

REACH

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees



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ROCKY FLATS OFFICIALS TOUR HANFORD: Once a year, managers and regulators from the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats site visit a different DOE location, and this year they chose Hanford. The group toured facilities and discussed transuranic waste shipping, environmental restoration, decommissioning activities and waste disposal. Here they inspect impact absorbers used in the storage tubes at the Canister Storage Building with DOE-RL's Mike Schlender (kneeling) and Jerry Bazinet (right) of Numatec Hanford. Behind Schlender is Doug Sherwood, Hanford program manager for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Tri-Cities thrives as technology base, meets challenges

The Tri-Cities ranks near the top 10 percent nationwide in technology industry growth while offering significant quality-of-life advantages over comparable communities, according to a new report on local technology business. However, lack of local sources for venture capital dollars and limits in infrastructure supporting Internet data flow are identified as significant weaknesses.

The report provides the first analysis of the Tri-Cities' ability to meet the needs of technology companies and how the community's business and quality-of-life attributes compare with other Northwest cities and national averages.

The Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory prepared the "Tri-Cities, Washington Innovation and Technology Index" report in support of DOE's regional economic diversification efforts.

"This report provides sound information on where the Tri-Cities is today, and it could prove to be an excellent tool to aid in local economic planning and diversification of the Tri-Cities," said Paul Kruger, associate manager for Science and Technology at DOE's Richland Operations Office.

According to the report, the Tri-Cities stacks up well against the competition in five key areas — innovation, competitiveness, growth, financial capacity and quality of life.

In the area of innovation, the Tri-Cities boasts a high percentage of high-tech output and employment and an even higher percentage of technology occupations than the Seattle area. Statewide, the Tri-Cities is slightly ahead in terms of post-secondary educational attainment (other than King County) and, per capita, has far more scientists and engineers. The community attracts approximately \$1.7 billion in government funding, the majority of which is directed toward science and technology-based research and development.

The Tri-Cities area is competitive at attracting and retaining new technology businesses and offers significant business assistance and incubator capacity. However, the local tax burden is slightly higher than key competitors' and, while the area meets minimum standards for high-speed Internet connections, more bandwidth capacity is needed.

Growth of high-tech employment and income in general has been solid, with growth of small, start-up firms in the Tri-Cities higher than the Puget Sound area and well ahead of the national average. According to the report, more than 60 new technology-oriented companies have been launched in the Tri-Cities area in the last five years, nearly all of which continue to grow and prosper.

The ability to locally bankroll new and innovative businesses, however, is identified as a significant weakness within the financial capacity area. Entrepreneurs must show considerable ingenuity and persistence to attract capital investment, say the report's authors. This weakness is somewhat offset by the assertiveness of local companies in pursuing venture relationships and funding at a regional level. However, statewide data from Northwest Venture Associates indicates that 80 percent of statewide venture capital is targeted toward computer, communications and the health and medical industries, while local technical strengths are mostly in other areas such as materials science and chemical engineering.

In terms of quality of life, the Tri-Cities community offers several advantages, according to the report, including a mild, sunny climate, low crime rates, strong public school systems, very good air and water quality and easily accessible outdoor recreation. In addition, Tri-Citians enjoy comparatively short commutes and uncrowded roadways as well as an overall low cost of living.

The report, which was modeled after a similar report for the state recently produced by the Washington Technology Center, is available electronically at http://www.pnl.gov/edo/innovation_techindex.pdf or in hard copy by contacting Gary Spanner in the PNNL Economic Development Office at 372-4296. ♦

Picture Pages



BAG MEN: Dan Suter (left) and Connie Eckard were among the Fluor Community Involvement Team members picking up trash along Interstate Highway 82 on the cold and drizzly morning of Dec. 1. The FCIT keeps a stretch of the highway clean as part of the Adopt-a-Highway Program.



HONORED ESSAYIST: Keith Klein, manager of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, congratulates Dallas Williams of McLoughlin Middle School, one of nine winners in the patriotic essay contest sponsored by Hanford Safeguards and Security organizations and the DOE Veterans Advisory Council ("Hanford groups award patriotic essay writers," *Hanford Reach*, Nov. 12). Dallas is the daughter of Janice Williams of Fluor Hanford and Bruce Williams of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Picture Pages

THE 1,000th BASKET: At left, Fluor Hanford Vice President of Hanford Site Operations John Wood addresses workers of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's Fabrication Team. In November, the team celebrated fabrication of 1,000 spent fuel baskets. The SNF Project has now removed 34 loads of fuel, totaling more than 5 million curies of radioactivity, from the K West Basin.



Below, Rex Ozment, FH shop production lead, inspects a steel spent fuel basket, shown at left next to a copper basket designed to hold spent fuel scraps. The SNF Project is fabricating four different models of baskets, each two feet tall, approximately 22 inches in diameter and weighing from 230 to 625 pounds. The \$28 million effort will fabricate a total of 2,170 baskets.



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United Way surpasses community campaign goal

Bryan Kidder, FH

The campaign for our local United Way, led by strong giving from the Hanford sector, has raised more than \$4.6 million to date. This is 9 percent more than the \$4.25 million goal established at the beginning of the drive.

The Hanford Site contributed nearly \$2.35 million, the highest in the history of the United Way drives at Hanford. The drive totals were announced at the campaign closing dinner on Nov. 27.

Department of Energy employee contributions were counted in the “public sector” portion of the campaign, which includes employees from city, county, state and federal governmental bodies as well as local school districts. This division raised more than \$409,000.

Gail Greager, director of Resource Development for the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, called this the most remarkable campaign ever. “Our community gave from the heart,” Greager said. “Amid national economic and security concerns and a desire to help those in need in New York, our community showed it is big enough to help those both near and far.”

Hanford leaders played key roles in the campaign for 2001. Ed Aromi of CH2M HILL Hanford Group is the fund-raising chair for United Way. The Hanford sector was co-chaired by Dave Van Leuven of Fluor Hanford and Tom Schaffer of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council. Bob Rosselli of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office was the chair for the public sector drive. The Vintner Campaign was led by Mike Hughes of Bechtel Hanford (see below).



As these contestants in Lockheed Martin Services’ “homecoming pageant” can attest, this year’s United Way drive allowed for some unusual methods of fund-raising. Cindy Moody-Brock and Otis Wilson were crowned king and queen.

Hughes chairs successful Vintner campaign

Steve Sautter, BHI

This year’s United Way Vintner campaign followed the general trend of overall donations — up!

Vintners — individuals or couples who donate \$1,000 or more to the annual United Way campaign — have given nearly \$1.5 million to this year’s campaign, an increase of nearly 10 percent over 2000.

“These donors do not seek personal recognition,” said Mike Hughes, president of Bechtel Hanford and this year’s United Way Vintner chairman. “They are individuals with strong personal commitments to their local community and one or more of the United Way agencies.”

Hughes said that 841 individuals have given at the Vintner level so far during this year’s campaign, which officially ends March 31. At the completion of the 2000 United Way campaign, 828 Vintners had donated a little more than \$1.3 million.

While Hughes applauded the commitment of the Vintners, he stressed the importance of all contributors. “The success of the United Way campaign depends upon all those who give — no matter at what level,” he said.

The Vintners will be recognized at a community event in May. ♦

Uranium contamination investigated to guide cleanup

Edye Jenkins, BHI

A method of predicting the mobility of contaminants is being developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team and a Butte, Mont., firm called MSE Technology Applications. The objective of the project is to better understand how uranium moves through the soil to the groundwater beneath the Hanford Site.

Uranium and other substances were separated from irradiated nuclear fuel during the nearly 50 years of defense production at the Hanford Site. Waste from the processing activities in the 200 West Area, near the center of the site, was discharged using standard practices of the time. Some of the contaminants in the waste have migrated through the surrounding soil and groundwater.

Uranium is one of the elements that has contaminated the groundwater in 200 West. "Understanding how uranium moves through the soil and groundwater is essential to determining effective cleanup technologies, as well as being a key to long-term protection of the Columbia River," said Arlene Tortoso of the DOE Richland Operations Office.

