

ON THE



Plateau

Volume 3, Issue 08

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ON THE Plateau is designed for online viewing, part of CHPRC's commitment to protecting our environment. Project and organizational news stories are shared in page-sized blocks to reduce costs and waste when printing is desired. Contributions are due by the 10th calendar day of the month prior to publication.

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improve performance (page 2).

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The 116-KE stack falls on July 23 after explosive demolition techniques are used to bring it down. Workers have been clearing the stack and other structures that are no longer in service from the 100K Area.

Historic K East Reactor Stack Demolished in Explosive Takedown

With a dull roar and a brief puff of smoke, the 175-foot tall 116-KE reactor stack at the 100K Area was toppled by explosives on July 23.

Explosives were also used to demolish the counterweights for the C elevator and two overhead bridge cranes in the 105-K East reactor building.

“Explosive demolition techniques are the safest way to remove these structures with limited risks to our workers,” said Kurt Kehler, vice president of the Decommissioning and Demolition Project. “Clearing the 100K Area of

Historic K East Reactor Stack Demolished in Explosive Takedown, continued on page 2



The 116-KE stack was once used to discharge ventilation gases from the K East reactor, which ceased operations in 1971. The stack was shortened from 300 feet to 175 feet in 1980-81.



InSite Video

<http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Communications/index.cfm?PageNum=88>

Mentors Help Workers Improve Performance in the Field

Mentoring is often used in the nuclear industry to assist managers, supervisors and workers in their efforts to improve safety performance. A mentoring program was initiated at CHPRC during the latter part of 2009 and is now centralized under Vic Pizzuto, the CHPRC Chief Operating Officer. The program's goal is to help people develop safe work habits and identify actions that cause errors.

"Mentors encourage managers, supervisors and workers to be ever vigilant and never complacent about safety performance."

Mentors already have been selected, trained and assigned throughout the CHPRC projects, with their day-to-day assignments determined by project vice presidents. Mentors are essentially full-time teachers who are trained to:

- Coach personnel in the use of tools for improving human performance
- Receive feedback from the workforce for process improvements
- Reinforce positive habits observed in work teams.

While they are in the field, mentors are expected to provide real-time feedback to workers and provide a framework that will help eliminate causes for preventable errors. Periodically, they will meet with senior management to discuss their observations. Lessons learned will be shared between all CHPRC projects.

"Mentors encourage managers, supervisors and workers to be ever vigilant and never complacent about safety performance," said Pizzuto. ■

Historic K East Reactor Stack Demolished in Explosive Takedown, continued from page 1

structures that are no longer in service is part of our effort to shrink the Hanford Site cleanup footprint."

A HanfordSite video of the demolition is available at <http://ht.ly/2gOXf>. ■

"Explosive demolition techniques are the safest way to remove these structures with limited risks to our workers."

(From top to bottom): To demolish the 116-KE stack, workers inserted explosives into the structure's base, cut holes in the base to help direct the fall and wrapped the base to control the debris. After a successful explosive demolition, the remains of the stack lay flattened on the ground.



New Managers in Place at DOE's Hanford Site Field Offices

The Hanford Site field offices are operating under new managers. The changes were announced by Inés Triay, the DOE's assistant secretary of energy, on July 9.

David Brockman, the previous DOE Richland Operations (RL) manager, is now the manager of the DOE Office of River Protection, which oversees tank farm cleanup operations and construction of the Waste Treatment Plant. The new DOE-RL manager is Matt McCormick, who previously was Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau.

Since CHPRC began in 2008, Dave's leadership supported many of our cleanup successes — for example, demolishing more than 40 facilities, including the K East superstructure and basins — and brought Recovery Act funding to the Hanford Site. Dave has played an instrumental role in DOE's vision to shrink the site's cleanup footprint and establish a path for the future. CHPRC sends Dave our best wishes for the future.

Under Matt's leadership, our workers made history by successfully removing all weapons-grade plutonium and spent nuclear fuel from the Plutonium Finishing Plant and by initiating the design and construction of new treatment facilities to increase Hanford's groundwater treatment capacity.

Matt's experience, both here and at other projects, will help us continue to address cleanup challenges and maintain our momentum in shrinking the cleanup footprint. He has worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, Tribal Nations, the state of Oregon and stakeholders to develop a cleanup strategy for the Central Plateau that will guide the work we do in the future.

Please join me in thanking Dave for his leadership over the years and welcoming Matt to his new position.

John Lehew, CHPRC President



David Brockman



Matt McCormick

More Information:
New Richland Operations Manager Announced (*press release*) <http://www.hanford.gov/news.cfm/DOE/RL%20Announces%20New%20Manager.pdf>



Blue Ribbon Commission Visits Hanford Site

Glenn Konzek (*above*), DOE-RL Safeguards Engineer, briefed members of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future in July during their visit to the Hanford Site. One of the facilities they visited was the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (*left*), where containers of highly radioactive cesium and strontium are safely stored under 13 feet of water. The blue glow that signifies Cherenkov radiation will lessen in its intensity as the materials radioactively decay and become more stable.



(photo courtesy of U. S. Department of Energy)

Stay informed.

Visit [DOE's Hanford website](http://www.hanford.gov) at <http://www.hanford.gov> to stay up to date with local news and events. If you visit from home, you can also visit the HanfordSite Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

Visit [CHPRC's new website](http://www.plateauremediation.hanford.gov) at <http://www.plateauremediation.hanford.gov> to read and watch the latest news stories.

Visit [DOE's energy blog](http://blog.energy.gov) at <http://blog.energy.gov> to stay up to date with the latest news at headquarters.

Prevent Itchin' With Insect Prevention

Here on the Hanford Site, the peak time for bite and sting incidents is August. A good way to prevent incidents is to become familiar with the facts. Myths can lead to unsafe practices and incorrect safety measures. For more information or support, contact Pest Control at Mission Support Alliance at 509.376.PEST.

Mosquito bites are the most common of all insect bites. Worldwide, two to three million deaths occur annually from diseases that are passed to humans through the mosquito's bite, including West Nile virus, malaria, yellow fever and Western equine encephalitis, making mosquitoes one of the deadliest insects on earth.



Mosquitoes

Locally, however, mosquitoes are generally harmless. In 2009, Benton County Mosquito control reported 38 cases of West Nile virus. According

to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 80% of the people infected with West Nile virus will show no symptoms and only one in 150 people will develop a serious illness. Symptoms range from mild — fever, body aches and a skin rash on the upper body, to serious — vision loss, tremors and seizures.

