

Nevada Test Site flares with activity during predicted severe fire season

On Sunday, July 9, 2006 at about 8 p.m., Fire Dispatch was notified of a possible wildland fire near Area 27 on the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

The fire, now referred to as the Benton Fire, received a prompt response from Nevada Test Site Fire and Rescue, which arrived with all personnel including 11 firefighters, two paramedics, three brush trucks, one ambulance, eight all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), and two structural fire engines.

A defensive perimeter was established around several buildings in case the fire advanced toward them.

Due to darkness and extremely rugged terrain in the area of the fire, the crews maintained structural protection duties throughout the night.

Later that night and early on July 10, additional personnel were called back to duty from their days off to staff the fire stations. This was done to maintain a secondary response readiness team and to deploy additional personnel to the fire area.

A total of 18 NTS Fire and Rescue personnel fought the fire on July 10. It was difficult, how-

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ever, to gain access to the main fire area in the firefighting vehicles because of the rough terrain. This forced the firefighters to conduct their duties on foot with hand tools, according to

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National Security Technologies charts a fresh course for the future

National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) President and General Manager **Steve Younger** is excited - not only about charting a fresh course for the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and its associated facilities - but about providing new opportunities and forging a stronger partnership with the key stakeholders of the NTS.

These stakeholders encompass not only employees, but the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the nuclear weapons laboratories, and the Department of Defense



Dr. Younger outlined his vision for the future at all-hands sessions in early July.

(DoD), among others. When Younger articulated his direction for the future at a series of all-hands meetings on July 5 and July 6, employees listened

intently as he and Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer **Mike Butchko** outlined the new direction being charted for the NTS.

Envisioning the future, Younger stated simply and emphatically, "My job is to establish the strategic direction of this company while Mike will focus on planning and execution."

NSTec has captured this strategic direction in its straightforward corporate covenants -Vision, Service, Partnership. These descriptive words underscore the

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NTS Fires continued from page 1

Chief **Charles Fauerbach** of NTS Fire and Rescue (F&R) for National Security Technology, LLC (NSTec).

A U.S. Air Force helicopter dropped water on several hot spots inaccessible by ground troops. The fire fight was a tightly coordinated effort with additional NTS equipment and resources providing vital support. This support included a large water truck, fuel truck, mechanic's truck, and a tire truck. The Mercury Cafeteria also provided food and water to keep fire staff hydrated and fueled up for duty.

The fire was contained and crews demobilized at 3 p.m. on July 10, with the fire area estimated at 125 acres with no loss of NTS facilities or infrastructure.

As a testament to the collaboration that exists among several agencies on or adjacent to the test site, NTS F&R also supported yet another fire effort during the Benton event. They supplied water and assisted in mixing fire retardant slurry for the Bureau of Land Management SEAT (Single Engine Air Tanker) aircraft at the Desert Rock Airport. These aircraft were used to drop water on the Beatty fire, which sparked July 10 and lasted several days. This fire was not on the NTS, but

BLM asked for assistance since Desert Rock provides a close operating position to the Beatty fire area.

Mid Valley Fire flares on July 4

The Benton Fire was miniscule compared with the results of the burst of flames that broke out from a lightning strike that occurred on July 4, now known as the Mid Valley Fire, which burned approximately 8,500 acres on the NTS.

The Mid Valley Fire flared up in the central portion of the test site affecting areas 6, 14, 29, and 25.

The primary response organizations for that fire was NTS F&R, along with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) assisting with two, 20-person hot-shot crews and aircraft providing water and retardant drops. These efforts helped contain the fire three days after it sparked.

"The Mid Valley fire reached 100 percent containment due to the outstanding efforts of everyone working collaboratively, including the BLM and National Guard alongside the NTS Fire and Rescue," stated **Steve Lawrence**, emergency manager in the National Nuclear



An All Terrain Vehicle conducts spot suppression and lays down a suppression line of fire retardant around NTS assets.

Security Administration, Nevada Site Office, Emergency Operations Center. "Through our advanced planning and Memorandums of Understanding in place with the BLM, we were able to quickly call upon their support to successfully assist with the firefighting efforts and expedite full containment of this fire."

More than 60 personnel responded with support from four brush trucks, eight ATV's, a Llama 315B helicopter, two C-130 Hercules aircraft, and two single-engine aircraft tankers.

Although this fire was much larger than the latest Benton Fire, it also did not damage any facilities or infrastructure on the NTS.

Face-to-Face

Name: Kathy Garcia
Company: NSTec, Livermore Operation
Title: Web Design/Administrative Staff
Hometown: Manteca, Calif.
Hobbies: Traveling & outdoor activities like camping, boating, water skiing



Kathy believes her most significant contribution to the Nevada Site Office has been supporting the 24 people she works with, along with providing quality on-site support. She sets up new employee work stations, schedules training, tracks task requests, makes travel arrangements, compiles reports, and assists with software-related questions while providing computer technical support. What she has learned that makes her better at what she does today is how to juggle, organize, and prioritize. If Kathy could have any job she wanted, she would like to be a detective or crime-scene investigator. Something about Kathy that most people wouldn't know is that she is allergic to animals, although she has two dogs and a cat.