"This modeling effort is essential for knowing the geochemical behavior of uranium under the Hanford Site," added Dib Goswami of the Washington State Department of Ecology. "I expect the results of this effort to help us make better decisions on remedial alternatives at the site." In 1989, DOE, Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed the Tri-Party Agreement, a legally binding, comprehensive cleanup and compliance agreement for the Hanford Site.

An interim step

A pump-and-treat system is being used as an interim remedial action to remove uranium from the groundwater. The system works by pumping contaminated water to the surface and then through a pipeline to the Effluent Treatment Facility, where contaminants are removed from the water.

"Currently, the pump-and-treat system is not removing enough uranium to meet long-term cleanup goals for the groundwater," Tortoso said. "The results of this work can be used to enhance the effectiveness of this system, or to evaluate other types of technologies for removal of uranium from the soil and groundwater.

MSE Technology Applications, which operates a privatized former DOE laboratory, was chosen to develop the model. The company has 20 years of research and development experience. The Hanford work is funded through DOE's Office of Science and Technology.



The U.S. Department of Energy, the Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team and Montana-based MSE Technology Applications have worked together in developing a model to better understand how uranium moves through the soil and groundwater for Hanford cleanup.

Continued on page 8.

Uranium contamination investigated to guide cleanup, cont.

As a first step in the development process, MSE specialists used a mobile unit the company designed to collect gas samples above the water table in Hanford's 200 West Area. "The samples were collected at the same time a groundwater well was being installed, which helped to reduce both the duration and expense of sampling," said Ron Jackson of the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project.

MSE will conduct a laboratory study using the samples to determine how subsurface conditions control the movement of uranium through the soil to the groundwater. The results of this study will be used to create a computer model that includes variations in soil types as well as different soil and groundwater chemistries.

"We will use the model to predict concentrations of uranium in the groundwater," said Scott Petersen of BHI's Technology Applications Department. "If the results are comparable to uranium concentrations observed in groundwater samples collected for monitoring activities, this will give us confidence that the model simulates actual conditions at the site."

Determining mobility

The new model will be the first to incorporate actual measurements of carbon dioxide taken from deep in the soil near the water table. "It is important to know the concentrations of carbon dioxide in soil above the water table because this gas has a role in the mobility of uranium in the subsurface," said Petersen. "This information, in turn, helps us understand how contaminants reach the groundwater."

Jackson said the carbon dioxide aspect of the model will be beneficial for a variety of uses, both at Hanford and elsewhere. "While most of the model will be specific to Hanford, anyone who wants to evaluate the influence of carbon dioxide in a deep-soil sample could benefit from using these data," Jackson said.

The three-year agreement with MSE is funded through DOE's Subsurface Contaminant Focus Area. It is one of several technology development projects under way to provide new knowledge, data and tools for cleanup and waste management at the Hanford Site.

The project is coordinated through the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project, which BHI manages for DOE. DOE established the Integration Project in 1997 as its centerpiece for near- and long-term water resources protection in the Hanford Site's cleanup mission. ♦

ERC team tackles highly radioactive liquid-waste site

George Rangel, BHI

Last week, the Environmental Restoration Contractor team began cleaning up the most extensive radioactively contaminated liquid-waste site in Hanford's Columbia River corridor.

Each day for 18 years, N Reactor discharged nearly 2.5 million gallons of highly contaminated water from its cooling system into the nearby N-1 crib and trench. During Hanford's production years, cribs and trenches were used to dissipate liquids released from reactor cooling systems into the soil. The liquids spread through layers of silt, gravel and rock.

As a result, the Bechtel Hanford-led ERC team and its subcontractor Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation are remediating the N-1 crib and trench. An estimated 125,000 tons of soil, rock, concrete and steel will be removed from the contaminated structures and subsurface plumes. The contaminated material and debris are being placed in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility on Hanford's central plateau.

Safety, efficiency

After surveys were conducted to preserve cultural and historic lands throughout the cleanup project, crews began creating pathways around the crib and trench in late October to aid demolition and cleanup activities.

"The construction of dirt roads around the worksite is making cleanup operations efficient and safe," said Bechtel project engineer Dale Obenauer. "It works like a one-way street. Equipment, vehicles and heavy-duty transport trucks come in one end and out the other. An empty truck arrives, we fill it up, conduct a radiological survey and send it on its way.

"We have focused on safety since this N Area cleanup operation began," Obenauer added. "Our workers and Foster Wheeler should be applauded for their attention to safety while completing nearly 600 days of work without a lost-time accident."

In late November, the ERC team began demolishing the trench cover panels, and started removing the contaminated concrete rubble and underlying contaminated soil last week.

Currently, cleanup operations are under way at the far end of the 1,608-foot-long trench, opposite N Reactor. The cleanup progress will eventually lead to the demolition and removal of the highly contaminated 36,125-square-foot crib next to the reactor. The demolition and remediation work is scheduled for completion in July 2002.

The river first

"It's a natural progression that we work our way toward N Reactor," said Bechtel project lead Rick Donahoe. "First, we want to clean up the contamination that is closest to the river. And, second, the extent of contamination where our work will take us is greater in comparison to the trench's end. As progress continues, so will improvements in our efficiencies and techniques in tackling this job."

Continued on page 10.

ERC team tackles highly radioactive liquid-waste site, cont.

With the potential for increased radiological exposure, improved cleanup techniques were implemented at the site to ensure worker safety. The ERC team is placing slightly contaminated soil over collapsed and demolished concrete panels where exposure to highly contaminated soil may increase workers' radiological doses. This ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) practice is substantially reducing risk to workers and the environment.

Furthermore, the ERC team has also minimized workers' radiological exposure by lining trucks, excavators and other heavy-equipment cabs with lead blankets to shield radiation.

Lessons from N-3

"We have a greater understanding of what it takes to get this job done safely from innovative on-site techniques developed and improved during the demolition and removal of the N-3 crib and trench," said ERC project field engineer Rex Miller.

During the 2001 fiscal year, the ERC team demolished and removed nearly 102,000 tons of contaminated material from the N-3 crib and trench. The N-3 facility, which never reached its holding capacity, was the alternate disposal method for N Reactor after the N-1 crib and trench exceeded its holding limit for reactor water discharge.

Experience is a key component of the ERC team's efforts in the 100N Area, and Foster Wheeler's Ron Koleber brings plenty of it to the N-1 cleanup project. Koleber, a Hanford Site worker for 23 years, used to work in the N Area and at other reactor locations during Hanford's defense production years.

"Working out here brings back a lot of memories." Koleber said. "I remember when we built some of the same things that we are tearing down today. But I don't mind it. Back then, we were helping protect our country, and now we're cleaning it up." ♦

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford

At a time when homespun heroism is defining the American spirit, Hanford workers don't have far to look for inspiration. Hanford employees have saved lives at work and at play, at home and on the roads.

These Hanford heroes receive recognition for their life-saving acts through the Presidents' Life Saving Award from the Fluor Hanford Presidents' Zero Accident Council, known as PZAC.

The FH PZAC includes the presidents of Fluor Hanford and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, the vice presidents of all FH projects, bargaining-unit leaders and the chairs of all the project Employee Zero Accident Councils. Also in attendance at monthly meetings are representatives of Hanford's two Department of Energy offices, other site prime contractors and other organized labor councils.

The PZAC Life Saving Award is designed to recognize and honor employees whose life-saving actions exemplify the true meaning of caring and courage. Nominations are presented to the PZAC for a vote, and awards are presented at a later PZAC meeting.

"We at Fluor Hanford are proud of the heroism demonstrated by our employees," said Becky Austin, Fluor Hanford vice president of Environment, Safety and Health. "It is through their acts of bravery and intervention that we truly demonstrate our value for safety. Since Sept. 11, it is more important than ever for us to look out for one another and offer a hand to those in need. Our employees continue to demonstrate the value of safety and protection of life through these selfless acts of kindness."

Here are the stories of eight Hanford heroes honored with this special award since the new century dawned.