Tips for Prevention: Use insect repellent, which is supplied at work; wear light-colored loose clothing; and empty any containers with standing water.

Bee stings increase in late summer. From 1999 through 2001, six people in Washington State died from bee stings, a period when there were no fatalities from snakebites, spiders or scorpions.



Bees

Tips for Prevention: Limit the use of perfume or cologne, avoid wearing bright-colored clothing and keep outdoor areas free from food. People who have allergic reactions to bee stings should carry an emergency treatment kit and inform their managers about their allergy.

The most common spiders found at the Hanford Site are the black widow and the common house spider. Female black widows have a red hourglass shape on their abdomen and are about twice the size of the males, which generally have yellow and red bands across their back. Black widows are found in dry, undisturbed woodpiles, rock piles, bales of hay, dry crawl spaces and outbuildings. Their webs are shapeless and very rough and sticky. Black widow bites need immediate medical attention, though contrary to



Common House Spiders

popular belief, the bites are rarely fatal, well under one percent.

The common brown house spider is often found on the ground in basements and window wells, rarely on vertical surfaces. House spiders are aggressive in nature and will bite without provocation, but they are not venomous.



Black Widow Spiders

Tips for Prevention: Wear gloves, especially when picking up wood, inspect wood that is brought indoors for spiders and egg sacs, fill cracks around doors and windows, vacuum in cracks and corners, and keep areas clean.

PZAC
HIGHLIGHTS

July 21, 2010
Meeting Report

In July, the President's Zero Action Council (PZAC) meeting featured guest speaker Angela Balint from Benton County Mosquito Control. Balint talked to the group about insects in the Hanford Site region, including mosquitoes, scorpions, black widows, house spiders, bees and horse flies, and how to prevent and treat their bites and stings.

Mark Hughey, the Occupational Safety and Industrial Hygiene Manager, talked about the upcoming President's Summer Safety Challenge. Hughey announced that CHPRC President John Lehew and a team of judges would visit each site on July 29 to choose a winner. He reminded everyone to use the friendly competition as a way to reduce heat-related incidents and insect bites.

Progress updates were also shared for programs including Stretch and Flex, the Safe Zone, GOAL (Get Out and Look) and Workers Observing Workers (WOW).

The meeting concluded with the presentation of Hero and Lifesaving awards to five employees (*see CHPRC Heroes on page 15 for the related story.*) ■

Next PZAC Meeting
August 18
2420 Stevens
Conference room 153

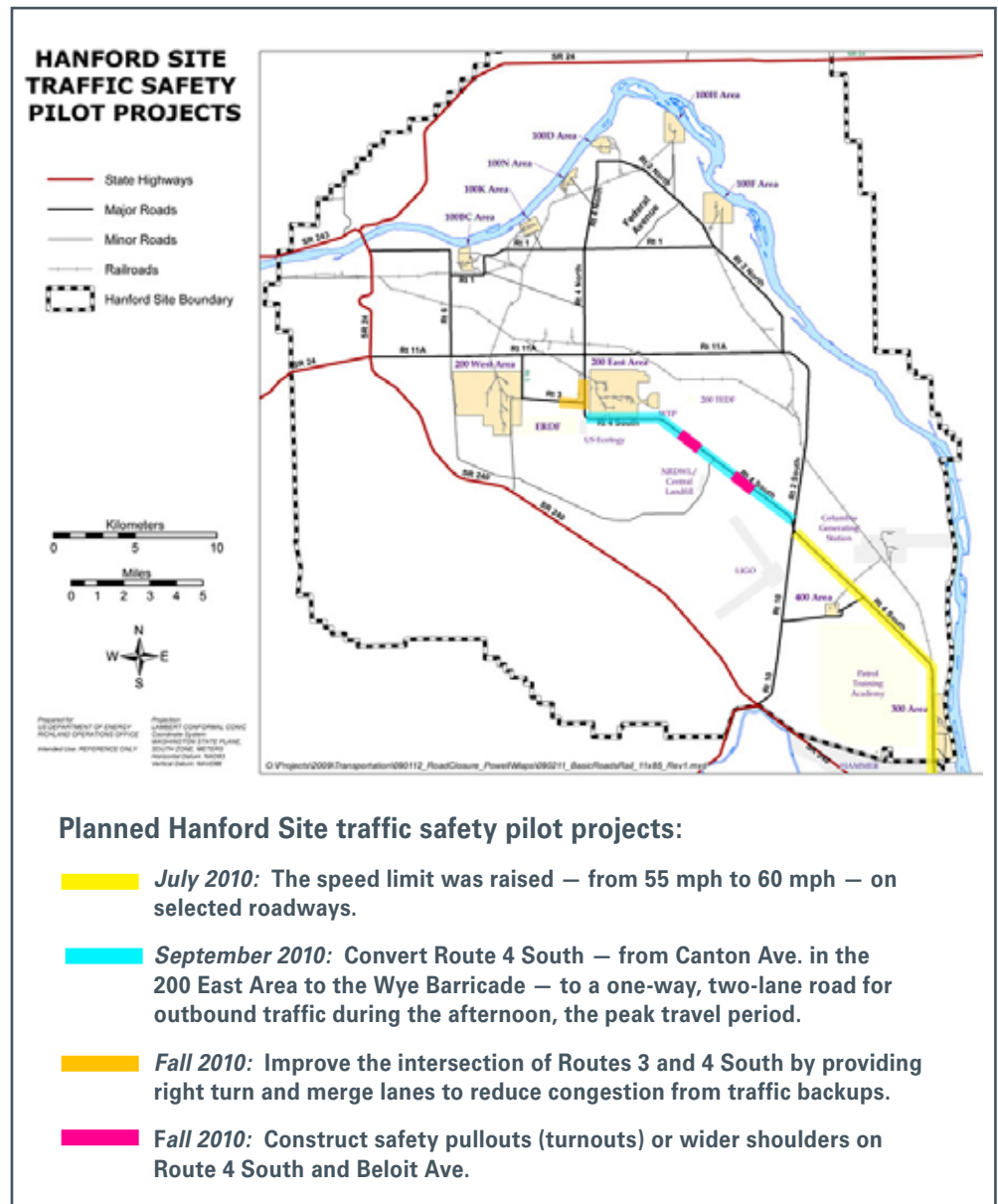
Speed Limit Increases on Section of Route 4 South

In mid-July, the speed limit on Route 4 South was increased to 60 miles per hour between the Wye Barricade and Horn Rapids Road, a decision based on the recent traffic safety study conducted by Transportation Solutions, Inc. The 5-mile per hour increase is a common, proven solution that typically results in safer road conditions according to research conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and Office of Safety and Traffic Operations Research and Development.

