

## NNSS Commemorates 9/11 Fallen In Las Vegas Remembrance Event

Firefighters and employees of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) joined first responders, military and community leaders from across the country in Las Vegas to pay tribute to those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks during the 10th anniversary remembrance ceremony held in Las Vegas, Sept. 9-11, 2011.

The "9/11 Remembrance, *Igniting The Spirit Of Unity*" included events planned on all three days, including a 9.11K race and 1-mile walk, motorcycle and bicycle rides, a car show, and a parade. These events united the East Coast and the West Coast; from Las Vegas to New York. NNSS Fire and Rescue firefighters and paramedics also participated in the parade, which drew thousands of military and first responders from all over the state of Nevada and throughout the country, according to NNSS Fire Chief Charles Fauerbach.

In addition, the Atomic Testing Museum loaned one of its exhibits – a piece of steel from the World Trade Center – for display at Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. "Most of us remember exactly where we were on 9/11," Fauerbach said. The attacks claimed 343 firefighters' lives, and the lives of thousands of everyday citizens. "It's important that we never forget what took place and how it changed the lives of those who protect us."

For more on 9/11 Remembrance, see page 2.



NNSS Fire & Rescue Chief Charles Fauerbach (left) and his staff helped dedicate an I-beam from the World Trade Center last year at the Atomic Testing Museum.



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# SITELINES

## WSI Promotes Quality Assurance



Pictured in photo from left to right: David Bradley, WSI-Nevada Team General Manager; Jon Spezialetti; Susan Nance; Mister McDonnell; Tia Wirth; Darrell Baggs; Earlie Rose; Craig Anderson, WSI Hanford; Joyce Hopperton, Savannah River Site Team; Craig Brooks, OR; Richard Allen, WSI HQ.

The WSI-Nevada Team recently hosted a WSI Corporate Quality Assurance Conference in Las Vegas for WSI Quality Assurance professionals from all over the U.S. Department of Energy to establish the foundation for a corporate-wide quality assurance program. The successful outcomes reached will pave the way for more shared corporate involvement and oversight in site contract operations. "We have fifty years behind us. We need a QA program for WSI that is shaped by an extraordinary vision," said Richard Allen, WSI Headquarters. "The challenge becomes how do we take the pockets of excellence and bring them under one umbrella."

## Community Members, Groundwater Program Come Together With Special NNSS Tour

Groundwater was the focus of a special tour that took place recently at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). The small tour group, composed mainly of members of the public, got an up-close look at the extensive work that goes into the well operations, groundwater sampling, and monitoring programs at the Site. These activities are helping scientists better understand the movement of contamination resulting from historic underground nuclear tests.

"This was an opportunity for some citizens to see our sampling programs in action," said Federal Sub-Project Director and tour participant, Bill Willborn of the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. "These folks expressed interest in learning more about

Continued on page 3



A groundwater specialist tests and seals RREMP well samples prior to transport.



## Neighborhood Cleanup

Environmental Management completing Recovery Act projects remediating contamination.

See pages 4-5.

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## Preventing Fires

A robust Fire Prevention program has kept the NNSS safe from major incidents.

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## NNSS Commemorates 9/11 Fallen During Las Vegas, New York Remembrance Ceremonies

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The "9/11 Remembrance, *Igniting The Spirit Of Unity*" included events planned on all three days, including a 9.11K race and 1-mile walk, motorcycle and bicycle rides, a car show, and a parade. The events united the East Coast and the West Coast; from Las Vegas to New York.

National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the NNSS, rallied all of its personnel to support the memorial. NNSS Fire and Rescue firefighters and paramedics participated in the parade, which

drew thousands of military and first responders from all over the state of Nevada and throughout the country, according to NNSS Fire Chief Charles Fauerbach.

In addition, the Atomic Testing Museum loaned one of its exhibits – a piece of steel from the World Trade Center – for display at near Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. Honor guards from various fire and police agencies, as well as some civilian, stood guard over the exhibit downtown.

"Most of us remember exactly where we were on 9/11," Fauerbach said. "The attacks claimed 343 firefighters' lives, and the lives of thousands of everyday citizens. It's important that we never forget what took place and how it changed the lives of those who protect us."