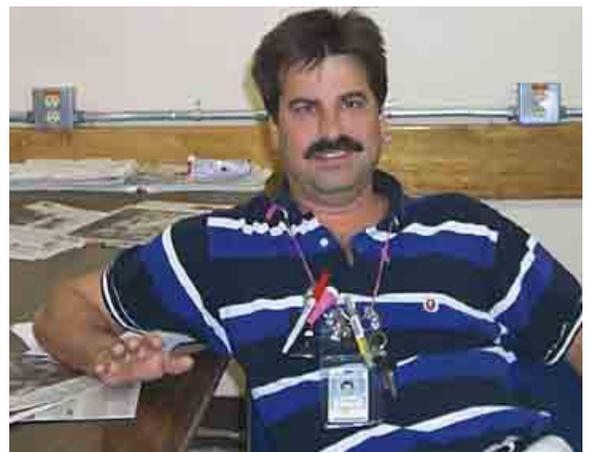
May 18, 2000:

Life saved in the lunchroom

It was lunchtime on a late spring day in building 105-KE, a facility at the northwest part of the Hanford Site, that is most distant from town. An employee began to choke. Food had become lodged in his throat. He couldn't breathe. Two nearby co-workers, Steven Myers and Edward Champagne, noticed the difficulty, suspected its cause and administered the Heimlich maneuver. The maneuver successfully dislodged the food and enabled the individual to breathe again.

Myers and Champagne were credited with saving a life by applying their knowledge and training in a potentially lethal situation. They were honored with the Presidents' Life Saving Award at the July 2000 PZAC meeting. Both are radiological control technicians in the Spent Nuclear Fuels Project Radiological Controls organization.

Mike Ferry, who nominated the pair for the award, is the HAMTC safety representative for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project.



Champagne

Heroes continued on page 12.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

Jan. 2, 2001:

Breathing again after seven tries

A pretzel became lodged in an employee's windpipe one afternoon at the Solid Waste Treatment Project. He couldn't breathe. Ben Hovley was in the vicinity and noticed. He immediately began the Heimlich maneuver. It took seven tries before the obstruction was expelled, allowing the victim to draw breath after two minutes without air. He was taken to the first aid facility, evaluated and transported to the hospital emergency room.

Ben Hovley received the Presidents' Life Saving Award during the February 2001 PZAC meeting. Hovley, of Fluor Hanford, works for Treatment Operations on the Waste Management Project. His nominator was Bobby Baker, Solid Waste Treatment safety representative, and his manager is Scott Elliott, the Facility Operations manager.

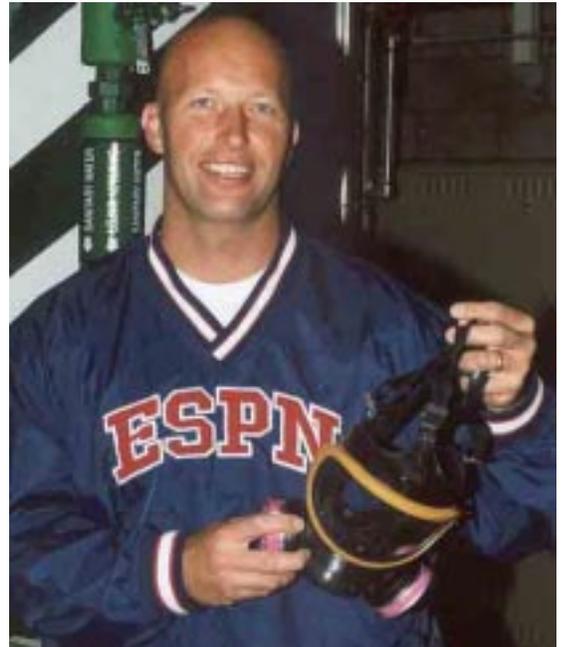
"I knew my co-worker was in big trouble and I had to help," Hovley said. "I was fortunate enough to have had the first aid training supplied on site."

Was he concerned he might not remember the details of the training? "I was worried," Hovley responded, "but adrenaline takes over when you see a co-worker in dire straits. I was getting worried that I was doing the Heimlich maneuver wrong. After four or five thrusts, he looked back and tried to tell me it wasn't working, so I just tried harder and focused on doing it right. I was very relieved when the pretzel came out."

The rest of the day, Hovley described himself as "a mess," worried he'd damaged his friend's ribs or internal organs.

An experience several years ago influenced Hovley. He was at a 10-kilometer "fun run" when an elderly man suffered a heart attack. While others assisted, Hovley found himself frozen up. "I felt terrible about how I responded and prayed that if the situation ever happened again, I would be up to the task," he recalled.

Life is back to normal. Hovley and the choking victim see each other at work every day. They play basketball together at lunch, as always, and Hovley said the event didn't change his life much. His family seemed proud of his action. "I'm just thankful I was able to help," he said.



Hovley

Heroes continued on page 13.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

Feb. 16, 2001:

First aid training applied at Chinese dance troupe wreck

Rod Powell and his wife were traveling an icy Highway 395 when they came upon a van overturned in the median. They stopped to see what assistance they could provide. The situation was complicated by a language barrier. The victims were members of a Chinese dance troupe and could not speak English.

One young woman was screaming because her leg was crushed under the van roof. A group of bystanders lifted the van enough to get her out. Rod kept her warm by placing jackets and blankets around her. He then asked another bystander to stay with her so he could render aid to others.

Calling on the first aid training he received at Hanford, Rod proceeded to check other victims. Someone offered to act as an interpreter, enabling Powell to encourage the injured to stay as still as possible. He checked for internal bleeding and tried to protect the victims from shock. He attempted to warm those who were able to move and locate them out of the way of passing traffic.

Injuries ranged from minor to fatal at this accident scene. Victims were at risk from shock, cold, wind and highway traffic. Many stopped to assist, but Powell had the advantage of on-the-job first aid training received less than six months earlier. It is estimated that more injuries and deaths would have resulted without his life-saving actions.

Rod Powell received a standing ovation at the May 3 PZAC meeting during the Hanford Health and Safety Expo. In accepting the award, Powell credited his Hanford first aid class and advocated first aid training for all Hanford employees.

Powell now works for CH2M HILL Hanford Group, but the event happened while he worked for Analytical Services in the Radiological Control department. Powell was nominated by his then-manager Brad Brannan and by Tom Brown, Facility Operations manager.

"It is a moral duty for us to come to the aid of our fellow human beings," Brannan wrote on the nomination form. "Rod had the training to do what he did, and he used that training to help when and where needed."

Powell said he is self-conscious about all of the attention. He said the reason he told his supervisor about it in the first place was to make a point about first aid training.

"I was not supposed to get first aid training," Powell said. "It had been decided that in order to cut costs, the facility I worked at wasn't going to give first aid training to all employees. I was scheduled by pure accident. It is because of *this* accident that I was able to aid in the auto accident."

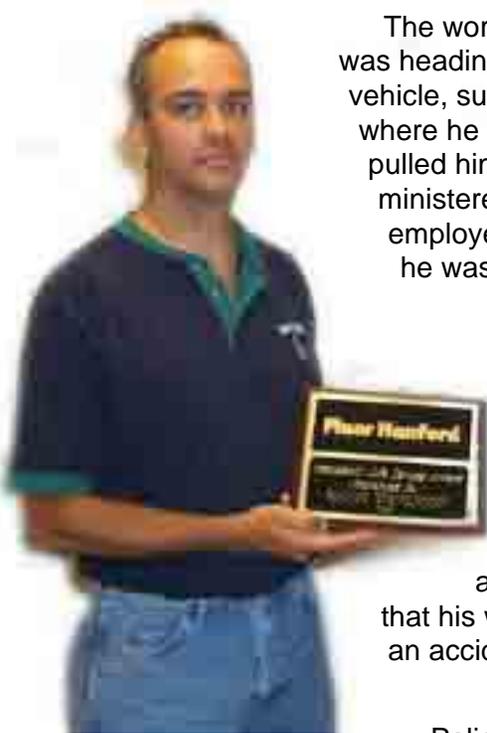
Heroes continued on page 14.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

March 5, 2001:

Hanford patrolman helps employee on highway

Hanford Patrolman Randy Stevenson received the Presidents' Life Saving Award June 28 for taking charge when another Hanford employee experienced a medical emergency on the road.



