Suspect/Counterfeit items found at NTS

by Pat Mars

During the last 20 years, industry has become aware of a massive influx of counterfeit bolts in the American market. Counterfeiting is a problem present not only in fasteners but also in numerous other nuclear and non-nuclear components as well. The automobile industry has witnessed similar problems with bogus parts, and the aviation industry is struggling with an increasing influx of unapproved parts and assemblies.

Congratulations to the BN employees who recently identified suspect/counterfeit items (SCI) and brought it to the attention of management at the NTS. S/CI found included counterfeit bolts in ratchet strap assemblies by construction services, suspect BRZ Ball Valves by general facilities, stainless steel bolts installed in a pressure vessel by experimentation support, and counterfeit bolts found installed in a ventilation system by nuclear operations. There were also suspect bolts discovered at the U1h complex. Those bolts were replaced by the manufacturer.

Some manufacturers and suppliers use inferior materials and processes to manufacture substandard items whose properties can significantly vary from established standards and specifications. Substandard materials, known as S/CI, pose immediate and potential threats to the safety of the DOE, NNSA and contractor workers, the public and the environment. Failure of a safety system due to an S/CI could also have security implications at DOE and NNSA facilities.

In most cases, fraud is the cause of the problem. Companies or persons who misrepresent and provide materials that do not meet consensus standards are in fact defrauding the government, industry and the public. Unfortunately, this problem continues to increase despite measures to detect and eliminate counterfeit, bogus, or unapproved items. In 1994, counterfeiting was estimated to be a $20 billion business in the United States. By 2000, it had expanded to a $200 billion business ($1 trillion globally).

Identified counterfeit, bogus or unapproved materials (and any other term an industry may use for these items) include electrical breakers and switches, bolts, tube steel, flanges, lifting slings, and brake pads and linings. Commercial nuclear and private industries, as well as the government and the public, are not safe from these parts and materials. Their presence is pervasive and the consequences are real; tragedies have occurred as the result of materials that did not meet required design specifications.

This problem is not new. Counterfeiting, copyright and trademark infringements, and out-and-out fraud have been occurring in this country since regulations were first established. Unfortunately, a high percentage of these activities originate from foreign sources, sometimes to the knowledge of U.S. importers. Allowing these unscrupulous business activities to take place is unacceptable. Detection of counterfeit, bogus, or unapproved products is possible, but identifying these items is everyone's responsibility with the assistance of qualified personnel to aid in making the final determination.

photo courtesy of Bechtel Nevada

An example of a counterfeit bolt found on a ratchet assembly at the NTS.

Since January 1, 2004, 75 occurrence reports have been generated within the DOE complex identifying S/CI at different locations.

A list of suppliers and materials is published by DOE in the "Suspect/ Counterfeit Items Identified at DOE Facilities" booklet which is available on the Contractor Assurance home page. BN also maintains a Company Directive for S/CI titled CD-3200.004.

If any items are identified and there is a concern that the item may be suspect or counterfeit, please contact either **Pat Mars** at **(702) 295-0167** or **Tony Cannon** at **(702) 295-2095** for assistance.

NNSA second-in-command visits Nevada

photo by Mary Scodwell

NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator Jerry Paul (right) gets a briefing on Nevada Site Office emergency response capabilities from Don Daigler at the Remote Sensing Laboratory. In addition to RSL, Paul was briefed at the Nevada Test Site on current national security mission work. Paul was recently confirmed by the Senate as the number two person within NNSA.

Contents

SITE LINES

Issue 100 August 2004

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NV family

RSL assists with Salton Sea research

As part of NNSA's operations, aircraft-borne and ground-based sensing equipment are on standby to acquire data in the event of a radiological accident or natural disaster. To ensure that the instruments work properly and to hone its employees' skills, RSL, operated by Bechtel Nevada, performs training exercises that include over-flights of large tracts of government property in the western United States. In the process, the flights sometimes offer an opportunity to collect data for other government agencies.

Last year, RSL performed over-flights of the Salton Sea — California's largest lake, an important habitat for migrating birds, and the focus of intensive efforts to stabilize salt concentration and nutrients. Because the Salton Sea is in a closed basin restored mostly by agricultural runoff instead of fresh water, constant evaporation increases the lake's salinity. Changes in salinity affect the health of fish, plants surrounding the lake, and migrating waterfowl. It is now about 25 percent saltier than the Pacific Ocean.

In planning the flights, the lab checked in with scientists at the Salton Sea Authority, a California organization that consists of several water and irrigation districts, counties, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Salton Sea Science Office. The Authority identifies and assesses environmental problems associated with the lake and nearby farming interests.

One USGS scientist, Dr. Douglas Barnum, thought data gathered by RSL could provide him with methods to monitor parameters at the Salton Sea more economically than the labor-intensive technology he had been using and also lower the risks associated with people sampling such a large body of water. Barnum was particularly intrigued with measuring salinity, chlorophyll A, and turbidity with remote sensing platforms.