In the next issue of SiteLines

- Future Leaders program & upcoming NV class
- Employee Concerns programs available to federal and contractor staff
- History of Cane Spring
- Award nomination for Underground Nuclear Weapons Testing Orientation Program
- FRMAC Exercise in Alabama
- NSO employee/family touched by Iraq war
- Update on Unicorn
- Update on energy initiative (driver training)
- Reduction of facilities infrastructure at the NTS

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conviction that every employee contributes to the bottom line mission of the company - to help defend America in a dangerous world.

"Everything we do every day is to defend our country," said Younger, emphasizing that "we all work for one company and wear one badge." He is equally committed to "driving decisions down to the lowest operational divisions," and holds employees accountable for the safe and secure execution of work.

"All work must be performed in accordance with safety requirements," said Younger. "However, don't let paperwork supersede common sense."

The NSTec team has a specific focus on how "Vision, Service, Partnership" translate into the daily activities that comprise the work of the Nevada Site Office and other customers. Vision is about transforming the NTS into America's National Security Test Site - the preferred place to conduct high hazard experiments to support America's security.

To achieve this "preferred" status, the company will infuse business practices and technologies into NTS and its satellite facilities to improve performance while reducing business costs.

Service means bringing integrated solutions to the challenges of the NNSA Nevada Site Office and the other customers of the site.

Partnership means forging a new level of collaboration among the customers of the NTS, including NNSA, the Department of Homeland Security, and DoD. Also, NSTec proposes a High-Potential (HiPOT) Employee Exchange Program to offer its employees the opportunity to experience work at one of its corporate offices, and conversely, for corporate personnel to experience work at the NTS.

"Our work is an important part of the nation's overall defense strategy," says Younger. "Every employee has a unique and important role to play in that."

Although Younger and Butchko are located in offices at the Nevada Support Facility in North Las Vegas, they have committed to make regular visits to the NTS and other offsite locations to keep a pulse on activities. These activities encompass a broad range of engineering, construction, and mining operations; the management of multi-laboratory facilities; chemical, explosives, and hazardous materials systems and technologies; and waste management for various categories of waste, among others.

Butchko emphasized that NSTec is committed to accomplishing its mission and work activities while protecting the environment and said that "each of us must prevent and correct any environmental situation we see that could have an adverse impact."

Under Younger's leadership, NSTec is taking a streamlined approach to management. That means focusing on deliverables, minimizing bureaucracy, and "growing" employees. This approach translates into seeking regular feedback from employees to improve and refine processes; focusing on common-sense, "real" safety practices; providing enhanced and more flexible training opportunities; and reducing levels of approval, supervision, and paperwork.

NSTec was formed in 2005 as a partnership among Northrop Grumman Corporation, AECOM (a successor to Holmes and Narver), CH2MHill, and Nuclear Fuel Services. Each of these companies brings a unique skill set to NSTec, enabling the company to "reach back" for best-in-class tools to improve the NTS.

NSTec has a five-year contract to manage and operate the NTS. Under the contract, NSTec will be responsible for managing and operating the NTS and its satellite facilities.

Biography**Stephen (Steve) M. Younger, Ph.D.
President and General Manager**

Steve Younger brings over 24 years of service in the nuclear weapons community to his new position. From 2001-2004, he served as Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in the Department of Defense, where he transformed DTRA into the "go to" agency for issues related to Weapons of Mass Destruction. As Associate Director for Nuclear Weapons at Los Alamos National Laboratory, he was one of the principal architects of the stockpile stewardship program and helped chart the future of America's nuclear deterrent. Dr. Younger has been associated with the Test Site for most of his professional career - including the design of several nuclear explosives which were tested at the NTS. He continues to do research and publishes regularly in scholarly journals. Dr. Younger is a member of the Defense Threat Reduction Panel and other government and private committees.

Biography**Michael (Mike) J. Butchko, Jr.
Deputy General Manager &
Chief Operating Officer**

Mike Butchko (retired United States Air Force) brings over 30 years of command and civilian management experience that includes managing the Joint Base Operations Support Contract (JBOSC) for over three years at the Kennedy Space Center and commanding base operations at the Air Force Development Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) for two years. At Elgin, he managed budgets as large as \$600M and up to 8,000 personnel scientists, engineers, technicians, and base support personnel. He has consistently completed work within scope, cost, and schedule, raising performance ratings on JBOSC and winning awards for managing Eglin AFB. He has maintained an exemplary safety and environmental compliance record over his career with accident and lost time rates well below industry averages.

Beyond

the Call

"The project demonstrated the high standards and professionalism of these gentlemen ..."