The increase is the first of several pilot projects that DOE-RL will implement in the coming months to test solutions for reducing congestion and limiting aggressive driving.

Hanford Site employee feedback is critical for evaluating the speed limit increase pilot project. Please send your comments and suggestions to trafficsafety@rl.gov.

To learn more, visit the Hanford Site Traffic Safety Improvements web page at <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hanfordTrafficSafety#>. ■



The Safe Zone

CHPRC employees have earned a cumulative total of 24,110 yards since October 2009, including 54 employees who have accumulated 100 yards or more.

During July, nine employees earned 30 yards or more. Two employees earned 80 yards or more.

Keep up the safe work so you too can be in the Safe Zone. Remember to visit the Locker Room to redeem your yards. ■



Locker Room

<http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/SHSQ/index.cfm?pageum=6>

Nominate A Coworker Online

<http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/SHSQ/safezone/nominate.cfm>

Award winners will receive an e-mail that explains why they were recognized and the yards awarded.

Tax Benefits a Little-Known Advantage of Riding the Bus to Work



Photo courtesy of Ben Franklin Transit

Did you know that riding the bus offers a fringe benefit during 2010? A benefit that is courtesy of the IRS?

According to Section 7 of the current IRS Taxable Fringe Benefit Guide (at http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/fringe_benefit_fslg.pdf), employers can provide employees with qualified transportation fringe benefits for transit pass purchases, which includes any pass, token, fare card, voucher or similar item entitling a person to transportation. ■

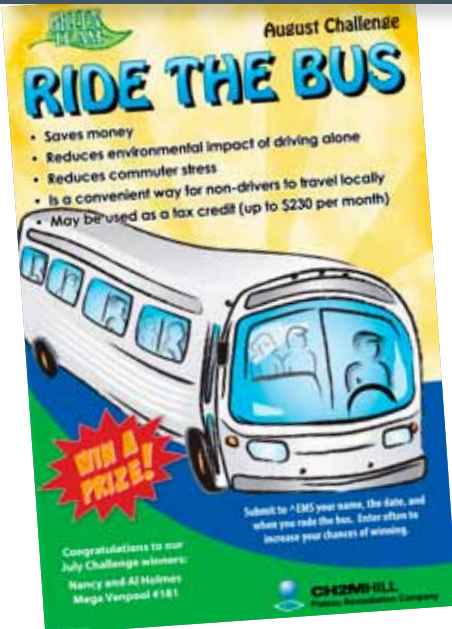


Tax Benefit Forms

<http://www7.rl.gov/rapidweb/Finance/index.cfm?pagenum=52>

A link to the forms — A-6003-301 and A-6003-302 — that are required to obtain benefits for riding the bus.

AUGUST EMS CHALLENGE



De-stress and save a little by riding the bus!

Congratulations to the winners of July's Carpool to Work Challenge: Nancy and Al Holmes Mega Vanpool #181

Submit "green" efforts to ^EMS so you too can be a winner.

Some reasons to try Ben Franklin Transit:

- 24 routes serving Richland, West Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, Benton City and Prosser (some service limited or available on demand/response basis)
- Adult fares: Monthly pass—\$22; 10-ride ticket—\$10; Single ride ticket—\$1.25 (exact amount required to board); other options also available
- Transfers: Free, good for 1½ hours (available from coach operators)
- Door-to-door "Dial-A-Ride" service for people with disabilities
- Multiple Tri-Cities outlets with passes, tickets and information:

Kennewick

Albertson's, Winco, Fred Meyer, Three Rivers Transit Center, Yoke's Fresh Market

Pasco

Albertson's, Fiesta Foods, Yoke's Fresh Market

Richland

Albertson's, Winco, Fred Meyer

West Richland

Yoke's Fresh Market

Benton City

Daddy O's Pizza

Prosser

Food Depot

For complete information about fares, routes and schedules, visit <http://www.bft.org>.

EMS Kudos to:



Bob Allen

"My car was in the shop so I started riding the bus to work. It worked out so well that I decided to stick with it after getting my car back.

The ridership has grown since I started. At first, there were five to six of us, but now we have between 12 to 15 riders everyday.

The best part about riding the bus is getting home in a better mood every night."

— Bob Allen, member of the procurement team and a CHPRC bus rider

Editor's Note: To nominate someone for their commitment to environmental management principles, contact CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov.



A Guaranteed Ride Home Can Ease Fears of Getting Stranded

"I would like to join a vanpool and save money on commuting, *but what happens* if my child gets sick at school or there is an emergency at home?"

Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) and Yakima Transit both offer Guaranteed Ride Home programs. With just a little advance warning, you can get a ride when the following occurs:

- You or an immediate family member are affected by an illness or injury
- You have a family or home crisis
- You have an emergency business appointment

- You are required to work extra hours and are not provided with a ride home
- When your usual homebound vanpool arrangement fails.

At the Hanford Site, the pick-up is at the Wye Barricade.

Both BFT and Yakima Transit have agreed to provide Guaranteed Ride Home service as quickly as possible, though weather conditions and distance can cause delays. According to Yakima Transit, excessive use or abuse of their guaranteed ride home program could affect their overall vanpool program, so they reserve the right to change or modify their program. ■



Guaranteed Ride Home Programs

Ben Franklin Transit

To schedule: Call 509.943.5442, 6:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Cost: First ride is free; second ride is \$10; third ride is \$35

More Information:

Visit <http://bft.org/vanpoolsdocs/Vanpool%20Rider%20Agreement.pdf>

Yakima Transit

To schedule: Call 509.575.6175, 7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday (rides later than 7:00 p.m. must be scheduled in advance)

Cost: Free to riders who used the Yakima vanpool to go to work on the day of the emergency (limited to four rides per year)

More Information:

Visit <http://www.ci.yakima.wa.us/services/transit/docs/GRH%20Program%20Overview.pdf>



Ty Blackford,
Vice President, Waste and Fuels
Management Project

"Not only do we need to think about *which* tools we should be using, we should also think about *how* to best use them."