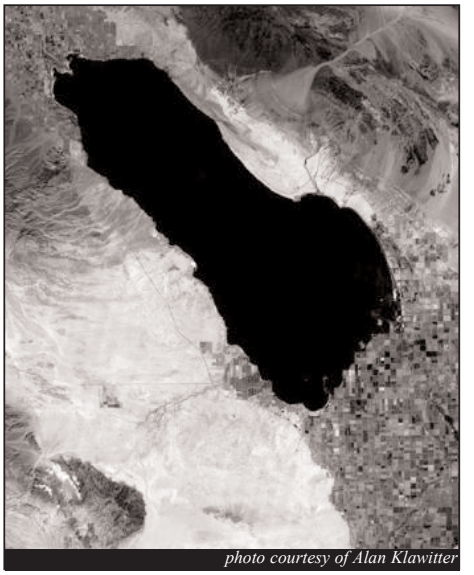

photo courtesy of Alan Klawitter

Satellite image of the Salton Sea – the largest body of water west of the Rocky Mountains.

Because RSL was deploying thermal scanners that it had used in assisting the New York City Fire Department after the World Trade Center disaster, Barnum was also interested in testing a personal theory about the Salton Sea. He believes that geothermal hotspots caused by the San Andreas Fault may be located on the lakebed and that certain salt-tolerant species of African fish seek out these warmer waters during cooler winter months.

RSL assisted Barnum's research by leaving the scanners on over the eastern shore of the lake after acquiring the pre-dawn thermal imagery of the geothermal plants that it needed. The geothermal power plants, located at the southern tip of the lake and operated by CalEnergy, made excellent locations to calibrate scanners used to acquire temperature information and water properties, such as chlorophyll content, turbidity, and salinity. RSL collected additional scanning imagery along the northern and southern edges of the lake to provide validation data to corroborate sampling efforts conducted by traditional methods during the RSL over-flights.

BEYOND THE CALL

NTS firefighters to the rescue

by Davey Matthews

Four NTS Fire and Rescue firefighters, trained as hazardous material technicians, were dispatched to Pahrump on July 22, 2004, to assist Nye County authorities with a potentially deadly hazardous material incident. Responding to the incident were NTS firefighters **Mike Kennedy** and **Terry Choyce**, Chief's Aide **Bill Nixon**, and Fire Engineer **Joey Sandoval**.

The incident began when a realtor checking a vacant building in Pahrump for possible business applications came across a surprise – three 55-gallon drums, one of which was leaking a material that had eaten into the surface of the building's concrete apron.

A tenant had left the material when the lease expired more than five years ago. Two of the drums were marked. One contained 35 percent solution of hydrogen peroxide and the other contained 20 percent solution of hydrochloric acid. The third drum – the one that was leaking a liquid caustic enough to etch concrete – was unmarked but later proved to be nitric acid. All three barrels were closely grouped together not more than 50 feet from a residence.

If hydrogen peroxide mixes with either hydrochloric acid or nitric acid, it can explode violently. Hydrogen peroxide in itself at the strength found in the barrel can result in spontaneous combustion if it comes in contact with combustible material. Both the acids emit irritating fumes and can cause respiratory problems. If all three chemicals were mixed, it would be considered a high hazard situation.

"I knew this was a response that exceeded our manpower and resources," said **Steve Maison**, battalion chief for Nye County Emergency Services.

In addition to help from local communities, he requested assistance from the NNSA/NSO under a mutual aid agreement. "We didn't know what the third barrel contained but knew it had to be nasty stuff because of the damage to the concrete," Maison said. "We also couldn't tell how fragile the other barrels might be when we tried to move them. Having those extra hands and the expertise from the test site made all the difference in ensuring this was a safe and successful operation."

County emergency preparedness staff surmised that the defunct business used the chemicals as part of a soil/rock/core sample analysis process. The building owner has been located and may be held financially accountable for the response operation and additional cleanup activities.

photo by Davey Matthews

***Joey Sandoval** and **Bill Nixon** of the NTS Fire and Rescue were two of the three entry team members who placed three drums of hazardous material into overpack containers during a mutual aid response to Pahrump.*

photo by Davey Matthews

*Members of the NTS Fire and Rescue, seated, get help suiting up from Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue staff. From left to right are **Mike Kennedy**, **Bill Nixon**, **Terry Choyce** and **Joey Sandoval**.*

BN employee goes to the RACES

In addition to his work as part of the technical staff at RSL-Nellis, **Steven Goldman** loves RACES – the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. RACES is a public service provided by a volunteer communications group within government agencies in times of extraordinary need. During periods of RACES activation, certified unpaid personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government agencies they serve. Although the exact nature of every activation will be different, the common thread is communications.

Goldman, who holds an extra class amateur radio license, was recently called upon to support more than 300 firefighters, air tankers, and helicopters fighting the Robbers Fire from July 26-29, 2004. A flatbed truck coming down the mountain overheated its brakes. The driver lost control of the truck causing it to roll over into some brush which then ignited and started the fire. The fire consumed nearly 300 acres between Lee Canyon and Kyle Canyon in the Mount Charleston area just outside of Las Vegas.