Bruce Norton



Edward Potts



Larry Roeder



Manny Sales

Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) employees **Bruce Norton**, **Edward Potts**, and **Larry Roeder**, who are Electronics Systems Section technicians, along with Security Engineer **Manny Sales**, were recently commended for their exemplary performance on a project located in the Area 27 Baker compound on the Nevada Test Site.

This was sparked by a letter of appreciation from **Stephen Scott**, a technical security engineer of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The project involved a number of unforeseen circumstances that were out of the control of this dedicated WSI team. In fact, the original project completion date was delayed by several weeks, which reduced the time the WSI team had to install the components and wiring from two weeks to four days in order to meet an overall revised project schedule.

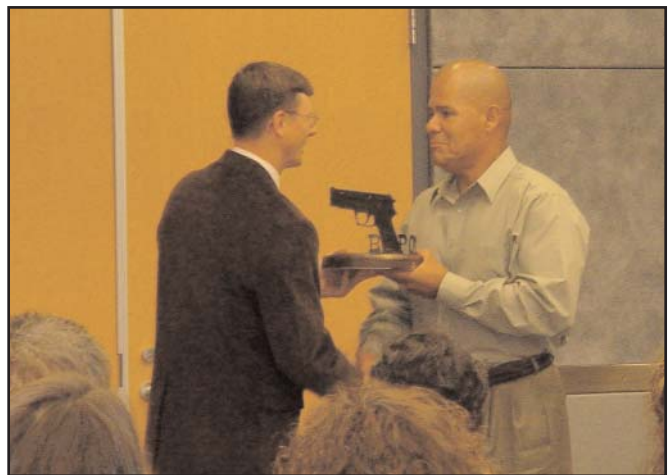
According to Scott, "over a three-day period of time, the installation of intrinsically safe alarm components, cameras, and the interconnection with the main

alarm system was executed efficiently and flawlessly." As a result, the Pre-Acceptance Test Procedure (ATP) and subsequent ATP went through perfectly and according to schedule.

"This project in particular demonstrated the high standards and professionalism of these gentlemen, not only in the performance of their duties to WSI but to the overall mission of the NNSA and national security," added Scott.

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
CTOS	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
JASPER	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NSTec	National Security Technologies, LLC
NTS	Nevada Test Site
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada



Capt. Mark Herrin presents the Top Gun Award to a newly graduated Security Police Officer at the most recent graduation ceremony on July 7, 2006. (see article on page 5)

Dr. Rick Maurer imparts wisdom to Georgetown grads

News Briefs

When most people think of hobbies, activities such as gardening, hiking, or playing guitar typically come to mind. Others may conjure odd hobbies such as collecting insects.

Dr. Rick Maurer, a principal scientist at Remote Sensing Laboratory-Andrews, has a hobby that is even more off-the-wall. He catalogs portable radiation instruments from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Maurer had a perfect opportunity to share his personal research on portable radiation instruments this past spring. He was recommended by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), NA-22, Office of Nonproliferation Research and Development, to give lectures to a Nuclear Non-Proliferation graduate school class at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in April of 2006.

His first lecture, "A Walk Through the History of Radiation Detectors," covered different types of handheld radiation detectors and their history from the 1920s through the 1960s. He also discussed the ways detectors differ



Radiation instrument used to search for uranium ore during the 1950's

from those used today, while displaying vintage radiation instruments.

"Dr. Marko Moscovitch, director of the Health Physics Program, requested I provide a lecture on the history of radiation detectors," said Maurer. As an amateur historian, Maurer was able to cover the vast span of history involving the detectors.

Summarizing his presentation, Maurer said he covered the efforts to locate lost radium sources in the 1920s; the Manhattan project of the 1940s; uranium exploration and prospecting of the 1950s; and the civil defense instruments of the 1960s.

"Evolution of Modern Portable Nuclear Detection Instruments for Non-proliferation and Emerging Threats," Maurer's second lecture, primarily focused on the state of commercial radiation detection equipment from the 1980s to the present.

In this lecture, Maurer focused on radiation equipment available prior to 9/11 and what has since emerged. Before 9/11, there was limited equipment available commercially. Post 9/11, there has been rapid growth in the amount of commercial equipment available, said Maurer.

Maurer is part of the NNSA's Nuclear Emergency Response Programs, where he functions as a senior scientific advisor. He works with a range of modern radiation detection equipment to respond to nuclear emergencies.

Maurer also is developing the National Radiation Instrument Catalog, which compiles portable radiation instruments from the 1920s through the 1960s. He plans to publish the National Radiation Instrument Catalog later, but he says it may be about three more years until it's done.

Please congratulate the latest graduating class of WSI

Soon you'll notice some new faces checking your badge as you come and go from work.

That's because 26 members of Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) Security Police Officers graduated on July 7 from the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Basic Security Police Officer Training Course at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nev.