The local events were integrated with

ceremonies occurring in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. through both live activities and multiple media outlets. During the three days, the various athletic and social programs included national celebrities, athletes, members of the government, military, national and local business communities and citizen participants, all which helped ignite the spirit of unity the nation experienced after the terror attacks of 9/11.

Among the 9/11 Remembrance events NNSS employees participated in included: a 91.1K bicycle race, a motorcycle run, a Family Equestrian Day, and the Heroes Parade through downtown Las Vegas. The NNSS saw several hundred employees participating in the various activities. The company's mission at the NNSS strongly supports national security.

## NNSS Aviation Specialists Secure Department of Energy Awards

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters' Office of Aviation Management (OAM) has announced that three Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) aviation specialists have been awarded aviation awards for their recent efforts.

William "Doug" Barrick, aviation safety manager, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office, won the 2010 DOE Aviation Management Federal Professional Award. In his nomination, Nevada Site Office officials praised Barrick for applying his experience as a former FAA inspector, combined with his skills as a DOE Aviation Safety Officer, to support the NSO Aviation Program in the design and manufacture of required modifications to their aircraft safely and efficiently. He is the most outstanding DOE Federal Aviation Management Professional of 2010.

Thomas McKissack, chief pilot, National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the

NNSS, won the 2010 John Cooley Aviation Operations/Support Professional Memorial Award. During calendar year 2010, McKissack's leadership directly contributed to the 100 percent compliance rating awarded to NSO/NSTec by the

DOE OAM audit team, confirming their flawless aviation support for the NNSA mission to provide Emergency Response assets to protect U.S. citizens from the effects of radiological events.

Timothy J. Rourke, the chief of Aviation Safety,



William "Doug" Barrick



Thomas McKissack



Timothy Rourke

# SITELINES

Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family

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NSTec, won the inaugural presentation of the U.S. DOE Aviation Safety Professional Award. During calendar year 2010, Rourke's systematic approach to risk management enabled senior NSO/NSTec managers to assess the hazards of very low-level flying over congested areas, establish controls to mitigate those hazards, and to approve missions over the nation's capitol to evaluate new technical equipment for radiation detection. Rourke is the most outstanding DOE field-level employee whose primary duties supported the safety and effectiveness of a Federal flight program.

The DOE nominated Barrick, McKissack, and Rourke, in their respective categories for the 2010 GSA Federal Aviation Awards. GSA honored the winners of these Government-wide aviation awards at the FedFleet Workshop in Orlando, FL, in July.



## NNSS Provides Grant for Reverse 911 System in Upstate Nevada

With an eye on safety, and the help of a federal grant, West Wendover, Nevada is now better prepared for improved emergency response.

Thanks in part to an annual grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, the West Wendover fire and police departments were able to put into place what's known as a Reverse 911 system. This system, also called CodeRED, creates a telephone number database containing the contact information of individuals, businesses and organizations in the area. This gives officials the ability to quickly deliver urgent or emergency messages to specific areas or the entire West Wendover area as well as Tooele County in Utah.

The effectiveness of the system largely depends on individuals and organizations logging onto West Wendover City's web site and inserting their contact information on the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page.

"CodeRED is not a Reverse 911 system that will only call home phones attached to the local phone system," said West Wendover City Fire Chief Jeff Knudtson. "By going online and entering your cell phone information, this system will also send text messages. This will allow everyone in the home to get a notice of an event."

The annual grant responsible for the CodeRED Reverse 911 response system is funded through the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), supported by the Nevada Site Office. This community grant is funded by a fifty-cent-per-cubic-foot fee charged for radioactive waste



Since 2000, more than \$10 million in grants have been distributed to six Nevada counties, leading to the purchase of emergency response tools such as ambulances, fire trucks (photo shows Lincoln County fire engine), and communication equipment, as well as the construction of vital training facilities and emergency services buildings.

disposal at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site). This is in addition to the regular fee charged to the national network of approved waste generators for disposing low-level and mixed low-level waste at the NNSS.

EPWG consists of representatives from each of the six participating counties (Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine) through which low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste shipments travel en route to the NNSS. The EPWG is co-chaired by representatives from the Nevada Site Office and the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

## Groundwater Program *Continued from page 1*

our groundwater programs, and we were happy to show them how they work and answer their questions."