If you are interested in obtaining a radio license, Goldman also teaches amateur radio classes at Nellis Air Force Base during the year. The next entry level amateur radio class begins September 8, 2004. For more information about amateur radio or upcoming classes, contact Goldman by phone at **(702) 363-0384,** via e-mail at n7jaz@arrl.net or visit http://www.lvhamtest.com.

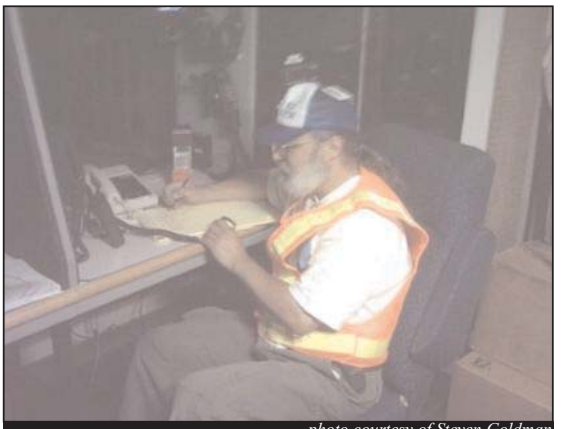

photo courtesy of Steven Goldman

***Steven Goldman**, BN employee, provides radio support during the Robbers Fire in July.*

News Briefs

Safety culture improvement project underway

by La Tomya R. Glass

"What does safety mean to you?"

This question was one of several asked during a series of focus group meetings conducted with federal, contractor and laboratory personnel in July. As part of a safety culture improvement project, focus group participants were encouraged to provide open and candid comments on the status of the current safety environment throughout the NNSA/NSO complex.

The project was initiated by NNSA/NSO and BN management, and its purpose is to carefully consider the condition of our safety culture and to make any necessary improvements.

The primary driver for undertaking this effort is the findings identified by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) following the NASA Space Shuttle Columbia accident. A key finding was that a less then adequate safety culture existed at NASA. Additional drivers include the findings of an NNSA Lessons Learned Review of the CAIB report, letters and recommendations from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and a third party review of the Sandia National Laboratories safety culture.

A consulting firm is assisting in the safety culture improvement effort by conducting focus group meetings and analyzing the collected data. The information gained from this effort will help move the NNSA/NSO complex from the traditional, compliance-based safety culture to one which is visible, empowered, integrated and proactive.

Look for the focus group findings later this summer.

Up, up and away

photo courtesy of NNSA/NSO Office of Public Affairs

***Rick Lantrip**, Air Resources Laboratory (ARL), prepares instruments prior to the release of a pibal weather balloon in the North Las Vegas complex. The mobile upper-air sounding, taken by ARL/Special Operations and Research Division (SORD) personnel, measures atmospheric stability and winds aloft. These soundings usually reach altitudes of 100,000 feet. SORD forecasters use these data to help predict thunderstorm and lightning activity on the NTS.*

Trees grow new roots

photo by La Tomya R. Glass

The south side of building C-1 in the North Las Vegas Complex is ready to receive some of the trees that were removed from buildings B-1 and B-2 in preparation of their demolition.

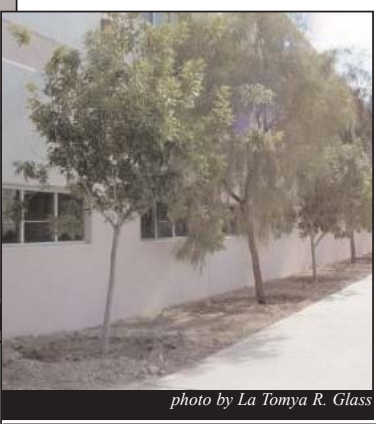

photo by La Tomya R. Glass

Transplanted trees now provide some shade to the south side of building C-1.

Key to Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
BN	Bechtel Nevada
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
EM	Emergency Management
EM	Environmental Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
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
NTS	Nevada Test Site
PIP	Process Improvement Project
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SC	Service Center
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

This feature highlights various components of the Six Sigma process at the NNSA/NSO complex. A monthly article will detail the Six Sigma process, individual PIPs, the team members associated with Six Sigma, or the anticipated benefits and cost savings associated with implementing the PIPs.

Six Sigma leaders recognized

On July 22, the Six Sigma Operating Committee hosted a celebration to recognize yellow belts and champions who are leading BN in process improvements. These yellow belts and champions are successfully using six sigma techniques to reduce cost, increase efficiency, and improve quality.

Thirty-five employees were acknowledged for achieving the status of Certified Yellow Belt. This designation requires the completion of 40 hours of training, a written exam, and demonstrated competency in the use of yellow belt tools. The yellow belts must also develop and deliver a presentation demonstrating their work. The Certified Yellow Belts recognized were: **Jeff Anderson, Allison Brinkmeyer, Maurice Craven, Jr., Dean Dennis, Jim Dockery, Melinda Dodds, Ron Duplex, Bryan Elliott, Amanda Ellsworth, Tiffany Emmitt, Liz Federmack, Cherri French, Jerry Freter, Pam Halton, Phil Harpster, Theresa Hatch, Jan Hough-DiLorenzo, Cindy Howell, Matt LaFrancesca, Sandy Lamb, Kent Marlett, Debbie Mavros, Ted Mendenhall, Mike Opalka, Terry Richardson, Rose Rosenberry, Anita Ross, Dick Schlueter, Greg Shott, Pat Smith, Jason Smylie, Michele Vochosky, B.J. Willeford, Mark Williams,** and **Lisa Yeomelakis**.