Guest speakers included **Dr. Jay Norman**, acting manager NNSA Nevada Site Office; Troy Wade, chairman of the Nevada Alliance for Defense, Energy & Business; and the

Nevada Test Site (NTS) Historical Foundation. "If you walk through the museum, it will go through history of the Nevada Test Site from 1949 to today. This will help you realize why your job is so important," Wade said.

During the ceremony, students and their families were commended on their sacrifices and efforts during the mentally and physically challenging 10-week course. Dr. Norman reminded the graduates that "we are still a nation at war and you are on the front line of that war."

WSI Deputy General Manager **David Bradley** and members of the WSI Training Academy

presented the students with the fruits of their labor: their graduation certificates.

But there is little rest for the weary as the new graduates were on the job two days after their graduation.

WSI provides all security-related work at the NTS and for NSO facilities in North Las Vegas and Nellis Air Force Base.

July 2006 Graduates

C. Adkins	A. Maunu
J. Berry	A. Pasillas
S. Ciballo	T. Pickens
G. Condos	T. Poetain
T. Durocher	B. Ramirez
W. Faidley	Z. Rarey
E. Fields	M. Rasmussen
C. Healy	T. Rehfeldt
A. Hite	N. Robinson
J. Iglesias	A. Romero
Z. Johnson	D. Vick
S. Lopez	G. Wood Jr.

Lt. A. Cabrera
Lt. J. Gura

Fleet Services pollution prevention ... or *elimination*

Take a look around at all the material objects surrounding you.

Imagine recycling up to 95 percent of these materials ... sound impossible?

Well, it's not impossible and Nevada Test Site (NTS) Fleet Services is proof that it can be done, and done well.

In a department that maintains and services more than 900 light-duty vehicles, ambulances, and Wackenhut Services Inc. armored vehicles, hazardous waste should be plentiful. But thanks to the efforts of the staff of Fleet Services, hazardous waste is practically nonexistent.

"During the last eight years, we began a concerted effort to recycle all things that can be recycled," explains **John "Butch" Woods**, superintendent of Fleet Services for National Security Technologies (NSTec). As a result, Fleet Services is responsible for recycling all types of hazardous waste - and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

A fleet as large as this produces a lot of potentially hazardous waste. Oil changes for a fleet this size can average more than 900 per year, resulting in approximately four thousand gallons of used motor oil per year. Every drop of which is recycled and reused.

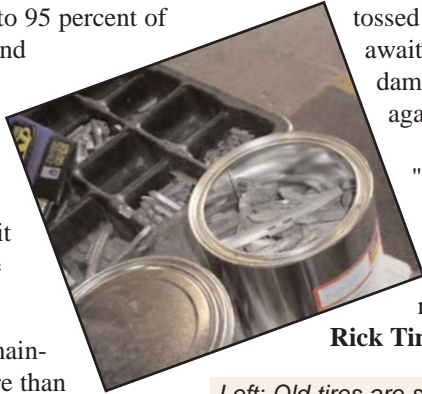
The oil is drained from the vehicles and stored in a two-thousand-gallon oil storage tank complete with its own containment system to prevent leaks. Green Leaf Recycling, an independent refinery company, removes the used oil and refines it for re-use in other vehicles. Even the new oil put into the vehicles is re-refined oil.

Antifreeze is also removed from vehicles and reused. R134A, a type of Freon used in fleet vehicles as air conditioning coolant, is stored in special tanks while it awaits on-site filtration for reuse so there

is no release into the atmosphere.

And if you think that tires get tossed into a giant heap while awaiting some sort of earth-damaging disposal, think again.

"First, the lead weights used in the tires are removed and reused," explains **Rick Tindall**, NSTec's assistant



Left: Old tires are stripped of their lead weights, which are reused in functioning tires. Right: Rick Tindall demonstrates aerosol spray paint can recycling. Cans are crushed by a recycler and stored in 55-gallon drums for disposal.

superintendent of Fleet Services. "Any lead weights that are broken or unusable are melted down and reformed off-site. The used tires are sent to the local tire supplier who is enrolled in the state recycling program."

Just outside of Fleet Services sits a wooden pallet in a fenced area. The pallet is loaded with used batteries - but not just car batteries; emergency light batteries are included in the recycling efforts. The batteries are stacked on the pallet where they are shrink-wrapped and sent off-site to be recycled.

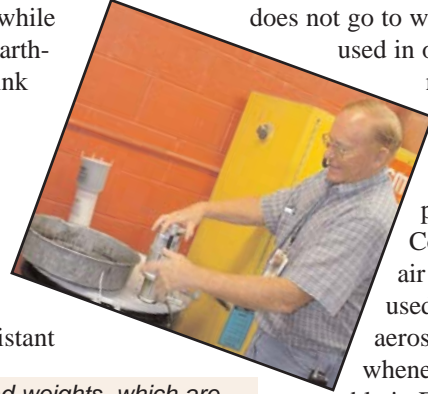
Even scrap metal resulting from bad or damaged automotive parts is stored in a special bin. The scrap metal is then excessed and moved to Warehouse 160, for purchase by external companies.