The Nevada Site Office has constructed a wide network of UGTA wells, some of which are drilled to 4,000 feet deep, to collect data that becomes the building blocks for detailed three-dimensional computer models that can show scientists if contaminants are present and in what direction they are heading.

A major part of the tour was visiting a well that supports NNSS' Underground Test Area (UGTA) activities. Tour participants got a detailed overview of the well development and testing work that is presently underway at the well site on Pahute Mesa. Well development refers to a cleaning-up phase in which cuttings, soap, and other drilling remnants are purged after drilling in preparation for the well testing phase, which involves the collection of raw data, such as water chemistry,

geologic properties, and pressure rates etc.

"It was a spectacular opportunity to learn about these activities in person," said Clark County representative and tour member, Phil Klevorick. "It was quite beneficial having knowledgeable people right there to answer questions." Klevorick serves as a Clark County liaison for the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB), which is a group of volunteers from the community who regularly provide the Nevada Site Office recommendations on NNSS cleanup activities.

In addition to Klevorick, NSSAB liaisons from Nye County, the State of Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. National Park Service, as well as six members of communities near the NNSS participated in the nearly 5-hour tour.

The tour group made an additional stop at a groundwater sampling well that serves the NNSS Routine Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (RREMP). Tour participants watched as groundwater experts demonstrated how samples are collected and processed before being sent to an independent laboratory for analysis. This RREMP well is one of more than 60 water locations routinely sampled on and surrounding the NNSS.

## Fischer, Thompson Receive NNSA Defense Programs Awards

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has announced that Richard Fischer and Roger Thompson, both employees of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), are recipients of the Defense Programs' Employee of the Quarter Awards. Recipients of the awards are recognized for going beyond the call of duty in supporting the mission of NNSA's Defense Programs.

Roger Thompson, Emergency Response team leader for the Nevada Site Office's Emergency Response Assets, was recognized for his efforts in leading radiological support during the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan. From March through May 2011 the Aerial Measuring System and the Consequence Management assets of the Emergency Response Programs deployed to perform radiological mapping following the Fukushima Power Plant meltdown in northeastern Japan.

Thompson was the Deputy Senior Energy Official for two three-week tours in Japan and served as the Federal Team Lead for the Consequence Management Home Team. His leadership and technical expertise contributed significantly to the success of the mission. The results of the response received accolades from the White House and other agencies in the U.S. government as well as appreciation from the Japanese government and people.

Richard Fischer, the Remote Sensing Laboratory-Andrews Air Force Base Aviation section manager, was recognized for making significant improvements in his department over the past two years. An employee of National Security Technologies (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the NNSS, Fischer was recognized for his leadership in promoting, instilling, cultivating and proliferating a safety culture that exemplifies the Integrated Safety Management System.

Fischer implemented the U.S. Department of Energy International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) program at RSL-Andrews. His managerial skills promoted the efficient use of resources, professional and personal development, teamwork, and a safe working environment.

"Each day, I am in awe of the work done by the dedicated men and women of NNSA. The Defense Programs Employee of the Quarter Awards recognize the commitment to improving the way we do business by those who lead by example," said Don Cook, NNSA's deputy administrator for Defense Programs. "NNSA is fortunate to have talented and dedicated professionals who are truly leaders in their fields working to promote our nuclear security mission."

Each quarter, the NNSA names contractor and Federal employees for the awards. The selection of the recipients is determined at each site following its own specific criteria.



# OUT WITH THE OLD,

## Recovery Act Funding Helps Clean Up Cold War Facilities at NNSA Sites *NNSS Brings Several Projects to Completion*

The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) has a long and storied history of supporting the development of atomic weapons at the height of the nuclear arms race. The tests conducted at the former Nevada Test Site went a long way toward ensuring the security of the United States and serving as the foundation for the country's eventual victory over its Cold War adversaries.

Although stockpile stewardship is still considered one of the primary missions of the Site, the evolution of the modern-day NNSS to becoming one of the nation's premiere national security assets has all but eliminated the need for facilities that were once the backbone of the nuclear weapons program.

Enter the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Passed by Congress to create jobs, the "Recovery Act" awarded more than \$6 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management to clean up nuclear production facilities across the United States and expedite an end to the Cold War legacy.