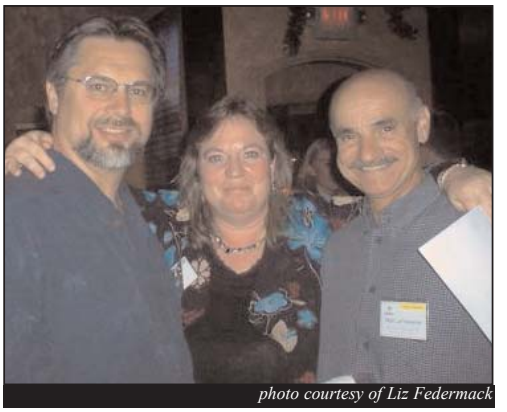

photo courtesy of Liz Federmack

(From left to right) ***Maurice Craven***, ***Helen Hall*** *and* ***Matt LaFrancesca*** *enjoy the celebration of their Six Sigma success.*

Eleven champions were also recognized for successful completion of all 2004 champion expectations. Champions are required to complete training, actively sponsor their yellow belts, complete a PIP in 2004, present their PIP, and share a success story. The champions that met all of the 2004 expectations are: **Dennis Dugan, Shelly Freid, Helen Hall, Randy McCamant, Doug Miller, Ralph Musick, Dick Schlueter, Jeff Smith, Dan Steinberg, Cathi Tharin,** and **Fred Williams**.

In total, these champions and yellow belts have completed more than 25 PIPs. The PIPs reflect the diverse work scope at BN with process improvements ranging from mining, creating engineering drawings, improving fabrication processes, streamlining waste handling, supply chain improvements, and managing facilities. The results from their efforts also include more than three million dollars in financial benefit to BN's customers.

To learn more about Six Sigma, visit the BN Six Sigma Web site at http://bnhome.nv.doe.gov/sixsigma/default.htm

The ins and outs of low-level waste disposal at the NTS

by Angela Ramsey

For more than 40 years, the NTS has safely disposed of low-level waste at its radioactive waste management facilities. As one of two federally designated regional disposal sites for the entire DOE complex, NTS fulfills a critical service by accepting low-level waste resulting from ongoing DOE missions as well as complex-wide cleanup and closure activities. The NTS currently accepts low-level waste from a total of 26 low-level waste generators. Three new generators are expected to be added this year and two to three more in 2005.

The following points describe some of the ins and outs of the NTS waste disposal process:

photo courtesy of Environmental Management

Once waste cells are filled, such as the one seen here at the Area 5 RWMS, they are covered with soil and closed.

How does the NTS make sure that incoming waste meets disposal criteria? Long before the waste even arrives at the NTS, it has undergone a thorough review to ensure that not only the waste material itself meets the rigid NTS disposal criteria, but also that the DOE site generating the waste has followed all the appropriate rules to ensure regulatory compliance. This is done through onsite audits and reviews of the waste generator program and characterization data.

What happens when waste arrives at the Nevada Test Site? The waste shipment is closely inspected – from the paperwork carried by the driver to the waste packages themselves. Waste packages are checked to verify that they are intact and the contents are secure. Once the paperwork and waste packages are inspected the waste is then staged for disposal.

photo courtesy of Environmental Management

Low-level waste boxes are methodically stacked in a numbered grid system, which aids in waste tracking.

Where is the waste disposed? Low-level waste is disposed at one of the NTS' two radioactive waste management sites (RWMS). At the Area 5 RWMS, low-level waste is disposed of in engineered cells (i.e., cells have gone through formal engineering design and construction). At the Area 3 RWMS, low-level waste is disposed of in subsidence craters that resulted from underground weapons tests. Once filled, both cells and craters are covered with 13 feet of soil.

How big are the disposal cells? Cells range from 83 to 1,133 feet long; between 30 to 336 feet wide; and between 12 to 48 feet deep.

What types of containers are used for low-level waste? At the Area 5 RWMS, low-level waste for the most part is packaged in standard 55 gallon drums or metal boxes. The boxes are constructed to specific strength standards to ensure worker safety in the disposal cells. At the Area 3 RWMS, waste is typically disposed of in bulk sized containers such as large cargo containers, monoliths or super sacks. Pieces of large equipment are sometimes disposed of intact.

Can low-level waste be tracked and retrieved? Yes, the waste is disposed of using a grid system so that waste can be tracked and, if necessary, retrieved.

What does the waste consist of? The majority of low-level waste disposed at the NTS consists of equipment, protective clothing, building debris, and soil associated with the development and production of nuclear weapons and associated environmental clean up.

Are workers required to wear protective clothing when handling low-level waste? For the most part, workers are *not* required to wear protective clothing when handling low-level waste. The waste packaging itself (i.e., drums, boxes, etc.) provides sufficient protection from the contents of the containers. However, NTS occasionally handles low-level waste streams that require workers to wear personal protective equipment, such as respirators.