Stevenson

The workday was over and a Nuclear Material Stabilization Project employee was heading home to Yakima. He pulled off the highway, feeling ill. He got out of his vehicle, suffered a minor seizure and lost consciousness, falling onto the road, where he was in danger of being run over. Several farm workers stopped and pulled him off the asphalt as Stevenson happened onto the scene. Stevenson administered first aid and coordinated the efforts of others who stopped to help. The employee regained consciousness and was taken to a Yakima hospital, where he was treated.

“There can be no higher call than to aid a fellow employee in need,” said Rich Redekopp, the man’s manager and Stevenson’s award nominator. “I am sure my employee appreciated all the help everyone provided — especially that provided by Randy.”

Stevenson said he’s always been the type of person who will stop and render aid. He encourages people to be trained in first aid and noted that his wife and friends know when they travel with him that if they come upon an accident scene, he will stop to render aid.

Police work provides opportunities to assist at accidents and in first aid situations, so this event hasn’t changed his life. He said he got his “wake-up call” at an accident involving a badly injured woman who lost a leg as a result of her injuries. “I figure it can’t get any worse than that,” he said.

In this case, Stevenson said he noticed people dragging what he assumed to be a deer carcass off the road. “If there are any heroes, it was the farm workers who got him off of the highway,” Stevenson said.

The laborers appeared frightened and soon left the scene, but other people stopped, including several homeward-bound Hanford workers. Stevenson organized them to make 911 calls, find blankets and perform other tasks. He noticed the passersby exhibited a sense of relief in having someone willing to take charge. The victim also seemed better able to relax after personally recognizing Stevenson.

“I suppose the bottom line is, you hope if something ever happened to you, someone would stop and help,” Stevenson said. “It’s the idea that what goes around comes around.”

Heroes continued on page 15.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

March 31, 2001:

Stranded skiers survive night on mountain

Scouting advisor Dave Sandoz, another advisor and four Tri-City teens were instrumental in the rescue of two skiers stranded on Mount St. Helens after one fell, breaking a leg. The Tri-City group is from Venture Crew 190, an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. Sandoz is a Fluor Hanford employee on the River Corridor Project's 324 Building deactivation.

The group came upon the skiers about 2:30 p.m. on a blustery day. Sandoz immediately used a cellular phone to reach the 911 operator. The rugged terrain required several attempts from various locations before he made the contact necessary to activate rescue teams.

The Venture Crew 190 team prepared the stranded skiers to endure a cold and stormy wait for the rescue crew. For protection from the biting wind, they built a snow wall. Their sitting pads were used to insulate the injured skier from the freezing snow floor. They wrapped him in an emergency blanket. They boiled water and prepared noodles to sustain and internally warm the two skiers.

By 7 p.m., the skiers were stabilized and the Venture Crew 190 party headed back down the mountain, marking the trail as they went, to direct rescuers. They reached their base camp about 10:30 p.m. The following morning, the injured skier was taken off the mountain by sled and transported to Southwestern Medical Center in Vancouver, where he was treated and kept overnight for observation. It is estimated that the skiers might not have survived the night without the Venture Crew 190 emergency response efforts.

Mal Wright, the project director for the 324 Building deactivation, made the nomination. Sandoz, the other advisor and the four teens were guests of the PZAC June 28 and received their awards.



Sandoz

Heroes continued on page 16.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

Aug. 20, 2001:

Patrolman assists stranger in need

It was nearly 10 p.m. on a late summer night when Hanford Patrolman Jim Brittain noticed someone lying in the gutter of a dimly lit area of Terminal Drive. Brittain called for medical assistance while rendering aid to the unconscious victim. Brittain ensured that no further injury or harm came to the individual, who could have easily been run over by a car. When the emergency medical technicians arrived, Brittain assisted in stabilizing the victim for transport to the hospital. He is credited with taking immediate and appropriate action in accordance with his Hanford Patrol medical emergency response training.



Brittain

Brittain is familiar to many Hanford workers as one of the patrolmen often on duty at the security barricades. He displayed a modesty common among rescuers by having no additional comments about the incident.

His manager and award nominator Bill Warwick of Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, said, "Jim Brittain's display of professionalism is a credit to the Hanford Patrol. Although he wouldn't say it, Jim's actions during this incident do not surprise me. In the almost 20 years I've known him, Jim has always upheld Patrol's tradition of providing a professional security service to the Hanford Site, and in this case the surrounding community."

Brittain's award was presented during the Oct. 18 PZAC meeting.

Sept. 30, 2001:

Patrolman saves fellow officer

The most recent life-saving award nomination is for actions by Hanford Patrolman Kevin Paxton. He was nominated by his manager Monty Giulio, and the nomination was approved at the October PZAC meeting. The award will be presented soon.

A patrolman at the Wye Barricade began choking on food that early autumn afternoon. Fellow Patrolman Paxton administered the Heimlich maneuver, clearing the airway. The choking victim was transported by a manager to the 400 Area Hanford Fire Station for a medical check. He was able to return to work in good health.

Paxton was credited with saving his co-worker's life by taking the correct immediate action.

"Patrolman Paxton's immediate actions are a tribute to the Hanford Patrol life-saving training he has received and the ability to place that training into action without hesitation," said Giulio of Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford. "His display of professionalism and service are a credit to the Hanford Patrol." ♦

Heroes continued on page 17.

Life-saving award honors heroes at Hanford, cont.

Want to be prepared to save a life?

The Red Cross teaches lifesaving knowledge in our area.

Red Cross offers first aid classes

Individuals who don't receive first aid training as part of their jobs but want to take it on their own can sign up for community classes offered by the American Red Cross. Tri-Cities residents are served by the Benton-Franklin Chapter of the American Red Cross. It regularly offers first aid training at its facility at 7202 W. Deschutes in Kennewick.

According to staff member Scott Behrends, courses include American Red Cross First Aid, American Red Cross Adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation and American Red Cross Infant and Child CPR. Prices are \$35 to \$45 per person, depending on the course work. Training takes eight hours with a lunch break. Special classes can be set up for groups of at least eight. Those who have received the training in the past and want to challenge the course in order to update their certifications can do so in challenge classes.

American Red Cross First Aid provides the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and provide basic first aid care for injuries and sudden illnesses until advanced medical personnel arrive and take over. This course does not include training for breathing or cardiac emergencies.

American Red Cross Adult CPR covers knowledge and skills needed to recognize and provide basic care for breathing and cardiac emergencies until advanced medical personnel take over. It includes response to assist a choking victim. American Red Cross Infant and Child CPR focuses on breathing and cardiac emergencies in children and infants.

The Benton-Franklin Chapter of the Red Cross is always looking for first aid and CPR instructors, according to Behrends. Becoming an instructor requires completion of the regular class and another two-day course. Certification is maintained by teaching at least one class per year. ♦

Hanford Fire Recruit Academy trains at HAMMER

Karin Nickola, FH

Six Hanford Fire Department recruits recently finished a six-week school at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The training prepared the recruits for employment with the fire department by ensuring their proficiency with Firefighter I skills, as defined in the National Fire Protection Association standards.

Sessions comprised both traditional classroom lectures and hands-on practice with HAMMER props. Instructors included Hanford firefighters Gene Tolley, Dennis Byrne and Howard Simonton as well as Kennewick firefighter Nathan Rabe.

“In the safety awareness atmosphere we are working in, the best and safest way for us to train new people in the fire/rescue field, which for many is their first taste of firefighting, is at a facility like HAMMER,” said Tolley of the Hanford Fire Department. “The props we expose the new recruits to have numerous safety features built into them. At HAMMER we can train recruits in proper techniques while allowing them to experience the unexpected and learn to handle situations safely.”