At the NNSS, that has translated into \$44 million in accelerated environmental restoration activities that have included the closure of the area used for the 1968 Buggy nuclear tests as well as the demolition of the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (R-MAD) and Pluto Disassembly Facility buildings. As DOE Nevada Site Office (NSO) Recovery Act projects near completion by the end of fiscal year 2011, Rob Boehlecke,

deputy federal project director for NSO Environmental Restoration, said the work has gone a long way to eliminate historically contaminated sites in accordance with an agreement with the State of Nevada.

"Satisfying regulatory commitments with the State has been a priority for the NSO, and safely completing this work benefits all Nevadans," Boehlecke said. "RA funding has allowed us to retain experienced and knowledgeable staff while accomplishing the work."

The Buggy experiment, conducted in the spring of 1968, was a series of five nuclear detonations used to produce a large trench. Buggy, along with several other tests, was part of the Plowshare Project in which the U.S. government studied peaceful uses for nuclear weapons.

The NSO had directed a portion of its original Recovery Act funds for characterization activities at Buggy and other historically-contaminated atmospheric test locations at the NNSS, including the removal of hazardous debris. Savings from efficient scheduling and planning under the Recovery Act allowed NSO to move beyond the characterization process to the closure stage at Buggy.

Demolition of the R-MAD facility was completed in March 2010, giving way to the demolition of the Pluto Disassembly Facility. Both facilities supported the Nuclear Rocket Development Station program that ended in 1973. Demolition of the 80 room, five-level R-MAD facility occurred in four phases, with the eventual removal of some radioactive debris to the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site.



Controlled explosive demolition of R-MAD to safely bring the multi-story building down within reach of heavy equipment.



# IN WITH THE NEW!



Steel shield doors from the demolition of R-MAD disposed as low-level radioactive waste at the NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site.

Projects at Buggy and other sites were not the only activities that gained traction on the NNSS clean up front. Approximately \$4.7 million from the Recovery Act was gained through efficiencies and used to:

- Complete surveys and drill pad construction for two groundwater characterization wells in Frenchman Flat, a dry lakebed where atmospheric nuclear tests were once conducted;
- Finish additional groundwater modeling at Pahute Mesa, in the northwestern region of the NNSS;
- Remove contaminated soil at industrial sites on the Tonopah Test Range north of the NNSS;
- Conclude the Closure Report for contaminated railroad tracks in two areas of NNSS; and
- Complete radiological surveys in another area of the NNSS.

Recovery Act funding allowed the NSO to accelerate planned remediation activities at the NNSS, making available more land and resources for diversifying the mission of the site. "Investing in the NNSS benefits the entire Nation when we use these unique resources to their fullest potential," said NSO Manager Stephen Mellington.



Worker conducts radiological survey on railroad tracks connecting historic nuclear rocket development facilities.



Low-level radioactive waste debris generated during R-MAD demolition is packaged for disposal at the NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site.



Workers examine an abandoned transformer at the BUGGY site in preparation for removal and disposal at the NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site as mixed low-level radioactive waste.



# Fire Prevention Program Helps Protect Site Resources

## Employees' Vigilance Prevents Serious Fires

Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Fire and Rescue firefighters and paramedics stay as busy as some municipal fire fighting units on any given day as they respond to an array of calls that range from traffic accidents to medical emergencies.

But interestingly the one thing firefighters rarely respond to at the Site is structure fires. The last one was more than five years ago – at a non-NNSS facility that borders the Site – and before that even longer. Fire officials attribute that to a robust fire prevention program that has become the backbone of the NNSS Fire and Rescue Department.

From the 1950s though the late 1980s, fire prevention efforts such as fire extinguisher and building inspections were conducted by line firefighters. Site firefighters were responsible for setting up fire suppression systems on shot towers. Those responsibilities kept regular firefighters busy and cut down on their availability for emergency response training.



An NNSS worker learns fire extinguisher operations first-hand at a hot-work training.

Today, the NNSS Fire Marshal's Office handles all fire prevention, pre-incident planning, and fire investigations, and maintains a full-time staff of highly trained fire experts who take protecting Site resources very seriously.

Raising the standards in fire prevention, has paid off not only in reducing serious fire threats but also increasing training and awareness of potential hazards. "If we didn't have a rigorous fire prevention program in place, I don't believe the Site would be as safe," said NNSS Fire Chief Charles Fauerbach.