What sort of monitoring is performed at the waste disposal facilities? Workers are monitored with radiation detectors called dosimeters. The air, ground, and biota at the RWMSs are continuously monitoring as well.

How much land has been used so far for waste disposal? At Area 5, more than 700 acres are available for low-level waste disposal. At the present time, a little more than 120 acres has been utilized for disposal activities. The Area 3 RWMS consists of 125 acres, containing 7 craters. Approximately, four and one half craters have been used.

How much waste can be accepted? To date, over 29 million cubic feet have been disposed. Conservative projections place the upper limit of disposal at approximately 140 million cubic feet.

For more information on waste disposal, please visit our Web site at www.nv.doe.gov/programs/envmgmt/default.htm.

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Partnering for Education

E-Mentoring: A new approach

by Kurt Arnold

For the past three years, Bechtel Nevada has actively participated in the Clark County School District's Stay in School Mentoring Program. With employee involvement steadily increasing each year, the program has evolved into a unique opportunity to mentor future leaders.

Since 1996, Bechtel Nevada has partnered with the Clark County School District's School-Community Partnership Program, which manages the Stay in School Mentoring Program and other educational programs (JASON Project, Professionals and Youth Building a Commitment [PAYBAC], and the Focus School Program). Designed to provide students with positive connections with adults who motivate them to succeed, the Stay in School Mentoring Program pairs a student with an assigned mentor, who then meet on a weekly basis.

Within the Stay in School Mentoring Program is a fairly new program, the E-Mentoring Program. This program incorporates computer technology with the typical mentoring program that allows mentors (e-mentors) to communicate with their mentees (e-mentees) via weekly e-mail messages. This addition provides the largest number of mentors to reach the largest number of students with a minimal commitment of time and resources. Since the program uses computers to communicate, employees scattered across Las Vegas and in other states can easily participate as e-mentors.

Bechtel Nevada teamed with one of its Focus School partners, Jim Bridger Junior High School, to pilot test the E-Mentoring Program. Over the past three years, enhancements were made to the program. **Milana Winter**, principal at Jim Bridger Junior High School, suggested modifying the program to include sixth grade students rather than eighth graders. This change would enable e-mentors to interface with their assigned e-mentee for three years rather than just one year. While the program undergoes changes as it continues to grow, Jim Bridger Junior High School has also experienced some changes. The school became a magnet school for science, math, and technology.

This year's volunteer e-mentors include many charter members as well as new mentors. These dedicated employees experienced a wide range of challenges with this year's program and made a positive impact on the lives of the students.

Michele Antuney, Yvonne Arreguin, Vickie Baker, Jann Bisterfeldt, Mark Bouscaren, Allison Brinkmeyer, Brenda Carter, Glenda Cates, Kuan Chin, Doug P. Clark, Ashley Cushman, Thomas DePrizio, Douglas Devore, Melinda Dodds, Gregory Doyle, Jane Dunlap, Elizabeth Federmack, Michael Gibo, Kathy Grizzle, Theresa Hatch, Danette Hatfield, Jamie Hawkins, Elizabeth Hill, Ronna Hoesch, Darlene Holseth, Kim Holton, Mike Izard, Carrie Johnson-Booker, Mike Jones, Anita Katterheinrich, Kirsten Kellogg, John Kitt, Paul Kruger, Denise Langendorf, Carolyn Lima, Cindy Lloyd, Frank Loza, Terri Marotta, Lorraine Marshall, Cynthia Matthews, Savannah Mills, Amy Moore, Patrick Morris, Jennifer Morton, Shawn Muehlbauer, Cheryl Oar, Judy Owens, Alberta Patterson, Tonja Patton, Charisa Peltzer, Jane Ann Pete, Kelly Quintana, Stu Rawlinson, Angela Ray, Theodore Redding, Andrew Riggs, Randy Rohde, Anita Ross, Patrice Sanchez, Mary Savage, Judy Schachet, Jon Schumacher, Jerry Shakal, Barrett Shaw, Alice Shillock, Beverly Slater, Pam Soper, Anna Strong, John F. Sullivan, Jerry Taylor, Yvonne Townsend, Nancy Tufano, Kathy Utiger, Heidi Utz, George Van Houten, Lorin Westlund, Sarah Yenglin, Lisa Yeomelakis, Theresa Zellers, and **Sue Ziehm**

Thank you e-mentors!

For additional information about the Stay in School Mentoring Program or the E-Mentoring Program, contact **Kurt Arnold**, Bechtel Nevada, at **(702) 295-5792**.

Back to school safety reminders

by Kurt Arnold

As classes resume this fall, our streets and crosswalks will once again contain students heading back to school. As commuters, it is our responsibility to obey the rules of the road and remain aware of signs and speed limits in and around our schools. Be cautious of students walking, riding bicycles, skateboarding, and rollerblading to and from school.