As my project team knows, if we need a tool to do a job safer and more efficiently, we will get that tool. In my mind, tools include everything from simple items, like a pair of pliers, to more complex higher-risk items, like utility trucks and forklifts.

Tools, whether they are simple or complex, allow us to work more efficiently and safely. However, when they are used improperly, tools can also be some of the biggest risks for injuries to our coworkers or our selves. Failing to use the tools provided can be just as risky.

Tools exist for a reason. It is incumbent on all of us to use tools for the task they are intended. For example, if six or seven people try to move a 1-ton box by trying to push it, there will probably be an injury. There is a reason we have forklifts.

Not only do we need to think about which tools we should be using, we should also think about how to best use them.

Several years ago, I constructed a prefabricated gazebo at my house. The

"Tools ... allow us to work more efficiently and safely. However, when they are used improperly, tools can also be some of the biggest risks for injuries to ourselves or our coworkers."

recommended approach in the instructions was to assemble the legs; assemble the roof, rafters and skin; then "get at least six people to help you put the roof assembly on the legs using ladders."

Can you imagine that! Needless to say, I didn't follow that approach. Instead, I thought about how I could improve the process to avoid a potentially serious accident.

I came up with a simple solution: Do some partial assembling, then use scaffolding to assemble the roof in place, one piece at a time. It only needed two people, because I had the proper tool — a safe platform. And no one would ever have to lift more than

30 to 40 pounds any higher than a few feet.

I encourage you all to use this message as a reminder. Carefully review the information from our central safety and health organizations about using tools. When you have a task to do, take the time to do a walk-down. Carefully discuss the tasks and tools needed for each activity. Then ask yourself:

- Which tools are the right tools?
- Are the right tools available?
- Are we using them properly?

I know that every one of you wants to be safe and wants your coworkers to be safe. We, at CHPRC, want you to be safe as well. Let's remember: We have tools to help us, but injuries may occur if our tools aren't used properly or even at all. ■



**Frank Vargas, HAMTC
Safety Representative
for the 100K Project**

It is summer once again and with it comes opportunities for warm-weather activities. We may already have begun planning summer vacations, getaways, overnight trips and more. However, the question we have to ask ourselves is have we given much thought to planning for the "What ifs?"

We all know that sometimes it is the times when we least expect it that something goes wrong. It can be something minor, like a flat tire during a road trip, or it could be serious, like a health condition gone wrong during a camping trip.

So, I would like to remind everyone to take our safety culture/attitude from work into our summer activities. This can be as simple as keeping a current first aid kit, an extra blanket and water in your vehicle. Most automotive stores carry great roadside emergency kits. If you have a health condition, make sure someone else knows about it. Have emergency contact numbers with you in the event that something happens.

Another way we can help keep our families and ourselves safe is by refreshing our memories about what we learn at work, like rehearsing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedures or the proper use of fire extinguishers.

The next time we get ready for another excursion, let's remember to take a moment to ask ourselves: What's the worst thing that could happen? Our answers and how we decide to prepare for them could make a difference in how our summer activities turn out. ■

Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC)

Lead Safety Representative: Jill Molnaa

100K Area

Primary: Hans Showalter, Frank Vargas
Backup: Mark Whitten

Maintenance and Storage Facility

Primary: Hans Showalter, Frank Vargas
Backup: Mark Whitten

Soil and Groundwater Remediation

Primary: Kriss Weeks
Backup: Jack Griffith

Waste and Fuels Management

Waste Receiving and Processing Facility

Primary: Jack Griffith
Backup: Krista Weeks

T Plant

Primary: Jack Griffith
Backup: Sherry White
Secondary: Krista Weeks

Other: Central Waste Complex \ Transuranic Waste Retrieval \ Low-Level Burial Grounds

Primary: Mark Whitten
Backup: Jack Griffith
Secondary: Frank Vargas

Liquid Waste and Fuels Storage

Liquid Effluent Treatment Facilities \ 310 \ 340 \ Canister Storage Building Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility Integrated Disposal Facility \ 400 Area \ Fire Suppression System (water)

Primary: Krista Weeks
Backup: Jack Griffith
Secondary: Dale Ulvin

Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex

Primary: John Hendry, Buddy Rust
Backup: Krista Weeks

Fast Flux Test Facility \ Balance of Site \ D-4 projects

Primary: Dale Ulvin, Sherry White
Backup: John Hendry
Secondary: Jack Griffith

Central Washington Building Trades Council

Engineering, Projects and Construction

Primary: Steve Maki
Primary: Chris Tannahill

CHPRC Safety Representatives Contact Information

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Mark Whitten	509.528.5789	Mark_E_Whitten@rl.gov

Central Washington Building Trades Council

Steve Maki	509.372.0916	Steven_J_Maki@rl.gov
Chris Tannahill	509.308.6789	Christopher_L_Tannahill@rl.gov



Workers at the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex removed three interconnected glove boxes, 136-1, -2 and -3 (far left), then used an electric pallet jack (near left and below) to load them into a container so they can be disposed of at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.



Team Proves There is More Than One Way to Load a Box

In early July, the Waste Operations team at the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex Closure Project proved that an electric pallet jack could effectively load glove boxes into disposal containers while also increasing safety for workers.

"This option helps us in our ongoing goal to make work safer and more efficient."

Lisa Shores, a nuclear chemical operator, suggested the new technique. It was demonstrated by other nuclear chemical operators, including Ron Korsvik, driving the fork lift; Jack Meyer, operating the pallet jack; and Ryan Strege, offering additional support.

"Using the electric pallet jack allows us to more easily fit a glove box into a space that has just inches to spare on either side," said Jim Sickels, the manager of Waste Operations. "It also reduces the hazard to workers because fewer workers are needed to guide the equipment into place."

The electric pallet jack has 12-foot long forks, a length capable of carrying many of the removed glove boxes, thereby eliminating the need for a dolly at the opposite end of the load. The long forks also allow the jack to safely ease its load into a 3-foot wide, 8-foot long disposal container.

Before the jack was proven effective for loading, it was primarily used to remove glove boxes and laboratory hoods. Then a team of workers, including nuclear chemical operators and riggers, would strap the removed equipment onto dollies at either end, guide the load into a container, then maneuver themselves and the dollies back out.

"While worker handling is still the only option for some glove boxes, our team added another tool to our tool box," said Sickels. "This option helps us in our ongoing goal to make work safer and more efficient."

