

Presidents' Council honors Hanford safety achievers

Deborah Dunn, FH

"These are no accident," said Fluor Hanford President and Chief Executive Officer Keith Thomson as he presented two Safety Excellence awards at a meeting of the Presidents' Zero Accident Council, or PZAC.

Representatives of the Fast Flux Test Facility received a plaque and handshakes all around for achieving a million work hours without a lost-time injury. Thomson noted that FFTF is currently at 1.6 million safe work hours, accumulated since October 1997.

The Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center was honored for reaching the 750,000-hour milestone. HAMMER develops and provides safety training for the Hanford Site, and Thomson said the HAMMER staff is to be commended for "safely creating unsafe situations" to be used for training purposes.

Thomson said these accomplishments demonstrate two of Fluor's corporate core values — teamwork and safety. He said Fluor values also include integrity and excellence, but safety is primary.

PZAC moderator Dave Jackson, Fluor Hanford director of Occupational Safety and Health, welcomed 69 Hanford employees and guests to the council's May 3 meeting. It was held at the Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center in conjunction with the Hanford Health and Safety Expo.

Jackson characterized Expo 2001 as "an excellent opportunity for the workforce, our families and community to see what Hanford is all about." The three-day event drew a total attendance exceeding 20,000 — the biggest turnout in the event's seven-year history.

Achievements

The Security Maintenance organization was honored at the PZAC meeting for achieving 20 years without a lost-time injury. Dave Van Leuven, Fluor Hanford vice president and chief operating officer, presented a plaque along with his congratulations, calling this a "phenomenal safety achievement dating back to April 1981."

Van Leuven also presented an award to the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility for one year without an OSHA-recordable accident. He said the achievement was made during a time when significant and difficult work was accomplished, including hot-cell cleanout, deep-well pump repair and electrical safety modifications.

Roger Powell received a standing ovation upon receiving the Presidents' Lifesaving Award, presented by Becky Austin, FH vice president of Environment, Safety and Health. Powell, who currently does tank sampling with CH2M HILL Hanford Group, was an employee of FH Analytical Services last February when weekend travels brought him to a fatal accident scene.

Powell was honored for administering first aid to several members of a dance troupe from China after their van overturned on icy Highway 395. Powell credited his Hanford first-aid class with enabling him to stop bleeding, protect victims from shock and perform other lifesaving acts at the accident scene. He advocates first-aid training for all Hanford employees.

More safety activity

Shirley Olinger, DOE-RL assistant manager for Safety and Engineering, said Hanford is participating in a National Safety Council survey of DOE sites. Employees have been randomly selected to participate and responses are due by May 25. DOE-RL is looking for a 90-percent response rate from recipients of the survey. Those with questions may call 376-5183.

March safety statistics showed the continuation of a seven-month-long decline in the severity of injuries for all of Hanford. According to Jackson, Fluor Hanford projects need to focus, as CHG is currently doing, on ergonomic injuries that occur during lifting, pushing and pulling activities.

John Jeskey of the HAMTC Safety Representative program announced that Greg Doss will be joining Joe Rodriguez as the new HAMTC safety representative for CHG's Tank Farms organization. ♦