Listed below are a few safety reminders for motorists:

- Watch for flashing yellow lights in school zones and pedestrian crosswalks.
- Observe the posted school zone speed limits. Stiffer penalties are given if you are caught speeding in a school zone.
- Flashing red lights on a school bus mean that approaching traffic must stop in **both** directions. Students are either boarding or exiting the bus and may cross in front of the school bus.
- Slow down when approaching pedestrian crosswalks.
- Stop for pedestrians waiting to cross in crosswalks. Do not motion for students to cross until all traffic has stopped.
- During school hours, look **very** carefully for pedestrians before turning into a pedestrian crosswalk

Watch for crossing guards donned in orange vests near intersections or school zones.

Become familiar with the school zones and the speed limits on your commute to and from work. Slow down and watch for students and crossing guards in and near pedestrian crosswalks. Drive safely!

In the next issue of *SiteLines*:

- Demolition of the "B" buildings in North Las Vegas
- New Operations Coordination Center at the NTS
- Controlling your cholesterol

Retirements

Harry B. Bostick – Bechtel Nevada
Gary A. Rocha – Bechtel Nevada

In Memory

Patricia Antuna – former contractor employee
David D. Babb – former contractor employee
Daniel DiLorenzo – Bechtel Nevada employee
James E. Doyle – former contractor employee
Umeichi Kanemoto – former contractor employee
David F. Miller – former AEC/ERDA/DOE employee
John D. Russell – former contractor employee
Henry P. Schlacks – former AEC/ERDA/DOE employee

Face-to-Face

Name: Kevin Rohrer

Company: NNSA Nevada Site Office

Job Title: Lead Public Affairs Specialist

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Hobbies/
Interests: Outdoor activities with my family, remodeling my house, making home brewed beer, riding ATVs, swimming, and being a "closet" community activist on growth issues

...To your health...

The ABC's of hepatitis

by La Tomya R. Glass and Karen Sondrol-Maxwell

What is hepatitis?

Hepatitis is a liver disease caused by infections from various organisms, including bacteria, viruses (hepatitis A, B, C, etc.), or parasites. Chemical toxins such as alcohol, drugs, or poisonous mushrooms can also damage the liver and cause it to become inflamed. A rare but extremely dangerous cause of hepatitis results from an overdose of acetaminophen (Tylenol), which can be deadly. In addition, immune cells in the body may attack the liver and cause autoimmune hepatitis. Hepatitis may resolve quickly (acute hepatitis) or cause long-term disease (chronic hepatitis). In some instances, progressive liver damage or liver failure may result.

Types of hepatitis:

Hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It is transmitted by contaminated food, water or contact with a person ill with hepatitis A. This usually occurs through a person's stools, blood and secretions. The HAV is shed in the stools during the incubation period of 15 to 45 days before symptoms occur and the first week of illness. Poor hygiene can contribute to contamination of objects, food, etc. This virus does not stay in the body after the infection is resolved. A person can spread hepatitis A to others without ever becoming ill. There are blood tests to diagnose hepatitis A and physical examinations may show an enlarged liver.

There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A. During the acute stage, rest, adequate nutrition, and avoiding alcohol and Tylenol or other acetaminophen containing products is recommended.

Reduce the chances of getting hepatitis A by avoiding contaminated food and water; hand washing after using the restroom; and cleansing after contact with an infected person's blood, feces or secretions.

The hepatitis A vaccine is the best protection against the virus. An injection of immune globulin is given for short term protection.

Hepatitis B is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It can be transmitted from unsafe sex or from infected blood or body fluids (contact with open wounds or mucous membranes). Hepatitis B is highly contagious and some people may become carriers or have chronic liver disease. This disease may cause permanent liver damage and is nearly 100 times more infectious than human immunodeficiency virus, otherwise known as HIV. The highest rate of this disease occurs in adults 20 to 49 years old. Routine vaccination from the disease in recent years has significantly decreased the virus in children and adolescents.

Treatment of chronic hepatitis B includes drug therapy and avoidance of alcohol and medications that may lead to liver damage including Tylenol or acetaminophen containing products. Many people have no symptoms. They do not know they have the virus unless they get a blood test. If you know that you have been exposed to HBV, call your doctor immediately. Receiving an injection of hepatitis B immune globulin within 24 hours of contact may protect you from developing hepatitis B.

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The virus is found in the blood and can lead to chronic liver disease, liver cancer or liver failure. It ranks second only to alcoholism as a cause of liver disease and is a leading reason for liver transplants in the United States. The virus is known to spread through body piercing and tattoos due to improper or unsanitary technique. About 80 percent of people can live for years without any symptoms at all. For some, the most common symptom is extreme fatigue.

Avoid spreading these diseases to others by practicing good personal hygiene. Proper hand washing is extremely important. Don't share toothbrushes, needles, razors, or other personal items that may have blood on them, and cover open wounds. Practice safe sex by using condoms. If you think you may have been exposed, contact your personal physician.

If you have any questions regarding hepatitis, please contact **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell**, BN Occupational Health Nurse, at **(702) 295-1474**. For further information about hepatitis, visit the following web sites:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/a/fact.htm
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/b/fact.htm
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/fact.htm

If you think you may have been exposed or are currently experiencing symptoms, contact your personal physician. The following are risk factors of hepatitis A, B, and C.

