-drilling rig, units no longer needed at Hanford, were bought by the firm for exploratory drilling for natural gas in Wyoming. To date, the Tri-Cities Asset Reinvestment Company has disbursed more than $4 million worth of excess government equipment to help diversify the local and regional economy.

The Future

Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center

The continuous rise in cumulative student days, now totaling more than 135,000 over four years of operation, makes HAMMER one of the largest hands-on training centers in the nation. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences programs, which are geared to hands-on, craft-specific training, have especially flourished at HAMMER because of its prop-oriented facilities.

As a result, HAMMER continues to expand its Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response Regulations (HAZWOPER) curricula. One HAZWOPER refresher class has been converted from a classroom program to an almost totally hands-on format in which students can apply techniques learned during training to realistic settings. Here, a HAZWOPER student practices sealing a leak at HAMMER's above-ground pipeline prop.

This year, HAMMER presented more than 40,000 student days of training, including about 5,000 student days devoted to HAZWOPER training.

Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center

Representatives from the Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) visited HAMMER to film an emergency response digital video disc (DVD) for use in HAZWOPER training classes at Hanford and nationwide. Hanford worker-instructors participated in the filming at the liquid petroleum gas burn pad. CPWR plans to return to HAMMER to shoot footage for additional training DVDs in the future.

The Future

Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center

In late September, 37 health physics technician (HPT) trainees started work at Hanford, thanks to an HPT Fundamental Academics opportunity. The trainees were selected based on results of a screening process conducted during a job fair held at a HAMMER last spring and subsequently successfully passed their final exams following classes this summer at HAMMER. Their current on-the-job training will run until January 2002. The program is important to Hanford because it fills a need created by an industry-wide shortage of HPTs.

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory recently agreed to provide HAMMER with a full-scale model of a shipping cask used to transport highly radioactive spent fuel from nuclear power plants. The model has never contained radioactive material and has cut-aways to show the cask's construction. HAMMER will use the model to enhance transportation training for Hanford workers and emergency-response scenarios.