

# Banner reminder of lost co-worker, importance of safety

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Kenny Robinson peered into the distance to see a massive Hanford cleanup operation in progress at the F Reactor fuel storage basin — the work of the Environmental Restoration Contractor team. But in the forefront of his mind were thoughts of an old friend.

“Miles Fisher and I worked on several projects together during the late 1980s,” said Robinson, a 10-year veteran ironworker at Hanford. “Shortly after that...he died. He was a good worker, a family man and my friend.”

In 1992, Fisher was working on a project to repair the roof over the F Reactor fuel load-out bay. A panel collapsed beneath his feet and he fell to his death.

Today, a banner in memory of Fisher serves as a reminder of the importance of safety at the site of the Bechtel Hanford-led cleanup of F Reactor, and throughout Hanford. The banner hangs at the entrance gate to F Reactor, and it reads *“Work Safely ... Your Family Needs You.”*

The ERC team is currently working to remove contaminated soil and debris from the F Reactor fuel storage basin. The basin was used to store spent nuclear fuel before it was transported to the 200 Area for chemical separation. The fuel basin cleanup is part of a larger project by the ERC team to “cocoon” F Reactor for up to 75 years.

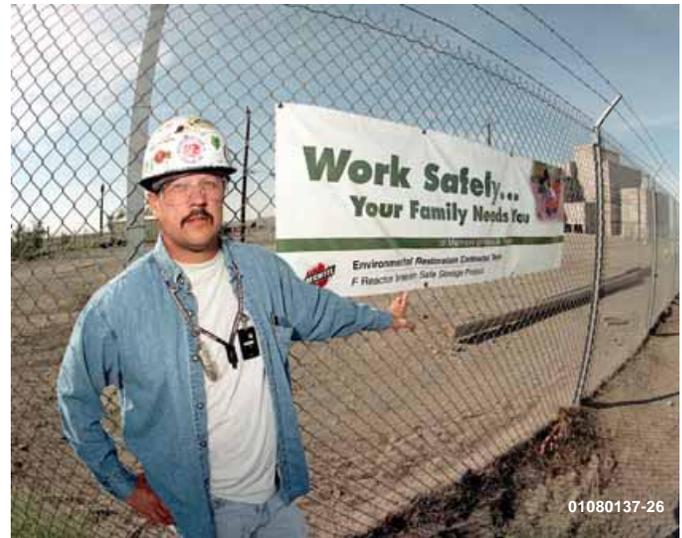
“The words really go further than just maintaining safety in the workplace,” explained Jim Tarpinian, the Bechtel Hanford manager of quality, safety and health. “Safety should be the most important focus in whatever we do, whether it’s operating a computer, operating a crane or mowing the lawn. The people closest to us depend on us safely completing those jobs.”

Robinson came up with the initial idea for the banner and presented the concept to the ERC team. Robinson worked with Tarpinian and with Tom Logan, Bechtel Hanford vice president of Operations, to promote the idea and find a prominent place for the banner.

“When Kenny came to Jim and me with the idea for a banner, I knew it was a worthwhile project,” Logan said. “Any time we can make our safety message personal, it helps to create a safer, more supportive working environment.”

Not only does the “Work Safely” banner remind workers at F Reactor about safety, but the message is a call to teamwork as well.

“Every time we step through the gate and into the work site, we know how important communication and safety are,” said Bill Allenbaugh, Bechtel Hanford site supervisor at F Reactor. “There are always inherent dangers at any workplace. But, if we can make a conscious effort to remind ourselves and one another about safety, then a lot of the risk can be significantly reduced or eliminated.” ♦



**Hanford worker Kenny Robinson was the key contributor in creating a memorial safety banner in the 100F Area. In the background stands F Reactor, where a 1992 construction accident killed Miles Fisher, whose name appears on the sign. Fisher and Robinson were co-workers and friends.**

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