Risk for hepatitis A:
- travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common (eating raw shellfish from contaminated water, drinking contaminated water or ice, eating raw fruits and vegetables)
- a person who lives in the same household or has sex with someone with hepatitis A
- men who have sex with men
- a person who uses street drugs
- children and employees in child care centers
- workers who handle HAV infected animals or who work in HAV research laboratories
- a person with a clotting disorder who receives factor concentrates
- a person with chronic liver disease

Risk for hepatitis B:
- have unsafe sex
- men who have sex with men
- have more than one sex partner
- have another sexually transmitted disease
- share needles
- work in health care
- live with someone with hepatitis B
- is a kidney dialysis patient
- body piercing and tattoos (improper or unsanitary technique)

Risk of hepatitis C:
- received an organ transplant or blood transfusion before July 1992
- treated with a blood product for clotting products made before 1987
- have ever been on long-term dialysis
- have ever injected street drugs at any time
- known blood exposure

Photo capabilities added to the Material Exchange database

by Al Karns

The Material Exchange Web site now has the capability to include pictures of items available for reuse. The new photo capability enhances the item description by enabling employees to actually see what the item looks like.

The Material Exchange program was developed to find new users for office supplies, equipment and chemicals no longer needed by their current owners. If an employee or department has a usable item they no longer need, they can advertise the item on the Material Exchange Web site. **Items for the Material Exchange should be in good working condition**. Broken, worn out items should be discarded. Employees can go "shopping" on the Material Exchange Web site by browsing the list of available items. Upon finding items of interest, shoppers can request those items at no cost to them. Items obtained through the Material Exchange are for company use only and should not be taken home for personal use.

If you would like to browse the Material Exchange available items list, go to the BN home page. Go to the "Daily Needs" dropdown menu, click on "Material Exchange" and then on the "View Available Items" button on the left-hand side of the page. If you are new to the site, it will ask you to fill in some information about yourself and click on "Submit." If you have already logged onto the site before, it will pull up your information and ask you to verify the information is correct. You can "Modify" the information or "Submit" if correct. Once you submit your information, you will be directed to the list of available items. Each item on the list contains a description of the item and the quantity available. If a photo is available, a "View" button will appear. If you find an item you are interested in, click on the "Request" button, enter the quantity you would like to have and click "Submit." The item will be placed in your shopping cart, and you will be taken back to the list of available items. Once you are done shopping, you can view the items in your shopping cart by clicking on the "Shopping Cart" button on the left-hand side of the page. The list of items you have requested will appear. You can delete items from the list, continue shopping, or, if satisfied with your list, log out. Within a few days, you should receive your requested items.

If you have items you would like to add to the list, once on the Material Exchange Web site, click on the "Add New Item(s)" button on the left-hand side of the page. Enter the item name, a description, available quantity and the units. If you have a photo of the item (should be a .jpg file), click on the "Attach Photo" button. An e-mail form will appear. Attach the file containing the photo to the e-mail and click "Send." Once all of the information has been entered for the item, hit "Submit." A new line will appear where you can add the information for a second item and so on. Once you have entered all of your items, you can exit the site.

A link to the users guide is located on the left-hand side of the Web site. If you need assistance or have questions regarding the Material Exchange program, please call **Dodie Haworth (702) 295-0656** or **Al Karns (702) 295-5689**.

Lessons Learned

Battery short circuits in employee shirt pocket

by Doris Burnett

An NTS employee was transporting several nine-volt batteries in their shirt pocket. The batteries had plastic covers over the terminals, and the employee placed a metallic medic- alert necklace into the same pocket. A short time later, the employee detected the odor of something burning and felt something hot on the shirt. The employee removed the contents from the pocket and was burned on the fingers which resulted in blisters.

Objects including coins and jewelry can cause a nine-volt battery to short-circuit which in turn causes resistive heating and can result in injury. Other small batteries (i.e., A, AA, C, D, etc.) are less of an issue because their terminals are at opposite ends. However, jewelry, key chains and other metal objects could short the terminals and still cause a similar problem.

To prevent injury, transport batteries in a manner that does not allow the terminals to short circuit. Carry nine-volt batteries in a small box packed so the terminals will not touch metal or other battery terminals. Never carry batteries in a pocket.

For more information on this and other Lessons Learned, contact **Doris Burnett** at **(702) 295-5580**.

Milestones

Bechtel Nevada

35 years — *Las Vegas* – **Nilo Cruz, Kenneth Schechter**

30 years — *Las Vegas* – **William Wagner**; *Nevada Test Site* – **Joan Tourville, Donald Western**

25 years — *Nevada Test Site* – **Johnnie Brooks, Jr., Stephen Coleman, Johnny Denny, Jr.**; *Los Alamos Operations* – **Larry Pirkl**

20 years — *Las Vegas* – **James Zovi**; *Nevada Test Site* – **Patrick Clancy, Mary Reed**

15 years — *Las Vegas* – **Keith Kolb**; *Los Alamos Operations* – **Robert Parks**; *Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews Operations* – **Ethan Smith**

10 years — *Las Vegas* – **Thomas Fitzmaurice, Robert Lambert, Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay, Edward Polosky**; *Nevada Test Site* – **Denise Galza**