Although aerosol cans have been dramatically reduced in Fleet Services, some may be found in the work areas. But just because aerosol cans are present -- mostly as vehicles for spray paint and lubricants -- doesn't mean that they can escape the diligent pollution prevention efforts of the department.

In 2005, Fleet Services purchased an aerosol can recycler which is used to recycle aerosol spray paint. The aerosol spray paint can is placed in the recycler,

where the remaining paint is drained into a 55-gallon drum and the can is crushed.

The paint in the 55-gallon drum does not go to waste - it is used in one of the many compressed air cans as touch-up paint. Compressed air cans are used in lieu of aerosol cans whenever possible in Fleet



Services and release no harmful chemicals. In the near future, Fleet Services

will purchase another aerosol can recycler for lubricant aerosol cans.

When a vehicle is brought to Fleet Services for brake repair, the recycling efforts continue: brakes are not cleaned with toxic chemicals but with old-fashioned soap and water. And brake lathe shavings are added to landscaping soil.

If a vehicle is rendered non-serviceable due to age or an accident, the fuel is removed, filtered, and used in other vehicles. NTS Fire & Rescue often uses the fuel removed from these vehicles in controlled burns during training exercises.

The entire staff of Fleet Services works to reduce pollutants and hazardous waste by researching safer products, which are introduced into use within the department. Employees use cleansers in spray bottles rather than aerosol cans, and harsh chemical cleansers are avoided in favor of good old soap and water.

Fleet Services has made pollution prevention and recycling a way of life. Not only do their efforts protect the employees from exposure to toxins and other harsh chemicals, their efforts protect the environment and should serve as an inspiration to us all.

(1) The Environmental Management Kids Display helps explain to elementary school age children the many cleanup activities that take place at the NTS. (2) The Student Forum posed for a photo at Sedan Crater during their annual NTS Tour. (3) Former Student Forum Member Raul Beltran dressed in Tyvex while manning the "Operation Clean Desert" Display at the White Pine County Fair in 2004.



Student Forum comes to an end ...

After five years, the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum is coming to an end.

The EM Student Forum, a pilot program formed in 2001, operated under a five-year program grant, which recently ended. The program was designed to provide essential feedback on communication materials and product development.

Over the last five years, the EM Student Forum has consisted of 21 students from the Advanced Technologies Academy High School in Las Vegas, Nev.

The Forum worked with members of the EM Public Involvement Team to review draft informational materials and provide feedback regarding readability, subject understanding, and graphic appeal as well as develop outreach products. Some of the many accomplishments of

the EM Student Forum include the concept and character design for the EM Kids Display, the design and creation of a kids activity book, and the concept and creation of an interactive computer game designed to inform children about radiation. All three of these products are designed to teach elementary and middle-school aged children about activities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

EM Student Forum members were also asked to participate in one outreach event a year with the EM Public Involvement staff. One such event was Earth Day, where the students met with and talked to children about reducing, reusing, and recycling.

In another event, the 2004-2005 group conducted hands-on experiments with students from John S. Park Elementary, located in Las Vegas, during their annual Science Night. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the EM Student

Forum members or the students from Park Elementary.

The EM Student Forum, and its close partnership with the EM Program, has provided many students the opportunity to see and better understand the NTS and its EM projects. By educating the Forum on EM activities, the students have been able to pass on their expertise and knowledge beyond the classroom walls to their family and classmates, as well as the thousands of people who will see the outreach products they created.

Links for more information:

<http://www.nv.doe.gov/emprograms/environment/public/student.htm>
<http://www.nv.doe.gov/kidszone/book.htm>
<http://www.nv.doe.gov/kidszone/display.htm>

Effective flow down of Lessons Learned at the NTS

Lessons Learned is a feedback and continuous improvement tool used to enhance work performance while achieving the Integrated Safety Management objective of doing work safely.

Specifically, Lessons Learned captures a good work practice or innovative approach and shares that information to promote repeat application; or it is an adverse work practice or experience that is captured and shared to avoid recurrence.

Steve Lawrence, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office assistant manager for Site Operations, recognizes that Lessons Learned can be effectively used through training, as well as the work package processes.

He states: "Incorporating lessons learned in training material and in work packages is an effective way to make sure that employees who perform the same or similar work at a future date are knowledgeable about past problems and their resolution. Through the feedback and continuous improvement aspect of Lessons Learned, employees can use the experiences of their co-workers to improve their planning and execution processes to create a safer work environment."

At the Nevada Test Site (NTS), **Bob Kanning**, Nuclear Maintenance Training Officer for National Security Technologies (NSTec), recently won a SPOT award for implementing a system that improves this existing

process. Kanning informs instructors when he receives a Lessons Learned that has potential use in courses.

