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Safety Performance

This quarter, three Fluor Hanford organizations reached million-hour thresholds for work performed without any injuries involving a lost away workday: the Waste Management Project (three million hours), the Fast Flux Test Facility team (two million), and Fluor Hanford Site Operations (one million).

In addition, Fluor Hanford's River Corridor Project team became the sixth Hanford organization to earn "Star" status in the Department of Energy's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), an OSHA-based program that recognizes and promotes exemplary workplace safety and health efforts.

A very strong safety performance notwithstanding, Fluor Hanford continues to strive for the goal of a totally injury-free workplace. To help meet that goal, management recently reiterated its expectations at all-manager meetings and is planning a "safety summit" involving Project safety and operations personnel and labor. Additional safety training for managers and work groups is being developed. Also, Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and VPP tools and practices are being reinforced throughout the workforce, especially through Employee Zero-Accident Councils.



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Barriers to Contamination

Workers place a bio-barrier on a recurring radioactive contamination area. Prior to the barrier installation, this particular area had been a source of migrating contamination caused by ants and deep-rooted vegetation. Monitoring data show a continued decrease in animal and vegetation radioactive contamination incidents across the Site. The downward trend began in 1999, following inception of a formal biological-control program, reversing a trend that had been increasing in the six previous years.



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Lifesaving Leadership

In a pioneering step for Hanford – and possibly the first non-medical installation in eastern Washington – six automated external defibrillators (AEDs) have been placed in strategic locations around the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). Mike Esparza, Pat Jenkins and Mike Luckman are shown training on the AED with “patient” and PFP co-worker Dave Messinger. Jerry Stevenson (right), a nuclear chemical operator at PFP and a paramedic, was instrumental in initiating the pilot program. PFP’s remote location in central Hanford potentially places workers too far from emergency services in the case of sudden cardiac arrest, where help within the first four minutes is critical. AEDs are becoming more widely available throughout the country at airports, stadiums and other busy public places for use by trained, non-medical people to save lives.