Realistic training at HAMMER is a close representation of real-life situations. At the facility’s Fuel Truck Prop, for instance, training simulates advancing onto a burning truck to close a valve, effectively shutting off the flow of fuel to the truck.

“In real-life situations, anytime you’re dealing with liquified petroleum gas, there’s a high risk of explosion,” said Hanford firefighter apprentice Brandyn Wehde. “So you have to know what you’re doing. And even though it’s only training, it’s real hot out there. It’s pretty intense.”

Selection process

One of the tools used to select the recruits was a physical ability test held at HAMMER in May. Constructed in accordance with the International Association of Fire Fighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs Joint Labor Management Fitness and Wellness Task Force initiative, the physical ability test is grueling. Candidates have only 10 minutes and 20 seconds to complete the eight-station course.

Among other things, while wearing a 50-pound vest with two 12.5-pound shoulder pads, a hard hat and work gloves, prospective firefighters must first walk on a stair-stepper for three minutes at the rate of one step per second. Only the shoulder pads are removed for the remaining activities, in which the candidate must:



Josh Hatch
Hanford firefighter
apprentice



Dennis Byrne
Hanford firefighter and
instructor

Continued on page 19.

Hanford Fire Recruit Academy trains at HAMMER, cont.

- Pull a 1.75-inch fire hose 150 feet
- Carry a chain saw and a rescue circular saw 150 feet
- Bring an unextended 24-foot ladder from floor to wall position, and extend a standing 24-foot ladder to a specified height before lowering it
- Swing a 10-pound sledge-hammer at a mechanical target until a buzzer sounds
- Crawl through a darkened tunnel maze
- Drag a 165-pound mannequin 70 feet
- Complete ceiling breach and pull repetitions.

HAMMER's testing equipment was purchased with Washington state-appropriated funds made available through the support of former State Senator Valoria Loveland and HAMMER namesake Sam Volpentest.



Recruits for the Hanford Fire Department participate in “real as it gets” training at the HAMMER fuel truck prop.

Hanford, Kennewick share training

For the past eight years, the Hanford and Kennewick Fire Departments have conducted joint recruit academies, to the advantage of both. And even though Kennewick wasn't hiring in November, their instructors helped teach several classes. Likewise, Hanford assisted Kennewick a few years ago when the Hanford Fire Department wasn't hiring.

“This sharing process affords both organizations increased abilities and perspectives,” said HAMMER staff member Don Olsen. “Kennewick firefighters respond more frequently to residential structural fires, while Hanford is more versed in industrial structural fires. The exchange of expertise broadens each department's knowledge base.

“It's also much more cost-effective to share resources, and there are things that can be accomplished with larger groups that just aren't possible with a few. You can have a more complete training program with one group of six firefighters than you can with two groups of three.”

Bright futures

While confident and excited about new career opportunities, Hanford recruits recognize they are still apprentices compared to seasoned veterans. They know they will be fighting fires on a limited basis at first, and additional training courses will be required through Columbia Basin College or Yakima Valley Community College. But that doesn't diminish their commitment or enthusiasm, some of which seems to be in their blood.

“My father has been a firefighter for 20 years,” said Hanford firefighter apprentice Celeste Rose, “so I really appreciate this line of work. And it suits me. I'm active, I've always participated in sports, and I enjoy a challenge.”

“My father and two uncles are firefighters for Pasco, Kennewick and Benton County,” said Hanford firefighter apprentice Chuck Sleater. “It's been in our family for a long time. It's always something I've wanted to do since I was young.” ♦

Decisions on work delays, early releases based on safety

During inclement weather, the Hanford Site Occurrence Notification Center gathers information on weather and road conditions from available sources such as the Hanford Meteorological Station, Hanford Patrol, road maintenance crews and local law enforcement agencies. Senior Department of Energy and contractor managers then make decisions about work delays or cancellations, early releases and site closures according to approved procedures. The decisions are also based on hazardous road conditions on the Hanford Site, concern for your safety and the safety of others.

When the decision is made to delay the start of work because of weather or road conditions, site communications personnel will notify area radio stations. The target time for making work delay or closure decisions is 4 a.m., but these decisions could be made at any time because of changing weather or road conditions.

Most radio stations broadcast work delays, but employees should tune to the official Emergency Alert System stations, KONA at 610 AM or 105.3 FM, and the Yakima Valley's KFFM at 107.3 FM for the most timely information. You can also log onto KONA's Web page at www.konaradio.com to view site and school delays or closures.

Hearing-impaired individuals and those who require alternative methods for receiving information regarding work delays, closures or early releases should notify their EEO/diversity or human resources office immediately.

The radio messages provide direction to site employees of the following companies:

- DOE Office of River Protection and Richland Operations Office
- Battelle Memorial Institute
- Bechtel Hanford
- CH2M HILL Hanford
- CH2M HILL Hanford Group
- Duratek Federal Services of Hanford, Inc.
- Eberline Services Hanford
- Fluor Hanford
- Hanford Environmental Health Foundation
- Johnson Controls, Inc.
- Numatec Hanford Corporation
- Protection Technology Hanford
- DOE-RL General Support Service contractors.

Employees of enterprise companies and other subcontractors should consult their company's policies regarding applicability of site work delays and early releases. Employees should obtain guidance on charging and compensation issues from their managers or their human resource policies or supervisors.

Continued on page 21.

Decisions on work delays, early releases based on safety, cont.

Information will be provided to all site contractors when a decision is made for an early release of employees from work because of severe weather conditions. Depending on the time of day, priority messages will be distributed and the site crash alarm telephone system may be used.

Once an early release is announced, employees are not to leave work until released by their supervisors or managers.

Early release notifications to employees working on swing or graveyard shifts will be made via radio announcements or by their management.

The Hanford Site covers a large area and adverse weather conditions may affect separate parts of the site differently. In these cases, the work delay or early release may only apply to those employees working in the affected areas. For example, an announcement might indicate that employees in the 100 and 200 Areas have a two-hour delay, while employees working south of the Wye Barricade are expected to report at their normal starting time. It is very important for you to listen to weather-related announcements carefully.

On a very limited basis, managers can delay, release, or relocate their employees by facility for health and safety reasons. Facility managers should notify ONC at 376-3030 if they take any of these actions so similar actions for other affected areas can be considered.

Line managers must inform employees if they are essential staff members as a normal course of business. Essential staff members are those "individuals required to provide necessary services or support to maintain facilities or equipment in a safe operational or shutdown mode." Check with your supervisor or manager if you don't know whether you are considered an essential or non-essential staff member.

During inclement weather, employees should be cautious of road conditions and drive accordingly. Employees are always responsible for their individual safety. If you feel that driving conditions from your home to work are unsafe during inclement weather, contact your manager immediately to discuss not reporting to work because of driving conditions. Once you feel driving conditions are safe, proceed to work.

Vanpool riders should pre-plan their travel arrangements by coordinating with drivers and other riders.

Site management organizations may request a presentation of this process by sending an e-mail message to ^Hanford EOC. ♦

Hanford 'Santa' will be missed

Don Sorenson, FH

Santa has a big job making Christmas wishes come true. But even with all his elves and flying reindeer, a little help is needed. For years, help came from Charlie Kline, a Richland man and former Hanford employee.

Charlie's story starts in Indiana, where he worked in the steel industry for more than 10 years until his circumstances changed in 1948. One day, Charlie was reading *Fortune* magazine over lunch and saw an employment ad for General Electric. People were needed for work in southeastern Washington.

That evening, his wife Lottie had some good news about their daughter, who had been ill since she was two years old. The doctor said a drier climate would be the only way to improve her health. The decision was made — Charlie would head west to find work, and his family would follow later.

"When I walked into the GE employment office I noticed quite a few applicants in the waiting room," Charlie recalled later. "For a minute I began to doubt myself. Boy, was I nervous. When they handed me that slip of paper telling me to report on Monday as a chemical helper, I felt very lucky."