"Our fire prevention personnel perform a large amount of work, such as developing response plans, interfacing with facility managers on issues and going out in the field to do assessments. When our line firefighters did it – if we were back in the same place 20 years ago – we'd have issues maintaining our response capabilities," Fauerbach said.

NNSS's transition to a strong Fire Prevention Program began in 2001 when Jim Brown was hired to serve as Fire Marshal. With more than 37 years of experience, Brown helped develop a Fire Protection Program plan that standardized inspections and code compliance, and helped define guidelines for enforcement.

Brown also grew a staff that now includes

Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Dees (26 years of experience), Fire Prevention Captain David Young (48 years of experience), Senior Fire Inspector Joe Skaarup (47 years of experience), Fire Inspector Chris Hurt (20 years of experience), and Fire Prevention Technicians/Firefighters Larry Dixon (16 years of experience) and Russ Owens (33 years of experience).

Together, the group now coordinates an extensive list of fire prevention responsibilities including fire extinguisher maintenance and training, building inspections and life safety code enforcement, water supply testing, water dipping setup for helicopter firefighting operations, and air tank resupply, among others.

NNSS Fire and Rescue also has established one of the most cost-effective fire extinguisher maintenance shops in Nevada, and recently Pahrump Valley Fire turned to the NNSS to help perform maintenance on their breathing apparatuses. The department also coordinated the removal of 15 tons of Halon fire suppression agent as part of a Halon-reduction program.

According to Brown, formalizing the fire prevention process not only has elevated NNSS Fire and Rescue's status as a highly qualified and competent department, it has helped create a safety culture that enhances the mission of the NNSS.

Brown has seen his office's work scope broaden into engineering, with review of construction plans, assisting with development of fire prevention documentation, and conducting fire hazards analysis and assessments as part of building construction and startup activities for nuclear facilities such as the Device Assembly Facility and U1a.

"Participating in a nuclear facility's start-up process puts us in a position to identify areas of concern and initiate fixes prior to startup," Brown said. "When we see violations, we already know what the fix is. We can provide cost-effective solutions that save time and money in the long run."

Whether conducting an accident investigation, teaching a fire extinguisher class, or simply testing a sprinkler system at a Site facility, the key to



The Fire Prevention program oversees water supply for helicopters conducting wildland firefighting at the NNSS.

the fire prevention program is employee buy-in – or convincing employees of the importance of awareness and taking steps to reduce hazards. "It's just about education," Dees added.

"We'll talk to people about putting up Christmas decorations or using a space heater. We look at the age of our infrastructure. We can sit down with a facility manager and identify issues that need to be fixed. Through education, people understand what it takes to maintain a safe working environment."

Dees offered a few tips for improving fire safety in your space:

- Do not leave fire doors open
- Do not place OPSEC bins or other types of collection bins along exit paths
- Keep all entry and exitways clear of combustible materials
- Practice good housekeeping in your office, disposing of combustible waste
- Do not leave cooking appliances unattended (i.e., coffee pots, microwaves)
- Know your emergency evacuation plans and assembly areas
- Contact Fire Prevention with questions at 7-4028 or 7-4005.

The combination of employee awareness and the NNSS Fire Prevention program's focus on safety will ensure the Site continues to avoid serious fire incidents, that employees are free from injury, and that the mission continues in the most successful and cost effective manner, Brown added.

## Survey Results Are In – NNSS Likes the New SiteLines!

In the last issue of SiteLines, we conducted a survey where we asked readers about their opinion of the new print version of the newspaper. The response was good and nearly everyone said they enjoyed reading about NNSS programs and people. The consensus indicated most are reading the newspaper thoroughly now that SiteLines is available in hardcopy. Readers said they were looking for articles that ranged from science and wildlife to pieces on the Atomic Testing Museum.

Here are a few of the comments:

"Some of the articles in SiteLines are not relevant to my job, but it is interesting to learn of other areas."

"I enjoy reading anything about the NLV facility, or the labs. I'd like to see more articles that relate to my department or what I do on a

daily basis..."

"I think SiteLines is very good. It's informative, and pertinent to the overall mission of the NNSS."