So far, workers have removed 89 glove boxes and laboratory hoods out of more than 230 that were once in use at the Plutonium Finishing Plant facilities. Of those, 66 were removed using Recovery Act funding. ■

Clever Modifications Make Tool Easier to Use

After long days of wielding a 5-pound SAM 940 just six inches above the ground, Thomas Woodrich thought it was time to find a more efficient means of carrying it. Woodrich, a radiological control technician, uses the device to survey radiological conditions at a waste site in the Hanford Site's Outer Zone.

After a bit of thinking, he developed an ingenious hands-free solution that allows him to literally shoulder the weight. With a harness, some rings, hooks and an altered walking stick, not only can Woodrich better support the SAM 940, but he can cover more area in less time, carry water and even hold a clip board.

"It's nice to be able to share input and have it put into action," said Woodrich.

Another ingenious modification for carrying the device was developed by radiological control technicians who cover acres of terrain in the BC Control Area, also in the Outer Zone of the Hanford Site. Their solution was to mount the SAM 940 on a caddie cart, the two-wheeled cart used by golfers.

"All we have to do is push the cart, steer it and walk behind," said Thomas Woffinden, a senior radiological control technician lead. "The cart carries the load."

According to workers, the solutions have already made work easier. With miles of waste sites left to survey, they are looking forward to using the modifications for carrying the SAM 940 in the future. ■

Thomas Woffinden (*right*), a senior radiological control technician lead, demonstrates a modification that uses a cart to deploy the Sam 940 in the BC Control Area. The SAM 940 is just one of the devices that workers use to monitor radiological conditions at the Hanford Site.



Thomas Woodrich (*left*), a radiological control technician for the Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project, demonstrates his ingenious modification for carrying a SAM 940 at the 216-S-19 waste site.



Waste Retrieval Begins Anew

After weeks of developing improved work plans and procedures, workers have resumed waste retrieval from the underground storage trenches at the 200 West Area. Their work was halted in February after a hazard event occurred in Trench 11, located in the 4B burial ground.

"The event made it clear that we needed to take another look at how we were planning and conducting our waste retrieval," said Ty Blackford, the vice president of the Waste and Fuels Management Project.

The waste retrieval team prepared a Recovery Plan after the event occurred, but also performed a root-cause analysis, which allowed a corrective action plan to be developed for improving the team's event response techniques. Their efforts led to new and improved work plans and procedures, which have been tested in several emergency preparedness and operations drills. Improvements are in the areas of:

- Identification of hazards and controls
- Abnormal event response expectations
- Excavation, subsurface survey and procedures
- Notifications to adjacent facilities
- Communications during events
- Approach to industrial hygiene monitoring
- Coordination with support resources, for example, the Hanford Fire Department.

On May 22 and 23, workers entered the event area wearing Level B Hazmat suits and self-contained breathing apparatuses to sample air as well as the water in the decontamination line. Sampling results confirmed there were no contaminants that could pose a risk to workers.



Members of the waste retrieval team watch as Box 3 is lifted from Trench 17 and placed on the ground where workers can finish building another box around it. Before it was lifted, the deteriorated box was enveloped in a layer of protective material and placed on a base that supports the box while it is moved.

"The event [in February] made it clear that we needed to take another look at how we were planning and conducting our waste retrieval."

On May 24, workers finally resumed retrieval operations, this time at the 3A burial ground. They have been working in Trench 17, where boxes will be removed using the improved work plans and procedures developed by the waste retrieval team. Box 3 was the first container removed from this trench as well as the first removed since the February event.

The team also began shipping previously retrieved waste in mid-May. Since then, workers have shipped 15 containers, approximately 48.5 cubic meters, bringing the total volume shipped by CHPRC to 777 cubic meters. As for Box 3 from Trench 17, it was shipped to the Central Waste Complex in July. ■

Complex Tools Are Vital for Work in the Trenches

With unknown trench configurations and the expectation of more degraded waste containers, it is more important than ever that the waste retrieval team knows what to expect. Tools like enhanced ground-penetrating radar (*below, in use at Trench 17*) and global positioning system technology help workers more accurately map the depth and location of buried boxes and drums.

"Technologies like these can give us a fair indication of what is down there, which is imperative for our planning," said Blackford.



Workers Clear the Deck at U Canyon

In late July, workers at the U Plant finished removing equipment from the deck of the canyon, which was used in the past to receive, decontaminate, maintain and store equipment from other Hanford Site processing facilities. Clearing the deck is the first step in preparing the U Plant for demolition, a first-of-a-kind project scheduled to begin in 2012.

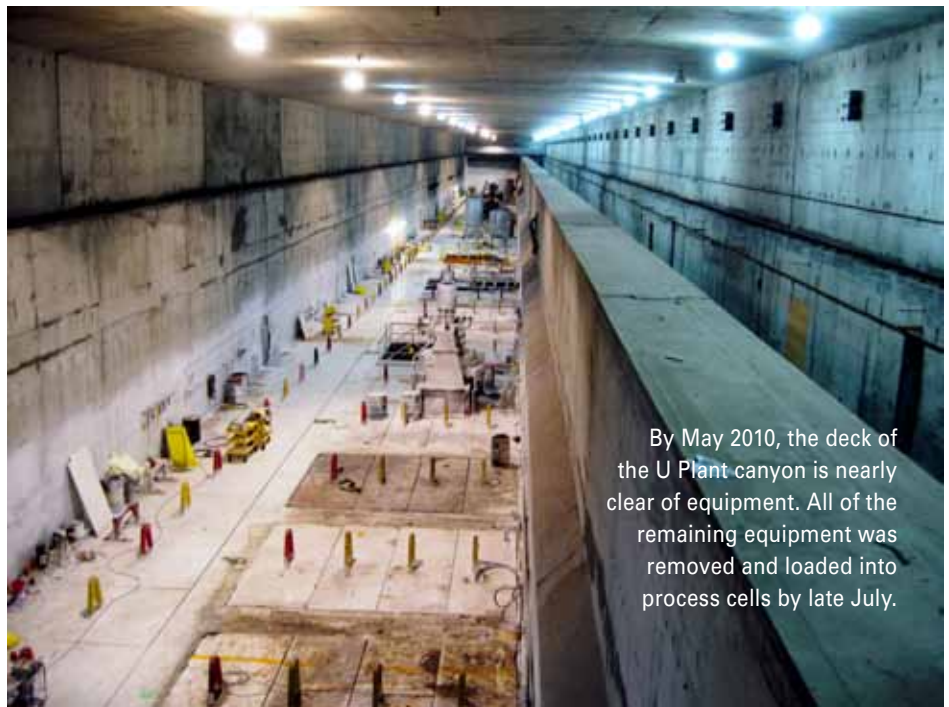
More than 120 large radioactive items — excess process tanks, centrifuges, pumps, agitators and miscellaneous equipment — have been lifted from the deck and loaded into process cells. The next step is to grout the equipment into place. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of grout will be injected into the process cells and supporting galleries, rooms, tunnels and piping. Then the upper section of the canyon will be demolished and, finally, an engineered cap will be placed over the remaining structure.