Charlie was assigned to T Plant. "Most of my time was at 224-T, where we shipped plutonium to the isolation building, 231-W," Charlie recalled. "Right next to it was construction of a new facility. We had heard they were going to make plutonium metal for weapons. I told my boss I sure would like to transfer to the new building."

In August 1949, Charlie got his wish to work at the new Plutonium Finishing Plant. "After I arrived at the building, manager Johnny Attanas briefed us new guys on the work in the building. He told us we would be working to increase America's atomic arsenal. Also, our work was highly classified and we were not to discuss it outside the building."

A Christmas tradition

In 1952, Charlie was asked to play Santa Claus for the local Eagles Lodge. For more than 30 years, Charlie played that role. A friend, June Nielson, recalls Scott and Andie Hamaker's son Seth, who wasn't sure there was a Santa. After some convincing from Mom, Seth was on Santa's lap. "So, Seth, I'll bet your dad is on the golf course right now wishing he had that new set of golf clubs," Santa said. Seth's eyes widened. "And how's your sister Megan? Does she still want that doll?"

When it was over, Seth had a smile as bright as Rudolf's nose. "Mom," he declared, "I think he's the real thing!"

Charlie's annual role as Santa contributed greatly to our community, and his work as a nuclear operator had impacts on Cold War America. "You're single-handedly keeping the Russians on their side of the wall," Charlie's supervisor told him in the 1950s.

On Nov. 7, Charles Sheldon Kline passed away. His spirit of giving is well known to his family and friends. And, although his Hanford service is locked away in classified files, little known to but a few, that service can't be measured. It is evident in the freedoms we enjoy today. ♦



Kline

Reduce your vanpool cost in 2002 with new fringe benefit

Effective Dec. 15, employees of Fluor Hanford, Duratek Hanford, Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, Numatec Hanford and CH2M HILL Hanford Group will be able to enroll in a new transportation benefit deduction plan for 2002.

Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit

Starting next month, section 132 of the Internal Revenue Code allows you to elect to have up to \$100 per month deducted from your compensation, on a pre-tax basis, to be used for qualified commuting costs.

If you commute to your work location via public transit or a "commuter highway vehicle" and pay a monthly fee to do so, you will be able to have the amount, up to \$100 a month, deducted on a pre-tax basis from your regular wages. Depending on your current federal income-tax bracket, this pre-tax deduction could result in a tax benefit ranging from \$22.65 up to \$46.25 per month.

What vehicles qualify?

The Internal Revenue Service defines a commuter highway vehicle as:

- one having a seating capacity of at least six adults
- one in which at least 80 percent of the vehicle's mileage is for transporting employees to their work locations
- one in which employees occupy at least half of the vehicle's seats, not including the driver's seat.

A Ben Franklin Transit vanpool would qualify, but employee-provided private carpools are not eligible.

How does it work?

If you wish to participate in the plan, complete and submit to Fluor Hanford Payroll (mailstop H3-18) a Payroll Deduction Authorization form (A-6003-301) between Dec. 15 and Dec. 24. This will authorize the deduction from your first paycheck of each month in 2002.

After (and *only* after) commuting expenses are incurred, complete and submit to FH Payroll a Request for Reimbursement and Certification form (A-6003-302) to request and authorize reimbursement of the previously deducted amount. The reimbursement request must be submitted less than 90 days after you paid for the transportation. Reimbursements for qualified expenses will be included in your next regular paycheck within 20 days of the request for reimbursement.

Enroll by Dec. 24

If you wish to have a deduction taken from your first paycheck in January, submit the Payroll Authorization form to FH Payroll no later than Monday, Dec. 24. You may elect to participate in the plan at any time during the year, but you may not change the deduction amount during the calendar year.

You may also elect to terminate your participation in the plan at any time during the year, but if you terminate before the end of the calendar year you may not re-enroll in the plan until the next calendar year.

If you wish to continue participating, you must enroll each calendar year. Any amount remaining in your account at the end of the calendar year will not be cashed out, but will be carried forward and applied toward qualified transportation fringe benefits in the next coverage period.

If you terminate your employment, any amount credited to the account that is not reimbursed as a qualified transportation fringe benefit expense paid before termination will be forfeited. If you terminate participation in the plan, any amount not reimbursed as a qualified expense within 90 days will be forfeited.

For additional information about the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit Plan, send an e-mail message to *Payroll Questions PHMC. ♦

HEHF program monitors workers' hearing

Approximately 2,000 individuals are involved in the Hearing Conservation Program, a medical monitoring program designed by the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation to track an individual's hearing. Individuals are enrolled in the HCP based on their employee job task analysis, which captures noise hazards and potential exposure levels.

In analyzing the implications for the Hanford Site, HEHF looked at individuals who had experienced a shift in hearing during the past three years and compared them with their individual employee job task analysis results. HEHF found 797 records of hearing shifts.

After determining the number of hearing shifts, the HEHF staff looked at the exposure information data derived from the Risk Management Medical Surveillance system employee job task analysis database. These data were divided into four exposure categories:

- Level 0 — no known exposure
- Level 1 — potential exposure below the specified criterion
- Level 2 — potential exposure above the specified criterion for less than 30 days per year
- Level 3 — potential exposure above the specified criterion for more than 30 days per year.

The specified criterion or action level was exposure to noise above 85 decibels for 8 hours time-weighted average. Of the employees with a recorded potential exposure to noise from 1998 to 2000, 78 percent were in level 0, 11 percent were in level 1, 9 percent were in level 2 and 2 percent were in level 3.

Individuals whose exposure levels meet the criteria for levels 2 or 3 according to their employee job task analysis are placed in the HEHF medical monitoring program where their hearing ability is measured at least annually. Through the HCP, HEHF staff members measure the outcomes, which may reflect on how well work practices such as personal protective equipment or engineered or administrative controls are succeeding in preventing hearing losses.

In reviewing the data, it appeared that few if any of the hearing loss shifts were recordable by Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards; however, HEHF could not tell whether the hearing losses were caused by work or non-work exposures.

After reviewing the data, HEHF staff members met with site health and safety personnel and site workers to discuss their HCPs. The information shared in these meetings helps improve the effectiveness of data gathering and thus enables further improvements in the workers' HCPs.

The Hanford workforce is diverse, ranging from skilled laborers to executive officers. This diversity means that the potential for exposures to noise is equally complex and diverse. Some operations, such as core drilling or aqua blasting, can produce known high levels of noise for extended periods, whereas working in an open bay set of offices, while sometimes annoying, is well below 80 dB. Sometimes the real culprit isn't the heavy equipment so much as it is the alarms on the equipment, which must be set to be heard above the background noise. This type of noise is an intermittent high-frequency noise and as such poses different problems and needs for controls.

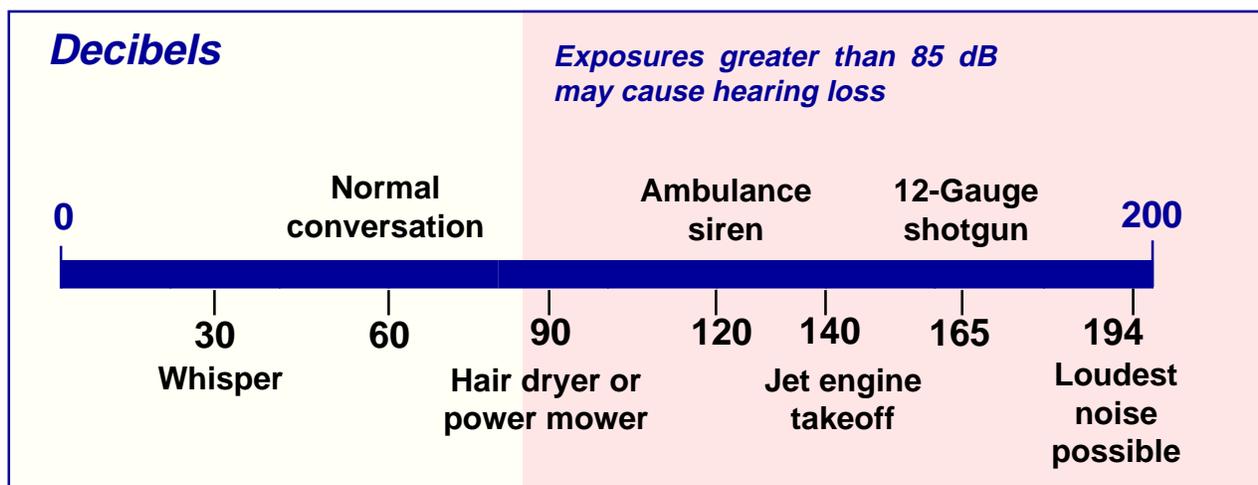
Continued on page 25.