When instructors use these lessons in their courses, a document trail is created that helps NSTec identify when

"Through the feedback and continuous improvement aspect of Lessons Learned, employees can use the experiences of their co-workers to improve their planning and execution processes to create a safer work environment."

and where these Lessons Learned were used in employee training.

A copy of the Lessons Learned is included in the curriculum material for new instructors' future reference and as documented evidence of the appropriate Lessons Learned for a training course.

Although only in effect recently, this system has already been used to update four courses provided to employees at the NTS, including: the Device Assembly Facility General Employee Training, Maintenance Conduct of Operations Training, Conduct of Nuclear Facility Maintenance, and Radioactive Waste Operations General Employee Training.

According to **Everett Poore**, Nuclear Operations Training Manager for NSTec, providing recent accounts of situations where a mistake or incident occurred at the site makes the employees realize that these are real-life events

and that future recurrences can be prevented.

"Being able to relate the incident to their own work situations helps them apply the Lessons Learned in their respective work environments," says Poore.

After an operating experience happens (accident, near-miss, violation of a procedure or process, innovative approach to a problem, etc.), a responsible manager should capture the event in a Lessons Learned document and send that document through the Lessons Learned Program Manager.

The Lessons Learned document is then reviewed for accuracy and formatting requirements and forwarded to Lessons Learned coordinators who work for various projects and functional organizations.

The Lessons Learned coordinators then provide the lessons to employees within their organizations through safety meetings, tail-gate meetings, staff meetings, and placement in reading files.

The process also includes gathering feedback from employees on the way the lessons were presented. The key to the Lessons Learned pro-

gram is presenting the documented experiences to those employees who are in similar lines of work.

It is also helpful to include information from Lessons Learned generated at this site or other sites into daily work packages. This helps to identify and possibly mitigate processes and activities that may result in injuries.

Another aspect of the work package is the post-briefing section, which asks the following questions:

- What went right?
- What went wrong?
- How can we make it better?

When the package is returned for completed jobs, reviews of the comments are used by work package preparers to modify similar work packages in the future, which may result in a safer or more efficient approach to work performance.

Lessons Learned is also a powerful training tool. Accordingly, the NSTec Training Organization has made positive changes in its processes to assure that information captured through Lessons Learned is provided to employees.

Any change in a regulatory or company directive causes an immediate revision and update of the applicable course, lesson plans, slides, student handouts, etc.

Bottled water vs. filtered water - which is best?

Bottled water has become one of the largest industries in the world. Over half of all Americans drink bottled water, a trend largely fueled by the misconception that bottled water is safer or healthier than tap water.

How do you know about the quality of water you're buying?

There are no federal filtration or disinfection requirements for bottled water. Federal regulations that govern the quality of bottled water only apply if it is transported across state lines. Even with these regulations, bottled water is only required to be "as good as" tap water.

In the United States, bottled water is considered a food product so it is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Beginning in May 1996, the FDA required all bottled waters to carry accurate labels: "spring water" must come from a spring; "mineral water" must carry a certain mineral content; "sterile" water must be processed to meet FDA standards for commercial sterility; and if water comes from municipal supplies, it must be labeled as such.

Bottled water has become a target of the environmental community due to the massive amounts of plastic bottles being disposed of from bottled water use. But, is reusing plastic water bottles safe?

Take a look at the recycling stamp on the bottom of your commercial plastic water bottle. The "safer" plastic is identified by a number "1" in the stamp, the letters

"PET" or "PETE." Other "safe" plastics are identified by a number "2" or the letters "HDPE" (high density polyethylene), a number "4" or the letters "LDPE" (low density polyethylene), or a number "5" or the letters "PP" (polypropylene).



If you want to reuse your commercial bottled water containers, limit their use to four or five days. Keep them out of sunlight, in a cool, heat-free area.

Remember, if you can taste the plastic in the water you are drinking, throw it away - it's chemically unfit to drink!

Is filtered water the right choice?

Home water filtration is far more convenient, produces higher quality water, and costs a fraction of the sometimes high bottled water prices.

How does a water softener differ from filtration products or reverse osmosis? Water softeners are not designed to improve the healthfulness of water, but to decrease dissolved minerals and reduce scaling of pipes and appliances. These systems typically use a sodium-charged exchange media that releases sodium and removes minerals.

Filtration systems are designed to remove harmful contaminants and leave in natural minerals. The effects of drinking chlorinated water have been debated for decades. However, most experts agree that there are some significant risks related to over consuming chlorine and chlorinated by-products. Unfortunately, without chlorine the dangers of water-borne disease would be too significant.

Reverse osmosis and distillation are non-selective, de-mineralizing processes. Water produced by these systems has been stripped of all mineral content, then enhanced with minerals for a pure taste.

Sites to visit for more information:

www.waterfiltercomparisons.net
www.bottledwaterblues.com
www.waterwarning.com
www.death-valley.us/article1002 (This article discusses reuse of water bottles.)