Preparing the U Plant for demolition is a \$52 million project, with \$35 million provided by Recovery Act funding. ■

A worker (*below left*) applies fixative before a piece of equipment is removed. An estimated 29,700 square feet of fixative was applied to equipment while clearing the deck. Workers (*middle*) install rigging equipment on a transformer so it is ready to be lifted by the 1950s-era canyon crane. Once used to support uranium recovery operations and lift cell cover blocks and equipment, the crane was returned to service to lift and load equipment into the process cells (*right*).



In late 2009, the deck of the U Plant canyon is covered with equipment from other Hanford Site processing facilities.



By May 2010, the deck of the U Plant canyon is nearly clear of equipment. All of the remaining equipment was removed and loaded into process cells by late July.





200 West Pump-and-Treat Construction Picks Up

Fill operations, building forms and pouring concrete — that was the scene this past month at the construction site for the new 200 West Area pump-and-treat process building.

For the next four months, drivers and pedestrians should continue to be on the lookout for increased truck traffic while fill dirt is brought in and concrete is poured.

The Engineering, Projects and Construction (EPC) Project and subcontractor Skanska USA Build, Inc. are managing the construction project, which is due for completion by the end of 2011. The completed facility will include radiological and bio-processing facilities as well as four transfer buildings, making it the largest treatment system for contaminated groundwater ever constructed for DOE. ■



Video ([click here to watch](#))

Developing a Lasting Groundwater Solution at Hanford

A six-minute history of contaminants at the Hanford Site and a description of how the new 200 West Area pump-and-treat system will help treat contaminated groundwater and protect the Columbia River.

EMS Objectives Pursued

During construction of the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility, the EPC team is pursuing EMS objectives — reusing materials and reducing environmental impacts. Instead of purchasing fill material from off-site, for example, the soil in Pit 34, a nearby on-site quarry, is sifted for usable fill (*below*) that can be hauled to the construction site. This innovative solution not only reduces truck traffic and its associated environmental impacts, but also lowers costs associated with purchasing and hauling fill material.



The 200 West Area pump-and-treat system will remove chemical and radioactive contaminants from groundwater at the Hanford Site. During its planned 25-year lifetime, it is expected that the facility will pump and treat approximately 24.7 billion gallons of contaminated groundwater and extract as much as 110,000 pounds of carbon tetrachloride, the primary contaminant of concern.



Using fill dirt from a nearby on-site quarry is an example showing how the EPC team is striving to accomplish EMS objectives as they manage the construction of the 200 West Area pump-and-treat system.

This summer, the number of CHPRC heroes is at an all-time high. CHPRC employees are taking actions to put safety first and protect others in need.

At the most recent President's Zero Accident Council Meeting in July, five workers were awarded President's Lifesaving Awards and three other workers were also honored. ■

Editor's Note: Each month, On the Plateau will feature a CHPRC Hero, someone in an unusual or significant challenge at home or at work. If you know someone worthy of recognition, contact CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov.

Joe Wiley, a radiological controls worker from the Waste and Fuels Management Project, was driving into town when he saw another driver weaving back and forth across the lanes. Wiley warned oncoming traffic by flashing his lights and contacted Hanford Security as he followed the erratically moving vehicle. When the driver eventually lost complete control and went off the road, the exhaust ignited a brush fire. Thanks to Wiley's calls, both the police and fire trucks showed up at the scene to discover that the driver was diabetic and was suffering from severely low blood sugar levels. For his actions, Wiley received the President's Life Saving award.



Mark Kluherz, a D&D team manager at the Plutonium Finishing Plant, was eastbound on Route 240 when a car just ahead of him moved out to pass and hit an oncoming Suburban. The head-on impact lifted and rotated the Suburban so it blocked the eastbound lane, but Kluherz was able to divert from the road to avoid it. He called 911, saw the driver crawl from the car that caused the accident then rushed to the Suburban. A fire began under both cars, but he and others were able to remove the Suburban's driver and three passengers and extinguish the fire. For his alertness to the surrounding traffic and decisive actions, Kluherz was recognized with the President's Lifesaving Award.



from left: Pete Owen, Joyce Owen, CHPRC President John Lehew and Judi Bierman, accepting for Dwayne Bierman.

Joyce Owen, Pete Owen and Dwayne Bierman, all Waste and Fuels Management Project workers, were at a local restaurant when a fellow patron suddenly began clutching his neck and chest. Joyce Owen immediately questioned whether he was breathing and after hearing he wasn't, her tablemates leapt up to assist. While Bierman tried to calm the victim, Pete Owen performed the Heimlich maneuver. Together, they were able to help the person breathe again before the medics arrived. "The adrenaline [rush] was overwhelming so responding immediately just came naturally," said witness Judi Bierman. For their quick actions, the workers were recognized with the President's Lifesaving Award.



Hans Showalter, a HAMTC Safety Representative, and a friend were on a motorcycle trip when his friend lost control, flying off the shoulder and down an incline to land on some bushes. After

assessing his friend and finding him shaken up but stable, Showalter realized he needed help to get him back up the incline. They were sixty miles south of Pendleton, Ore., in an area with poor cellphone reception, so Showalter left to search for help. With the help of two local residents, he was able to get his friend back on the road.



Craig Carro, a Sludge Treatment Project worker, was called to assist a

person suffering abdominal pain. Carro called 911 and while he stayed on the phone to relay information, he summoned others to help until the aid crew arrived and arranged access for the aid crew to enter the building where the incident occurred.



Eric Knight, a Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex Closure Project worker, flagged down Paul Swiney, a fellow worker, when he noticed that Swiney's truck was leaking fluid. When the two

men examined the vehicle, they found a ruptured fuel line. The fuel was not only leaking, but also spraying on the hot exhaust, which could have started a fire. "It could have been an ugly situation if Eric had not taken the time to stop me and my truck," said Swiney.