HEHF program monitors workers' hearing , cont.

Generally the contractor groups HEHF staff members spoke with have good, well-thought-out programs in place for dealing with noise at the worksite. They all recognize that their employees have different needs depending on the work being performed.

If it is not possible to apply appropriate engineering controls to prevent or mitigate the noise hazard, then hearing protection is used. Personal hearing protection ranges from simple disposable foam plugs to full ear-muffs, depending on the noise levels and job requirements. Each job package also identifies the relevant hazards, such as noise, and employees are trained and prepared to complete the task in a safe environment.

Another issue with a hazard such as noise is the difficulty in proving that the actual source of the hearing loss is work-related. Even when there are exposures to noise at work, we all are exposed to various areas of loud noises in our everyday life. Many recreational activities, especially those involved with the use of gas-powered internal combustion engines or firearms, subject our ears to offensive and often damaging noise levels. In short, while occupationally related noise-induced hearing loss is a serious problem, we are all responsible for protecting our hearing both on and off the job. ♦



Editors' Note: This article represents a new approach to the discussion of health surveillance issues by the staff at HEHF. In the future, the HEHF medical surveillance group, in cooperation with site contractors and employees, plans on presenting similar reports on various health-related topics. If you have any questions about the information in this article or would like to suggest topics for review, contact Buffi LaDue, PhD, MPH, manager of medical surveillance and health education, at 373-0188 or at buffi_ladue@ri.gov.

Continued on page 26.

Noises related to work and recreation can affect your hearing

“That’s one thing he hated! The NOISE! NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!” The Grinch hated the noise of Christmas, but loud noises abound in our environment, and not only around the holidays. We expose ourselves to loud noises when we listen to loud music, spend a day snowmobiling, or use power tools such as saws, drills or impact wrenches.

Loud noises (i.e., those above 106 decibels) can lead to hearing loss in just 4 minutes.

While noise-induced hearing loss seldom involves total hearing loss or deafness, the damage cannot be repaired and hearing aids do little good. Constant exposure to noise affects the inner ear.

The first sign of hearing damage is an inability to hear high-pitched sounds. With continued exposure to noise, our ability to tell musical tones apart becomes impossible. Eventually, with continual exposure to excess noise, we find it difficult to hear normal conversation.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, there are 30 million people exposed to hazardous noise levels in the workplace. Of these individuals, approximately one third have noise-induced hearing loss that can be attributed to occupational noise exposure. Claims for hearing losses represent the largest single category of compensation under the Washington State Labor and Industries workers’ compensation program.

One group of workers who are commonly exposed to high noise levels is carpenters. A carpenter’s power tools expose him or her to high noise levels. For instance, an orbital sander has a noise level of 91 decibels, or dB, whereas a circular saw registers 101 dB and a hammer drill can measure 114 dB.

The length of time an individual is exposed to a given noise level affects his or her hearing. Determining how long a worker can safely work at a particular noise level before the hearing is affected is an important part of worker safety.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists makes the following recommendations for how long a worker can be exposed to a given level of noise without hearing protection. The following noise levels are given in decibels and multiplied by the A weighting scale used by the American National Standards Institute to determine the time of unprotected ear exposure before hearing is affected:

- 85 dB(A) - 8 hours
- 88 dB(A) - 4 hours
- 91 dB(A) - 2 hours
- 94 dB(A) - 1 hour
- 97 dB(A) - 30 minutes
- 100 dB(A) - 15 minutes
- 103 dB(A) - 7.5 minutes
- 106 dB(A) - 3.75 minutes. ♦

Noise is too loud when:

- Your ears ring after prolonged exposure to noise.
- Speech and other sounds seem muffled after exposure.
- You lose the ability to tell musical tones apart.
- You fail to hear a high-pitched sound.
- Normal conversations cannot take place.

If you think the noise levels in your workplace are too loud, contact your manager, supervisor or health and safety representative, who can arrange for a noise survey.

Regular Features



LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Sobering reminiscence

Michele Gerber's assessment of how the events of 1935-1940 "...were seen as unrelated and irrelevant to life in the United States" was right on the money! Sadly, this attitude (I believe) was prevalent in the United States up to Sept. 11. Yes, terrorism was happening around the world — the IRA in Ireland and Britain, and the ongoing troubles in the Middle East, but it couldn't possibly happen in the States — we're Americans, we're invincible. Who would dare attack us on our homeland? How wrong!

I came to the United States in 1973. After many years of personal debate, I became a U.S. citizen in 1985. I'm proud to be an American — please don't misunderstand me. I was born in Egypt of British parents.

All my life I've known about the world wars and I've never taken my freedom or safety for granted. My grandfathers were both in World War I, and my dad was in World War II. He was in North Africa, then in Europe. As a youngster I saw the devastation of the east end of London, the docks, still in post-blitz condition. My mum would tell us stories of nights spent in air-raid shelters, never knowing if you'd ever see loved ones again or the light of a new day. She lived day to day with night and day air raids. And how very real, during the lowest times of the war, the possibility of Nazi occupation was to the British people. Americans have never known this type of fear — not until Sept. 11.

Having just returned from a month in India, it was most interesting to see the western world from a third-world country, but that's another story.

Once again, thank you for the article. I'm encouraging my work group and others to read it. For those who have, it has had a very sobering effect.

Michele Boston

Lockheed Martin Services

Oops!

In the Nov. 12 issue of the *Hanford Reach*, in the article "PFP success sets stage for site use of defibrillators," we erroneously reported that PFP employee Bob Grant is at home recovering from heart surgery. Grant is recovering from massive heart damage caused by heart attacks last December. ♦



RETIREMENTS

Waite retires after 24-year career at Hanford

After working 24 years at the Hanford Site, Jack Waite will retire. Join his well-wishers at a reception Dec. 12 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in room 308 of 2420 Stevens Center.

Waite began his career at Hanford in 1977. He worked on waste management programs, the Basalt Waste Isolation Project and the Special Isotope Separations Project. He worked on the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement from 1987 to 1991 and from 1993 to 1995. His support and expertise were also applied in the development of the Tank Waste Remediation System program baseline. For the past six years, Jack has been a key member in strategic planning, work prioritization and site integration activities.

Before coming to Hanford in 1977, Waite was a project planner working on the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project in Sunnyvale, Calif. ♦

CALENDAR



Give blood Dec. 10, 13, 14

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives in room 142 of the Federal Building on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and in the 200 East Area on Dec. 13 and 14. The 200 East Area drive will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. both days in room G-110 of the 2704-HV Building. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can make an appointment by calling (800) 787-9691.

Calendar continued on next page

Regular Features



C A L E N D A R cont.

AACE meets Dec. 11

The Rattlesnake Mountain Chapter of the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering will hold a dinner meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Richland Shilo Inn. The featured speaker is Kim Detienne, who will discuss the AACE's Interim Certification Program and its benefits. The social begins at 5:30 p.m., the dinner is at 6 and the program is at 7. The cost is \$17 per person. Please make checks payable to: Rattlesnake Mountain Section of the AACE. Reservations will be accepted until 2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10. Contact Daniel Muehleisen at 372-2408 or at daniel_p_muehleisen@rl.gov. At the end of the Dec. 11 meeting, the name of one of the guests will be drawn and that person will have their 2002 AACE dues paid by the Rattlesnake Mountain Chapter.