5 years — *Las Vegas* – **Renee Hudson, Cindy McIntosh, James Sudderth, Earl Trail, Mary Wilkins, Alfreda Wilson**; *Nevada Test Site* – **Ronald Asuncion, Daniel Cloes, Galvin Edward, Marcene Raymer, Victoria Rogers, Angela Torres**; *Livermore Operations* – **Jeffrey Anderson**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* – **Fabrice Bernabe**; *Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews Operations* – **Douglas Butler**

New Hires — *Las Vegas* – **Daniel Drinnen, James Fautt, Prasoon Goyal, David Krausnick, Virginia La Vigne, Mark Merfalen, Sharon Nanez, Erik Petersen, Hernan Rico, Jr., Benjamin Simpson, Elaine Thomas, Conne Walton-Davison, Randall Yablonowski**; *Nevada Test Site* – **William Arbour, Jay Carr, Deborah Davidson, Robin Ireland, Badri Kapoor, Louise Kubeldis, John McCormick**

National Nuclear Security Administration - Nevada Site Office

25 years — **Geraldine Babero, Cynthia Lockwood**

Desert Research Institute

35 years — **Marilyn Allen**

5 years — **Tammy Kluesner, Rosemary Carroll**

Ruchman and Associates, Inc.

10 years — **Betty Knight**

Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

5 years — *Nevada Test Site* – **James Layton**

— Compiled by Kirsten Kellogg

Face-to-Face

Name: Patricia Molina

Employer: Bechtel Nevada

Title: Senior Workforce Administrator

Hometown: San Bernardino, CA

Hobbies/
Interests: Scrapbooking and rubber stamping

Face-to-Face

Name: Bridget Iverson

Company: Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture

Title: Environmental Scientist

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Hobbies/
Interests: Sports, museums, science and music

Face-to-Face

Name: Gary Kostick

Company: Wackenhut Services, Inc. – Nevada

Title: COMSEC Specialist

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hobbies/
Interests: Traveling (especially to ghost towns or other areas of interest), skiing, target shooting, woodworking/carving/wood burning, designing custom residential blueprints, boating, wakeboarding, scuba diving, and camping

Calendar of Events

September 6
NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 8
Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Nevada Test Site Programs public meeting. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. Bob Ruud Community Center, 150 North Highway 160, Pahrump. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NSO (702) 295-2836**.

September 8
Lecture by Antone (Tony) Brooks, Professor of Radiation Toxicology at Washington State University Tri-Cities. "Defining Low-Dose Cancer Risk: Are We Slaying Dragons or Jousting at Windmills?" Lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. Atomic Testing Museum, 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas. For additional information, call **(702) 794-5151**.

September 11
Yucca Mountain public tour, open to interested members of the public. For Las Vegas departure, call **800-225-6972**. For Pahrump departure, call **(775) 727-0896**. For additional information, visit http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/contact/upcoming.shtml

September 14
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building 6, Conference Room A, Cheyenne Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

September 16
Project Management Institute monthly membership meeting. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Texas Station Gambling Hall and Hotel. Contact **Peter Fiala**, VP of Membership, at **peterf@fialapr.com**. For additional information, visit http://www.pmi-snc.org

September 18
Yucca Mountain public tour, open to interested members of the public. For Las Vegas departure, call **800-225-6972**. For Pahrump departure, call **(775) 727-0896**. For additional information, visit http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/contact/upcoming.shtml

September 28
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702) 295-0944**.

September 28
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building C-1, Room 6610, North Las Vegas Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

October 12
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building 6, Conference Room A, Cheyenne Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

October 20
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702) 295-0944**.

October 21
Project Management Institute monthly membership meeting. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Palace Station Hotel and Casino. Contact **Peter Fiala**, VP of Membership, at **peterf@fialapr.com**. For additional information, visit http://www.pmi-snc.org

October 26
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building C-1, Room 6610, North Las Vegas Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

November 9
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building 6, Conference Room A, Cheyenne Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

November 10
Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Nevada Test Site Programs public meeting. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. Beatty Community Center, Beatty. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NSO (702) 295-2836**.

November 18
Project Management Institute monthly membership meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Palace Station Hotel and Casino. Contact **Peter Fiala**, VP of Membership, at **peterf@fialapr.com**. For additional information, visit http://www.pmi-snc.org

November 23
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702) 295-0944**.

November 23
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building C-1, Room 6610, North Las Vegas Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

Declassified Film Showings
For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, call **(702) 295-4015**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702) 295-5825**.

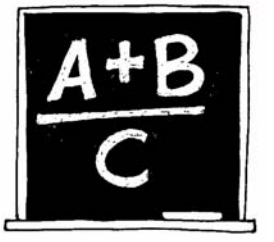
Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, and Trade Shows

October 20-23
2004 Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. For additional information, visit www.asce.org/conferences/annual04/

November 5-11
International Association of Emergency Managers 2004 Annual Meeting. Adams Mark, Dallas, Texas. For additional information, visit www.iaem.com/index.php

September is:

National School Success Month



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Baby Safety Month

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National Nuclear Security Administration

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