Familiarize yourself with the mission and programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Go to http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/docs/newsletters/2006/nl_2006Jul_NNSA_News.pdf to read the latest edition of the *NNSA Newsletter*.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and the NSTec Occupational Medicine

Department is asking people to check if they and their loved ones are up to date on their immunizations.

Dr. Jeff Moon, clinical services director of the Occupational Medicine Department, says that "vaccines are a key to a healthy life for people of all ages and cultures in our community, and we are using this opportunity to remind people of the importance of being up to date."

In August, parents are enrolling children in school, older students are entering college, and adults and the health care community are preparing for the upcoming influenza season. This makes August a particularly good time to focus community attention on the value of immunization.

Vaccines have been used since the 1700s and are recognized as among the safest and most effective means of preventing life-threatening infections.

Vaccines work by telling the person's immune system to prepare itself for possible exposure to disease-causing viruses or bacteria.

... to your health ...



"When a person is actually exposed to the agent, the body knows exactly what to do to fight off the disease," says **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell**, a registered nurse with the Occupational Medicine Department. This not only protects the immunized person, but it often limits the bug's ability to pass from person to person. Thus, people who can't be immunized because of underlying medical conditions or who fail to respond to immunization are still protected by what's called community or herd immunity.

In August, the NSTec Occupational Medicine Department clinic encourages people of all ages to check their immunization records to ensure they're current. The clinic will have brochures available beginning in July that will clearly spell out exactly which immunizations are rec-

ommended and exactly when they are recommended.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children receive vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, polio, and others. Adolescents should be vaccinated against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and meningococcal disease, and other diseases that may have been missed earlier. Those recommended for adults include vaccines against influenza, pneumococcal disease, tetanus, and diphtheria.

Dr. Moon says, "Before these vaccines became available these diseases caused tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States. Because today's vaccines are safe and effective, members of our community can and should be protected by being up-to-date on their immunizations."

For more information about vaccines and which ones are right for you, contact the **Occupational Medicine Department** at (702) 295-1473 (North Las Vegas) or (702) 295-6224 (Mercury) or visit the National Partnership for Immunization Web site at www.partnersforimmunization.org.

Retirements

Barbara Berry
Gail Cohn
Nilo Cruz
Edward Hohman
Raymond Liu
James Powell
Christina Powers
Jeffrey Quintenz
Naomi Sperling
John Whiteman

In Memory

Gino Chouquer, former contractor
Alvin Frazier, former contractor
Robert Gorham, former contractor
Nancy Gries, former contractor
Edward Mattson Jr., former contractor
Oran Moser, former contractor
John Perkins Jr., former contractor
Richard Wakisaka, former contractor

Face-to-Face

Name: Chris Vaughn
Company: Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
Title: Training Coordinator
Hometown: Denver, Colo.
Interests: People, reading, taking walks, and traveling. Chris has visited Germany and almost every state and doesn't have a favorite spot, because every area offers something different.



Chris has only been on the job for a short time, so she believes her most significant contribution is a positive attitude. What she has learned that makes her better at what she does today is how to deal with people. This allows Chris to interact with a large group all at the same time while simultaneously dealing with each individual and the particular learning technique (auditory, visual, etc.) that facilitates learning for that person. If she could have any job, Chris wants to be the ruler of the world, because she says "we all think we can do it better." The one thing about herself that most people wouldn't know is her age. When people initially talk to her on the phone, they think she's much younger than her real age. Also, most wouldn't know when they interact with her that Chris is shy.

Milestones

Air Resources Laboratory/ Special Operations & Research Division

25 years **Raymond Livsey**

Desert Research Institute

20 years **Nanette Merlino**

15 years **Robert Jones, Stephanie Neal**

10 years **Timothy Brown, Jo Risley**

Environmental Protection Agency

15 years **Richard Flotard, Terry Mouck, Mark Sells**

National Security Technologies, LLC

45 years **Don Walker**

40 years **Brent Davis, Albert Hill, William Kost, George Smith**

30 years **Joe T. E. Gomez, Edward Hagen, David Pool**

25 years **Esther Buskirk, Kenneth Dahn, Robert Davis, Herbert Dunsmoor, Bill Fritz,**

Eugene Hunt, Deborah Kimbrell, Mary Kucher, Vicki Moseley, Terry Nelsen, Mildred Sears, Bruce Whitcomb, Ronnie Whittle

20 years **Camilla Deckert, Deborah Foster, Dennis Glenn, Robert Goodwin, Richard Greenwold, John Hurley, Kenneth Moy, Kelly Quintana**

15 years **Denise Bennett, Rhonda Hopkins, George Juniel, Badri Kapoor, Douglas Rierson, Evangeline Robinson, Thomas Van Sittert, Curtis Stevens, Oscar Valdez**