"I like SiteLines because it identifies different projects that are going on. The old version did have Milestones though for the various companies for the employees' years of service."

"This new version of the newspaper should have dates to document the period. These should become NNSS history and archived according to date."

The SiteLines editor will take these suggestions into consideration and apply them to future issues of the newspaper. Meanwhile, congratulations to our movie tickets winners: Cory Wernikove, Joan Tourville, Louis Ruocco, Patti Hartig, and Kim Holton.





## Just Hanging Around

While conducting Joint Nevada Program Office (JNPO) environmental clean-up work on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Area 6, Jim Foley, JNPO and Juan Pena, National Security Technologies (NSTec), recently discovered these cute baby owls at the Site. The NNSS is home to a variety of wildlife, from birds and coyotes to mountain lions and desert tortoises.

*Photo by Juan Pena.*

## Nevada Support Facility Earns ENERGY STAR Superior Energy Efficiency Rating

The Nevada Support Facility (NSF), home to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Site Office (NSO) on Losee Road in North Las Vegas, has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR certification for meeting strict energy efficiency performance levels, the EPA announced recently.

The ENERGY STAR certification signifies that a building performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency. Commercial buildings that earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. NNSA/NSO improved its energy performance by managing energy strategically across the entire organization and by making cost-effective improvements to its buildings.

"We're pleased to accept EPA's ENERGY STAR certification in recognition of our energy efficiency efforts. Through this achievement, the facility has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering energy costs," said J.P. Martinez, NNSA/NSO energy manager.

To earn the ENERGY STAR, NSF documented the building's performance as follows:

- Energy performance in the top 25 percent of

similar existing buildings

- Occupants of the facility were asked to complete a thermal comfort survey; therefore, documenting thermal comfort in accordance with the required provisions
- Indoor air quality is in accordance with the provisions of American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 62
- The illuminance levels are in accordance with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, IESNA Lighting Handbook.

EPA's ENERGY STAR energy performance scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale may be eligible for ENERGY STAR certification. The NSF scored a 96.

"Improving the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings is critical to protecting our environment," said Jean Lupinacci, chief of the ENERGY STAR Commercial and Industrial Branch. "From the boiler room to the board room, organizations are leading the way by making their buildings more efficient and earning EPA's ENERGY STAR certification."

## ISO Certification Renewed for NSTec

National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), the managing and operating contractor for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), was recently recommended for certification renewal to both the International Organization for Standardization ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System (EMS) and the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System (QMS) standards. NSTec was assessed by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance for the triennial certification renewal for both the ISO standards.

These standards ensure desirable characteristics of products and services such as quality, environmental friendliness, safety reliability, efficiency and interchangeability at an economical cost. NSTec continues to achieve a level of operational excellence unparalleled in the NNSA complex.



Present at the certification in June were (l-r): Gary Griess, NSTec director of Environment, Safety, Health and Quality; Steve Mellington, NSO manager; Mike Butchko, NSTec chief operating officer; Steve Younger, NSTec president; and Steve Lawrence, NSO deputy manager.

## Nevada Site Office Welcomes Public to Participate in EIS Hearings

Community members are invited to attend a series of public meetings in September 2011 to learn about, and provide comments on, the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and Off-Site Locations in Nevada. These meetings are part of an official public comment period that spans from July 29 through October 27, 2011.

Prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, the draft SWEIS presents a thorough analysis of how current and potential missions at the NNSS (formerly the Nevada Test Site) and offsite locations in Nevada may affect the environment over the next ten years. The document examines potential mission impacts to soil, groundwater, plants, animals, and nearby communities. Public consideration of these effects is, therefore, an important part of developing the final SWEIS.

The public meetings, held in Nevada and Utah will consist of an open house and a formal hearing period. The open house (5-8pm) will provide attendees the opportunity to speak one-on-one with subject matter experts about the development and contents of the draft SWEIS, which focuses on the NNSS, the Tonopah Test Range, and two locations within the Las Vegas valley. Additionally, the open house will feature a number of descriptive visual aids and handouts for participants to review and use as reference when asking questions. Formal comments can be provided privately to a stenographer during the open house or recorded during the public hearing that takes place from 6:30 to 8pm.