NMA meeting scheduled for Dec. 12

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association's Dec. 12 meeting at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland will feature Dave Riddle, a former Hanford employee who is currently executive director of the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy. The social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 5:45. There is no charge for chapter members. The cost for guests is \$20. Call Lisa Hart at 376-3484 to make a reservation.

Red bead experiment to be discussed Dec. 13

Steve Prevette will present the "Red Bead Experiment" on Dec. 13 at 7 to 9 a.m. and again at 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in room 14 of the Volpentest HAMMER Education and Training Center. This presentation will provide a hands-on opportunity to see what works and what doesn't work in motivating workers to achieve results in the workplace. Prevette gears this experiment around the Integrated Safety Management System, including the Voluntary Protection Program, safety slogans, recognition and incentives for employees to work safely and productively. This meeting is considered an alternate safety meeting in case you cannot make the Dec. 11 safety meeting.

LIGO tour set for Jan. 12

A group from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers will be touring the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) on Saturday, Jan. 12. The tour will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will last about two and a half hours. For more information contact Jeff Doeler at 373-6024 or at Jeffery_N_Doeler@rl.gov. ♦

B R A V O



CH2M HILL Hanford Group announces winners

The CH2M HILL Hanford Group Employee Recognition Council honored September and October performance award winners during a luncheon held Nov. 29 in the 200 East Area.

For the month of September, individuals **Ernie Davis** and **Nancy Forsman** and the team of **Bart Anderson** and **Rick Reeder** were the winners in the safety category. Winners in the individual categories were **Randy Swift**, **Ron Harding**, **Doug Peterson**, **Fran Julian**, **Quin Ravencraft**, **Steve McKinney**, **Steve Briggs** and **Roger Bauer**. Winning in the team category was the team of **Scott Roberson**, **Chyrstal Knopik**, **William Johnson** and **Donna Robillard**.

For the month of October, individuals **Corey McCord**, and **Shanna Sansom** and the team of **Muhammad Islam**, **Richard Carlstrom**, **Jack Kalia**, **Debra Herman**, **Randy Stickney** and **Joe Jones** were the winners in the safety category. Other individual winners were **Hope Guerra**, **Rudy Ruelas**, **Elaine Davis**, **Etoy Alford**, **Nancy Hulse**, **Dave Kidder** and **Al Meldrom**. **Tina Bruno-Jones**, **Ace Johnson**, **Douglas Mallory**, **Joel Radford**, **Rhonda Stamper** and **Lee Walter** were winners in the team category.

Additional information about the awards and winners' accomplishments is on the Hanford Web site at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rpp/index3.cfm?FileName=/docs/62/docs/main.htm&PageNum=62>. Nomination forms are available on Site Forms: A-6001-358. ♦

Features continued on next page

Regular Features

NEWSBRIEFS



Hanford Photography relocates to 1981 Snyder

During the week of Dec. 17, Hanford Photography will be relocating from Building 3705 in the 300 Area to the first floor of the east end of 1981 Snyder, the Lockheed Martin Services building. This building is located at the west end of Snyder, south of the 1163 Building (the old stores building).

Access is through the center entrance of the building and the photography office will be to the left of the lobby. Reserved parking is available next to the building.

Operations will be affected from Dec. 17 through Dec. 19, although photographers and limited lab services will be available on all days during the move. Hanford Photography will be operational in the new location on Dec. 20.

The phone number will remain 376-3975 and all service offerings will still be available, including next-day delivery of economy 35 millimeter prints.



Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170

See the *Hanford Reach* on the Web at: www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html

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Recycle telephone books for Richland schools

The City of Richland, Clayton Ward Recycling, Boise Cascade and Verizon are sponsoring a telephone book recycling contest for the elementary schools in the Richland School District during the month of December. As in the past, the Hanford Site will also donate recycled telephone books to this program.

The participating schools will receive all the revenue that is generated by recycling the outdated phone books, and the top three schools that collect the most books will receive cash prizes to purchase computer equipment. Hanford phone books will be divided equally among the participating schools so as not to skew the contest. The contest ends Dec. 31.

Here's how to donate your outdated phone book to the recycling contest:

- Place the phone books in a box or an envelope and mark the outside with "Telephone books for Verizon

school recycling."

- Contact Jinny Howser at 376-6306 to arrange for transportation. If you have only two boxes of phone books, a courier will transport them. If you have more than two boxes, stage the boxes where materials are picked up from your building and a stores delivery driver will pick them up.

Note: if you put your telephone books in the green recycle carts for mixed paper, the revenue will not be donated to the schools. Only those phone books that are designated for the Verizon recycling project will be donated to the Richland School District.

Contact Kathy Hinkelman at 376-7631 if you have any questions regarding telephone book recycling. Contact Bobbi Shatell at 376-5748 if you have questions about ordering new phone books. ♦

Regular Features

CLASSES



Painless Punctuation Session offered Dec. 11

A few openings are available in the Painless Punctuation information session scheduled for 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, in classroom 12 of the Administration Building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. You'll learn must-know punctuation rules to avoid common mistakes as well as tips for editing your own and others' writing. Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the session. There is no charge for the session. Call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250 to reserve your spot.

Another helpful service, available at no charge through the Skills Lab, is the assessment of your basic reading, math, writing and grammar skills. You can sign up for a two-hour standardized survey of adult basic skills. After the survey is scored, you can schedule a follow-up private conference with a CBC faculty member to discuss your results and learn how to boost your skills — either by using the Skills Lab or on your own. All information is kept confidential, but you must make an appointment for this service in advance.

Two other informational sessions planned for this fiscal year are "Goof-Proofing Your Grammar" and "Successful Spelling." For more information, call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250.

Electrical Journeyman's course available

The "National Electrical Code Update for 2002" initial schedule dates are Jan. 21 and 25, Feb. 12 and 19, and March 14. This course is for electricians, electrical supervisors and others who maintain a Washington state electrical journeyman's license. The course content satisfies the statutory requirement for eight hours of continuing education. The class also supports individuals who need to keep current on requirements of the National Electrical Code. The course costs \$250 per student and will be held at the HAMMER Training Facility. To register for any of these dates, contact Libby Sickler at 376-7117. ♦

VANPOOLS



Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring riders are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her badge, Patrol must be informed at the barricades. For more information, look on the Hanford Web in the Projects and Activities section, Safeguards and Security at <http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm>.

KENNEWICK

Vanpool No. 146 to 200E, 8x9s, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Starts at Chuck E Cheese's with one stop at the Federal Building. Drops off at 2750, WESF and nearby facilities. Contact **Jim Brockus** at 372-2939 or by e-mail. 12/3

PASCO

New vanpool forming, 8x9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., pick up in Pasco and Richland, drop off in K-100. Will start in mid-December. Contact **Ben Franklin Transit Vanpool** or **Bob** at 547-6034. 12/10

RICHLAND

Van No. 121 to 200E is seeking riders. We leave the Albertson's located at Leslie and Gage at 6 a.m. We also pick up and depart from the bus lot at 6:15 a.m. The first stop in 200E is 2750-E. Contact **Mike** at 372-0150 for more information. 12/10

8x9 vanpool, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Richland proper to 200E, has openings. Contact **Kip** at 373-7399, **Dave** at 372-3304 or **Mandrake** at 372-0713. 12/10

Riders and backup drivers are needed for 8x9s shift, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Seek comfort with nine to 10 riders and one driver maximum. Van will start at Park 'n Ride on Van Giesen. Stops at 222-S, WSCF, 2704-HV and others along the way. Contact **Patti Boothe** at 373-5637 or **Steve Boothe** at 376-6812. 12/3

Vanpool No. 182, 8x9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., is looking for two riders. Leaves the 2440 Stevens Building at 6:15 a.m. and will drop off at the 2750-E, 2704-HV buildings and anywhere in between. Call **Rick Janecke** at 376-3677 or **Vickie Alexander** at 373-0484. 12/3

SUNNYSIDE

Vanpool driver wanted. Van begins in Sunnyside, stops at 275-W/Shop in 200W and at 2750-E in 200E. Contact **Lola Webb** at 373-1241. 12/3 ♦