

# DOE, Hanford employees aid terrorism victims

The terrible pain we will always, always remember — pain inflicted on our nation by terrorists on Sept. 11 — will also be remembered for the way it brought Americans together.

Assisting with the rescue and recovery efforts and helping the country heal became national priorities. Here at Hanford and at other Department of Energy sites, the response was immediate and compassionate.

DOE facilities around the country initially responded by contributing equipment, emergency medical technicians and other assistance to the relief efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C. Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island dispatched firefighters who were trained in confined-space rescue to the World Trade Center area, along with fire trucks, heavy rescue equipment and electrical generators. DOE's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in New Jersey sent emergency medical technicians to a triage area.

Together with personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, DOE employees assisted in the search for survivors by using ground penetrating radar equipment with motion-detection capabilities. Other DOE teams operated infrared cameras, robotic equipment and fiber-optic cameras to search the rubble of the World Trade Center.

"Department of Energy personnel, like so many others throughout the nation, wanted to offer whatever help they could to try to ease the suffering in New York," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. "DOE teams are working side-by-side with other Americans to provide whatever assistance we can, and as soon as we can, to help New York overcome this terrible tragedy."

## Hanford reacts

After enacting security measures to protect its own facilities, the Hanford Site took the lead in coordinating

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At Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, employees gathered at the flagpole near the Research Operations Building for a ceremony on Sept. 14 to remember and pay respect to those who lost their lives in terrorist attacks three days earlier.

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the donation of more than 10,000 respirators from across the DOE complex (see Hanford respirators, page 3) — respirators that were sorely needed by rescue workers at the site of the World Trade Center attack.

The Fluor Foundation wasted no time in donating \$10,000 to the American Red Cross for disaster relief. The Fluor Corporation announced a matching program for its entire workforce worldwide, including employees of Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services. “For every dollar an employee contributes to the American Red Cross, the company will match that amount dollar for dollar,” said Fluor Corporation President Alan Boeckmann. “Through this contribution we hope to help reflect the generous spirit of our employees.”

Battelle, which operates Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the Department of Energy, provided a \$50,000 corporate contribution to the American Red Cross, with two-thirds of the money earmarked for New York City and the remainder set aside for the Washington, D.C., area.

The Bechtel Foundation contributed \$100,000 to New York City Public Private Initiatives, Inc., a nonprofit organization assisting the families of fallen rescue workers. The company also began matching two dollars for every one dollar contributed by Bechtel staff members worldwide.

Donations of blood were offered immediately as well. The Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team held two blood drives in rapid succession in the 100N and RCHN areas, nearly doubling the amount of blood taken in previous collections. “We really have an awesome group of people,” said BHI’s Tammy Ingraham. “They really come together when there’s a need.”

### At the scene

Bechtel’s corporate office has provided on-the-ground support in New York City since the day of the attack. Bechtel personnel have coordinated efforts of the contractors working with the New York Fire Department, worked with AT&T Wireless to restore and expand telecommunications services, and provided light banks, diesel generators and sophisticated instrumentation to aid in the search for victims. The company has helped detect hazardous materials, generated critical engineering data and even provided rigging assistance. The company is also providing temporary shelter to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The scramble to find survivors and recover remains among the debris was creating a major safety problem. So, step-by-step, Bechtel safety teams helped transform the site, using everything from planning to posters to personal persuasion to change practices, helping prevent the rescuers from becoming victims themselves. In the first week, Bechtel safety teams delivered a comprehensive safety plan for the overall operation, as well as a plan for managing the massive asbestos problem.

### Close to home

CH2M HILL Hanford Group’s parent company, CH2M HILL, Ltd., reported that several CH2M HILL employees lost family members in the New York City and Pentagon tragedies. CH2M HILL Chairman Ralph Peterson said the company will reach out to those employees with direct support to assist them with financial burdens the tragedy may have caused.

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To aid in the recovery effort, CH2M HILL is providing safety gear and equipment as well as consulting advice. The company also is working to provide help to one of its clients, the Port Authority, which was headquartered in the World Trade Center and lost many staff members in the attack.

Peterson also announced that CH2M HILL is setting up a fund and matching employee contributions to aid agencies helping in the relief efforts. It is also taking a leadership role in organizing a fund to construct a permanent memorial at the Pentagon to honor the people killed in that attack.

### Giving the 'United' Way

PNNL and BHI staff members are helping out by contributing to the United Way's September 11 Fund. The annual United Way campaigns are currently under way, and the availability of the relief fund provided a convenient method for staff members to provide cash donations or make contributions as part of their monthly pledges.

Coordinators of the campaign at PNNL said the response has been good, with relief pledges and contributions coming in daily. The funds will be sent to the United Way of New York City to assist people affected by the disaster in all parts of the United States through a variety of programs and agencies, including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Fluor Hanford's Spent Nuclear Fuel Project employees have collected and raised funds totaling more than \$1,300 through luncheons, a spaghetti feed and a bake sale. The River Corridor Project held a root beer float social and other events to benefit the relief effort.

All over the Hanford Site, the story was the same — of Hanford employees coming together to hold fund-raising events, collect donations and sponsor blood drives. We have gone on with our daily lives as our President has asked, but our highest priority has been helping victims and their families make it through the nightmare of the past three weeks. ♦



**Employees of the River Corridor Project enjoy root beer floats at a social in the 300 Area that raised nearly \$750 for the relief effort. Organizers planned to blanket the area with American flags, but weren't able to get enough of them. A hot-dog fund-raising lunch will be held Oct. 8.**