Attending public meetings provides several opportunities for the public to participate in the SWEIS process; it is important to note, however, that community members can provide input at any time during the comment period, which lasts through October 27, 2011. The public can access and comment on the document at [www.nv.energy.gov/sweis](http://www.nv.energy.gov/sweis) or by request at 877-781-6105.

### Draft SWEIS Public Meetings

#### September 20, 2011

Cashman Center  
850 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, NV 89101

#### September 21, 2011

Pahrump Nugget  
681 South Hwy. 160, Pahrump, NV 89048

#### September 22, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott  
185 S. 1470 East, St. George, UT 84790

#### September 27, 2011

Convention Center  
301 Brougher Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049

#### September 28, 2011

Carson Nugget  
507 North Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701



# NNSS Fire & Rescue Moves Quickly to Limit Damage During Fire Season

Each summer, the rugged and dry terrain of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) comes under attack from lightning strikes that threaten to burn hundreds of miles of acreage that make up the vast expanse of the southern Nevada wildland.

This year, the Fourth of July holiday ushered in a series of strikes that ignited several fires in the northwest area of the NNSS. An aggressive, coordinated response by NNSS Fire and Rescue personnel helped bring the fires under control in mere days.

Leading a crew of more than 100 firefighters that included Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service hotshot crews from California, NNSS firefighters spent eight days battling the blazes, which burned more than 4,400 acres. The NNSS also dedicated air support resources for the



The Timber Fire burned more than 2,000 acres in Areas 18 and 30 of the NNSS.



NNSS Fire and Rescue firefighters led the initial attack and battled the blazes along several fronts.

first time, with a helicopter from the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) aiding in water drops.

“When you have an aggressive initial attack, and you’re moving people from fire to fire, and you have the level of training and safety that our fire crews have – that makes all the difference in the success we have in gaining control of a wildland blaze,” said NNSS Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief John Rynes, who helped coordinate efforts on the ground.

The first fires were ignited on July 3 during a storm in Areas 18 and 30. The Briley and Weston Fires concerned firefighters first, especially as the Weston blaze burned toward a communications tower that affects some radio traffic at the Site.

But as firefighters gained control over Briley and Weston, a third blaze sprung up – the Timber Fire, which burned close to the NNSS’s western-most boundary along the U.S. Air Force Gunnery Range.

For the first time, a helicopter from RSL-Nellis assisted with air support and joined a BLM helicopter that together eventually conducted 110 air drops of water that was lifted from remote “pumpkins” placed in strategic locations at the NNSS. BLM also provided two fixed-wing aircraft that dropped slurry, or flame-retardant gel, on the flames.

About 62 members from BLM and U.S. Forest Service hotshot crews from Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino and Kern County, California joined in fighting the fires, which would finally be fully contained on July 11. The Air Force also provided an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) from Creech Air Force Base to conduct aerial surveillance on the fire.

Nevada Site Office emergency officials applauded the quick response, which helped limit the damage to natural areas of the site where thick juniper and cheat grass dominate the landscape.

“The fires completely validated the Nevada Site Office’s efforts to fine-tune our emergency response organization,” said Ray Phifer, NSO

assistant manager for Safety and Security, who served as Emergency Manager during much of the response. “Numerous ‘moving parts’ quickly came together including federal, contractor and BLM personnel, as well as air support, to evaluate and fight the fires. The coordination, interaction and teamwork were seamless and effective as demonstrated by our success.”

Though the first fires were in mop-up, the coordination was still in place on July 12 when a flare-up from an earlier lightning strike ignited the Gritty Gulch fire in the northern most part of the Site. The steep, rugged terrain made the area completely inaccessible by ground, so BLM fixed-wing aircraft were used to fight the fire. It burned more than 400 acres before being fully contained on July 15.

Although NNSS Fire and Rescue officials had anticipated a busy wildland fire season, Mike Butchko, chief operating officer for



This NNSS Fire and Rescue photo shows the actual tree that received the lightning strike that ignited the Timber Fire.

National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the NNSS, touted the coordination between agencies as the primary reason for the quick containment of the blazes.

“Our F&R guys succeeded in putting out these fires, without impact to our facilities, equipment and personnel, because of the tremendous support from all responders,” Butchko said. “What happened here just shows how teamwork and preparation really pay off.”

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