Events on the Plateau

August Event

- 6 Hanford Day Off
- 6 ARC of Tri-Cities Partners-N Pals Horseback Riding Day; Richland Riders Club. Volunteers needed. Contact Mike Jennings at 372.1502 or mike_j_jennings@rl.gov or visit <http://www.arcoftricity.com/Services/ChildrenYouth/partnersnpals.html>.
- 8 Show and Shine for Hunger; Columbia Park. To volunteer or learn more, visit www.showandshineforhunger.com.
- 10 First meeting Columbia Chapter Radiochemistry Society; Anthony's Restaurants, Richland. Dinner-6 p.m.; \$10/person. Contact Emily Rostel at Emily_C_Rostel@rl.gov, Larry Burchfield at lab@radiochemistry.org or visit <http://www.radiochemistry.org/about.shtml> after July 1.
- 17 Free QMAP classes; Hammer, Rm. 16. QMAP Basic Orientation: WIDS and Wells (7:30 a.m.-noon) and Environmental Data Access: QMAP wells, plumes, Virtual Library, Envirodash and Well Information Data Lookup (noon-4 p.m). To register, contact Sherree Christman at sherree_a_christman@rl.gov.
- 20 Hanford Day Off

Sept. Event

- 3 Hanford Day Off
- 6 Labor Day Holiday
- 13 Metal Trades and Building Trades Unions 6th Annual Tri-Cities Charity Golf Tournament, benefits Tri-City Union Gospel Mission; Horn Rapids Golf Course. Shotgun starts in morning and afternoon; four-person teams; best ball scramble. Call 509.947.0287 to learn more.
- 17 Hanford Day Off
- 18 2nd Annual CHPRC Family Picnic in the Park; Howard Amon Park (by the Fingernail Stage). 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. with barbecue, raffles, prizes and fun activities for the entire family, including dunk tank for charity. Shuttle service available from Federal Building parking lot. To volunteer or learn more, contact Monica Daniels at 372.1863 or Monica_J_Daniels@rl.gov.
- 22 Free QMAP classes (see Aug. 17 listing for more information)
- 25 StepOut, walk for American Diabetes Association; Columbia Point Park, Richland. Visit http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/WesternWashingtonArea?pg=entry&fr_id=7321.

Oct. Event

- 1 Hanford Day Off
- 12-13 Professional Development Education with Steve Hegele and Joe Estey (speakers), offered by Columbia River Basin Chapter, Project Management Institute; \$399 for members, \$499 for non-members (if registering by Aug. 30). Visit www.crb-pmi.org/?ID=94 or call Terri Fookes at 509.528.0662.
- 15 Hanford Day Off
- 19 Free QMAP classes (see Aug. 17 listing for more information)
- 29 Hanford Day Off

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				

- Hanford Day Off
- Official Holiday
- Activity/Event

SEPTEMBER						
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26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Get your tickets soon!

Available Aug. 16 – Sept. 10 at the following locations:

100 Area		
Kathy Culley	105KW / B1	373.0473
Casey Guinn	MO293 / A103B	373.2833
Lora Ketter	MO500/119	373.4467
200 West Area		
Kristi Morrell	270Z/56	373.2268
Judi Bierman	271T / 210	373.0841
Melinda Wurz	MO2155/102	373.0034
Lori Derryberry	MO273 / 1-A	376.6841
Joanne Tea	MO281/107	373.1205
Jill Bleeker	MO644/8	942.6575
200 East Area		
Lynn Spicer	MO277/E103	373.2068
Marci Venohr	272HV/100A	373.2726
Downtown		
Niki Solis	2420STVCN / LOBBY	376.5417
Nancy Petersen	2425STVCN / 253	376.3165
Mary Cole	Fed Bldg/352D	372.8711



Contract specialist Jane Summerlin is one of nearly 80 workers who are involved in the CHPRC procurement process.

"Our job responsibilities run the gamut, from providing information about opportunities to getting workers badged and ready to go into the field."

CHPRC Procurement a Massive, Behind-the-Scenes Effort

During the first year and a half of its 10-year contract, CHPRC awarded \$1.2 billion in subcontracts, the largest amount of any Hanford prime contractor in that 18-month timeframe.

Of the total subcontracts awarded, 42% (almost \$5 million) were awarded for Recovery Act work and

58% (almost \$7 million) were awarded for base contract work.

"The large volume demonstrates the importance of subcontractors to our success in meeting our milestones," said Mike Wells, the director of Contract Management and Facility Services.

Since October 2008, the procurement team has worked directly with the projects to keep the cleanup mission on schedule. They have managed more than 10,000 releases as well as 6,000 purchase orders and 97,000 P-card transactions.

"Contract awards range from one-person contracts to complex, multi-subcontractor contracts that take months to procure, like the \$50 million Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project's 200 West Pump-and-Treat System award," said Pat Marmo, the procurement manager.

According to Jan Sullivan, the CHPRC Small Business Advocate, approximately half of all procurements, per CHPRC's contract with DOE, are awarded to small businesses.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of a community," said Sullivan. "We reach out to small business owners at local, state and national levels." ■



No matter how simple or complex the anticipated work, there is a long list of tasks that must be completed before a contract is awarded and work can begin:

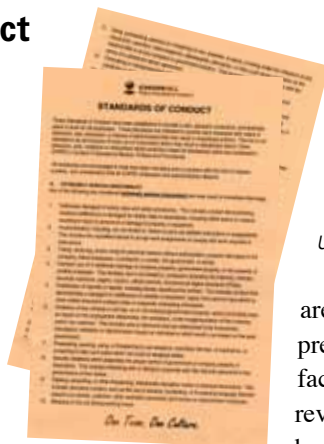
- Work must first be offered to the Hanford Labor force
- Send the required justifications and planning documents to DOE-RL
- Prepare draft contracts
- Develop competition lists
- Send Requests for Proposals to qualified offerors and review received proposals
- Verify that offerors are not on the U.S. government's Excluded Parties List
- Confirm contractors are financially responsible and their prices are fair and reasonable
- Award contracts and notify unsuccessful offerors
- Obtain contractor insurance certificates
- Arrange kickoff meetings
- Electronically set up and close out contracts
- Submit badge requests.

Even then, the work isn't over. The procurement team also reviews and approves contractor invoices.

