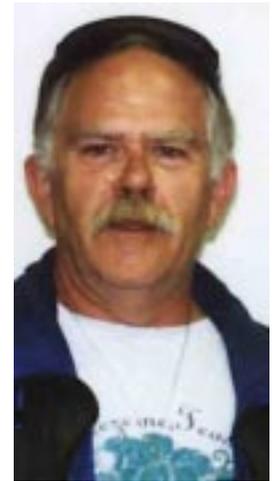


Edmonson voted ALARA Employee of the Year

Wayne Edmonson of Fluor Hanford has been selected by his peers as the ALARA Employee of the Year for Analytical Services because of his efforts to limit radiation exposure to fellow workers performing jobs in radiological zones.

ALARA — As Low As Reasonably Achievable — refers to limiting radiation exposures to the lowest levels reasonably achievable while accomplishing radiological work. The workers wear protective clothing and other personal protective devices, and use techniques and equipment to protect against radiological exposure. ALARA principles are incorporated into Hanford's radiological work practices and training through participation in the national ALARA program.

Edmonson is a scientific technician at the 222-S Laboratory. He's a native son and a Pasco Bulldog, now making his home in Kennewick.



Edmonson

"I was surprised," Edmonson said of the award announcement. "I've found out if you don't own what you're doing, you're going in harm's way."

Owen Berglund, ALARA chairperson, announced the award at one of Duane Renberger's staff meetings. Renberger is the senior director of Analytical Services.

During the year, a large plaque showcasing the names of the winners from each year will be displayed at the facility. Edmonson will keep a second plaque, featuring his name and the recognition.

Edmonson was nominated by his peers for his willingness to help others, Berglund said.

"Wayne has proven to be an instrumental part of maintaining the ALARA program at the 222-S Laboratory. Recently, Wayne prevented personnel from having to make a manned entry into one of the hot cells that he routinely works in. The entry would have been made to remove piping, wiring and components that had outlived their usefulness," Berglund explained.

"Wayne took the initiative from outside of the hot cell to use manipulators and hand tools inside the cell to cut up and bag out these items."

"Bagging out" is a process for safely moving material from inside a hot cell to the outside.

"It was estimated this job would have taken over 40 person-hours to perform, plus numerous hours in planning and preparation," Berglund continued. "Wayne's knowledge, skill and willingness to assist others while maintaining radiological awareness were paramount in his selection."

The ALARA approach to radiological control is based on managing and controlling exposures. ALARA has prompted numerous changes in work processes, machinery and use of machinery, and has led to creative approaches to conducting work for lower worker exposure.

Applied ALARA Techniques, Hanford document HNF-2206-FP, details how ALARA is applied in work situations. ALARA principles are based on dose reduction techniques — time, distance, shielding and source reduction. ALARA methods are incorporated into each phase of radiological work: preparation; use of proven radiological work practices; contamination control; using work practices to limit contamination spread; waste minimization; and continuous improvement. ♦