10 years **Daniel Blumenthal, Kevin Davis, Thomas DeVore, Charles Diamond, Marie Perez, Vincent Romero, Ernest Williams**

5 years **Ross Albright, Travis Alvey, Jeffrey Archambault, Shawna Archambault, Vicky Birkland, Johnny Burch, Maurice Cave, Ailei Chien, Douglas Clark, Dennis Dalley, Brian Delanty, Kenneth Delzer, Tamara Erickson, Cuahutemoc Gonzalez, Matthew Gurule, Richard Hacking, Michael Harding, Bret Haynes, Eric Hillenga, Lucinda Jackson, Billy**

Johnson, Brian Konrad, Heather Krumnow, Michael Kruzic, Don Lamoreaux, Dexter Lee, Michael McKinnon, Alfred Meidinger, Jonathan O'Connor, Ellen Parchim, Rosa Perez, Glenn Richardson, Jesus Saldana, Josh Sargent, Thomas Seaver, Dovie Spear, Matthew Streeton, Wayne Toone, Danny Trueworthy, Joshua Tybo, Norman Vinson, Fred Watson, Rosemary Wood, Phillip Worley, Jerry Yanke

NCI /CNSI

5 years **Krenn Scott**

Ruckman Associates Inc.

15 years **Sand Reed**

Sandia National Laboratories

20 years **Daniel Nelson**

Wackenhut Services, Inc.

5 years **Rodger Gatlula**

Face-to-Face

Name: Cara Houston
Title: Software Administrator/PC Tech
Company: Stoller Navarro Joint Venture
Hometown: Las Vegas (Since she was 2 years old.)
Hobbies: She enjoys spending time with her 11-year-old and four crazy pets and enjoys four-wheeling, attending her son's baseball games, and exercising.



Cara believes her most significant contribution to the company so far has been facilitating better communication with our information technology customers. This creates faster response times and a more productive environment. Something she's learned that makes her better at what she does today is to be more organized with her work. Both her mentor and manager are "neat freaks" with about everything they do, so picking up on some of their habits has made her life a little easier and she is thus more productive. She tries to learn something from those around her. If she could have any job it would be as a dance teacher because she enjoys different types of dancing, enjoys teaching, and likes a good balance between fun and work. Most people wouldn't know that Cara has never traveled outside of the United States.

SiteLines

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	Michelle Meade	Nancy Tufano
	Darwin Morgan	

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Calendar of Events

August 29

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, Non-Proliferation Test and Evaluation Complex, T-1 Training Area drive by, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter**, BN (702) 295-0944.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, and Trade Shows

July 24-26

The International Association of Emergency Managers presents Combating Bioterrorism/Pandemics: Implementing Policies for Biosecurity in Cambridge, MA. The conference will cover the challenges that governmental agencies are facing with the added responsibility of ensuring biosecurity through topics such as: Impediments to Organizational Change: professional norms, organizational routines and culture, The New Focus on Vaccine Development, and several case studies. For more information, go to http://web.mit.edu/mitpep/pi/courses/combating_bioterrorism.html.

August 6-9

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) presents the 2006 Utility Working Conference And Vendor Technology Expo -- "Excellence Today and Into the Future" -- in Amelia Island, Fla. Sessions will cover the following main topic areas: Performance Improvement, Probabilistic Risk Analysis, Quality Assurance, Regulatory Regulations and Work Management. For more information, visit the ANS at <http://www.ans.org/meetings/>

August 13-17

The International Society for Optical Engineering presents "Optics and Photonics 2006" at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, Calif. With over 2,600 technical

presentations, 70 courses, 370 exhibitors, and over 5,000 scientists, engineers, managers and salespeople, Optics & Photonics offers both classic and cutting-edge optics and photonics research, training, and product information. For more information go to: <http://spie.org/conferences/programs/06/op/>.

August 16-19

The International Association of Emergency Managers will be sponsoring the Chicago Fire Department 2006 Life Safety Conference: Large Scale Incident Evacuations at Navy Pier in Chicago, Ill. Hot topics at this conference include: mass evacuation planning; crisis communications; dealing with post-event decontamination (bio-hazards); Emergency Management Systems: dealing with the elderly/hospitalized; high-rise incident command; mutual aid; hands-on demos; training and certifications; and town hall meetings with experienced international building and fire professionals. Learn from those involved in Katrina, Gulf disasters, New York power outages, and more. For more information go to <http://www.cfdconference.com/>

August 17

The American Industrial Hygiene Association, along with E-A-R® and Peltor® Brand, presents the E-A-R Hearing Conservation Seminars. The August 17 seminar, which will be held in San Ramon, Calif., at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, will emphasize current hearing protection regulations, equipment, employee training programs, and legal issues related to noise hazards and hearing conservation. This day-long seminar will discuss in detail, how to assess noise problems and properly protect your employees. For more information, go to <http://www.e-a-r.com/hearingconservation/earseminars.cfm>.