Standards of Conduct Recently Revised

A further explanation of vehicle accidents or incidents was added to the Standards of Conduct policy ([PRC-POL-HR-11385, Section B. Serious Misconduct \(7\)](#)), which now states:

Unauthorized or careless use of any government or personal vehicle (includes forklifts, ATVs, etc.) while performing company business that has the potential to or results in employee injury or



damage to property. This includes violations of Washington traffic laws (e.g., not in possession of valid state driver's license, cell phone usage, etc.).

Levels of violation are relative to severity, preventability and other factors with situations reviewed on a case-by-case basis. However, an employee will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing following a vehicle accident/incident. Acts of

serious misconduct can result in at least a three-day suspension without pay and progressively more severe discipline up to and including discharge.

No changes were made to Section C. Misconduct (5), *Improper parking or operation of vehicles on Company or government property.*

Human Resources field representatives are distributing updated Standards of Conduct cards. To view the updated policy, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/PRCDOL/prc/displayDoc.cfm?docno=PRC-POL-HR-11385>. ■

Junior Achievement Singles Out Eight CHPRC Workers for Recognition

In a recent letter from Junior Achievement (JA) of the Great Tri-Cities, eight CHPRC employees were recognized for their efforts, including:

- **Andre Armstrong** — for creating JA awareness among his coworkers and serving as coordinator for the JA County Fair Bowl
- **Lynette Bennett** — for serving on the JA board of directors
- **David Dooley, Ryan Maloney, Bill Ritter** and **Brian Von Bargaen** — for presenting JA programs and inspiring and motivating future work force

- **Dyan Foss** and **Kurt Kehler** — for participating in the JA Executive Limo Bowl
- **Eva Upchurch** — for her achievement as second-highest Top Fundraiser.

According to the authors of the letter, chairman Michael Weis and executive director Debra Bowen, “Together, our efforts will shape a brighter future for all of us by igniting student motivation to pursue higher education, inspiring a work force that is better prepared for industry demands and developing a generation of students who are financially literate.”

Congratulations to the eight workers for their efforts. ■

Hanford Security Awareness Council

“Never Take a Vacation from Security” Photo Contest

Combine your vacation photos with a security message. Your submission may become our next Security Awareness poster!

Submissions are due by Sept. 30. The Hanford Security Awareness Council will vote and award prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. To learn more, visit <http://msc.rl.gov/rapidweb/SAS/index.cfm?PageNum=287>.

*Time away from work does **not** mean time away from security!*



Healthy Lunch is Reward for Stretch and Flex Participants

A team of workers from the first floor of the 2420 Stevens Center Place building enjoy a healthy lunch from Pita Pit (*above*), a reward for increasing their participation in the Stretch and Flex program. Since February, the beginning of the competition, 10 areas have shown increases in their Stretch and Flex participation:

- MO-686 and 142-K (the Decommissioning and Demolition Project)
- MO-645 (Engineering, Projects and Construction Project)
- MO-1103 and MO-287 (Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project)
- 271-T, MO-281 and MO-234 (Waste and Fuels Management Project)
- the first and third floors of 2420 Stevens Center Place.

To learn more, call Brenda Kenton, the Stretch and Flex Challenge coordinator, at 376.5750. ■

Hats Off to CHPRC's Desert Bash Golfers

For the second year in a row, CHPRC employees won first place at the ninth annual Olie and Stu's Desert Bash golf tournament, held in July at Meadow Springs Country Club, and CHPRC was a corporate “Hat Trick” sponsor.

Altogether, the tournament raised approximately \$250,000 for the Carson Kolzig Foundation, an organization that addresses autism in the Tri-Cities Community. ■



At the recent Health and Safety EXPO held in May, Larry Riggs (*center front*) visited with CHPRC workers at the Plutonium Finishing Plant's Rad Con Safety booth. The workers included (*from left*): Don L. Sorenson (*kneeling*), Garin Erickson, Joyce Borup, Kaleb Johnson, Randy May, Dave Borup, Brian Keelean, Kathy Keelean, Gayla LaPierre and Donny LaPierre. Riggs, holding a Manhattan Project Certificate that he was awarded in the 1940s, was one of nearly 60,000 people who attended the two-day EXPO.

EXPO Visitor Shares Historic Hanford Safety Stories

At the recent Health and Safety EXPO, the Plutonium Finishing Plant's Rad Con Safety booth had a special visitor, 98-year old Lawrence "Larry" Riggs. Riggs' history at Hanford began on last day of January 1944 when he was asked by duPont officials (via the Chicksaw Ordnance Works near Memphis, Tenn.) to help manage Fire and Safety Operations.

According to Riggs, safety at home and the community was a priority.

"In the early 50s, Hanford workers were required to wear safety belts in government vehicles. We came up with the idea to install seatbelts in as many

cars as we could. For a minimal cost, Richlanders took their cars to local gas station and we'd install them."

One of his stories was about Ed Smith, an engineer for General Electric, whose family survived a rollover accident on their way to Walla Walla a few weeks after installing seatbelts in his '52 Buick Roadmaster.

Riggs is proud of his wartime role and 34-year involvement with safety programs at Hanford, which he describes as "trying to prevent people from serious injury or killing themselves. Seems like a very important job and we worked that way accordingly."

Thank you, Larry Riggs, for your years of support! ■

Employees have a duty to report possible fraud, waste, abuse, misuse, corruption, criminal acts, or mismanagement relating to DOE programs, operations, facilities, contracts or information technology systems, and to report possible reprisals against employees who report such information. Allegations should be reported to an appropriate authority, such as the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at:

800.541.1625 • 202.586.4073
(OIG Hotline numbers)

Visit www.ig.energy.gov/hotline.htm to learn more or call the Director of Internal Audit at 372.0779.

Vanpool Openings

► Four openings: Vanpool 323

Richland to 200 West (MO-760, 272-WA, MO-721, others considered)

Schedule: 8x9 (7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Pickup/drop-offs: 6:15 a.m., south end of Richland bus lot

Contact: Tony Judkins, 551.6278 or 374.0120

To advertise a vanpool opening, send the following information to CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov:

- Van number and schedule
- Departure time(s) and location(s)
- Destination(s)
- Contact name/e-mail/phone number(s)

Work with other interested employees to establish schedules and locations. For more information, contact Ben Franklin Transit at 943.5442 or visit <http://www.bft.org/vanpool.html>.

On the Plateau is published monthly for CHPRC employees. Submit comments and contributions to CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov. Contributions are due by the 10th calendar day of the month prior to publication.

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