

SPECIAL EDITION - SPOTLIGHT ON THE OC BIG DIG*Message from the Regional Manager*

Here we are at the beginning of summer again! With the new CoW rollout, the EBM is now the AA, and possibly the SPA CoW for PO, and will need to be aware of the CoW TA, IA, PA, PIC and any SIMOPs within the PMF and CVP. Contractors will continue to perform RAs, MoCs, MoUs and TSEAs, as well as generate HASPs and SOPs under this PO. (Let's hear it for the new acronyms!) On a more serious note, the **CoW process has been broken down** into 4 steps (**define/plan, assess risks, identify controls and action**) applicable to **4 spheres of influence (site, projects, job and task)**. Be sure to check out the new *RM Defined Practice* document or speak with your EBM regarding changes. As always, play it safe this year with July 4 celebrations and vacation travel. Driving continues to be one of the most dangerous activities we all engage in on a regular basis. – *Chris Winsor, Regional Manager*

FROM THE FIELD . . . Spotlight on **The Big Dig . . .** 5 1/2 weeks, 8 contractors, 103,000 miles driven, 8,000 tons of excavated soil. Take a look at what one of the Orange County (California) crews has been up to this spring. See the writeup on page 2 for more information.

Consider This . . . On Thursday, June 11, the World Health Organization declared a global swine flu pandemic. As with most influenza viruses, A(H1N1), or Influenza A virus subtype with the hemagglutinin 1 (H1) and neuraminidase 1 (N1) proteins, affects people differently, some more severely than others. The A(H1N1) virus is unique in that unlike many other flu viruses, it is spreading globally. Children, **pregnant women** and people with **asthma** appear to face greater risk of serious complications from H1N1; however, it appears that unlike other flu viruses, the elderly do not. In fact, according to the CDC, current studies show that one third of adults over the age of 60 may have an antibody to the virus not found in people under the age of 60. Tips for avoiding the spread of H1N1 – and other flu:

- **Cover mouth and nose** when coughing/sneezing
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, nose
- **Throw tissues away** after each use
- **Wash** hands often and thoroughly
- Cleanse surfaces frequently touched (counters, utensils)
- **Stay home if sick** – for 7 days after symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours (whichever is longer)
- **Practice other good health habits** (sleep, exercise, drink lots of fluids, eat nutritiously)

The phrase “global pandemic” can trigger anxiety and fear, but with conscientious thought to your health, existing antivirals and a vaccine due out in September, this will hopefully soon be a think of the past. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov (CDC), www.redcross.org (American Red Cross), or www.who.int/en/ (World Health Organization).

Additional Resources

HSSE Bi-weekly communication <http://rmhsse.bpglobal.com/communication/hsseweeklycommunication/2009/>

Shared Learning <http://rmhsse.bpglobal.com/communication/sharedlearninglessonslearnedsafetycommunicationsuccessstories/>

SOCs Minute Resource Site <http://socs.dataaccel.com/> (user ID: socs, Password: safety)

To comment, inquire, or obtain information on any item in this publication, or to submit an item for publication, please contact May Marcinek at mmarcinek@envirosolve.com, or 818.889.0090.

Contractor's

In the midst of a continually increasing culture of safety awareness, Cornerstone Environmental Contractors (Cornerstone) has adopted a procedure that has both legal and loss prevention benefits. Taking the concept of a **pre-job site walk** to a new level, Cornerstone now thoroughly examines, documents and evaluates each work site before beginning activities, **often including retail personnel** in the process. During this pre-job site safety walk, Cornerstone **identifies** site hazards, potential safety issues and current site conditions. This includes damaged structures such as canopies, fences, concrete and asphalt surfaces, as well as cosmetic/aesthetic blemishes to buildings and landscape features, both inside and outside the work zone. Cornerstone personnel are able to **remedy** potential problems and prepare appropriate cautionary signage and alternate methods **before beginning work**, enabling start of work activities to proceed and continue more efficiently and hazard-free. Issues they have been able to identify and mitigate during pre-job site walks include damaged well boxes (trip hazard), stubbed off utilities (trip hazard), buffed up concrete, cracked cinder block and a bent support column under a canopy awning. In addition to mitigating these issues before work, the conditions were noted through written documentation and photographs in order to avoid future potential conflicts with retail operators or property owners with regard to responsibility for the site conditions. The pre-job “site safety walk” not only provides **clear documentation of any potential liability** issues but also an opportunity for **retail personnel to be included and understand** the field activities and commitment to safety in a non-threatening or offensive way. – *special thanks to Eric James of Cornerstone Environmental*

@Traction

Trip hazards! One of RM West's first aid injuries for the month of May came about because of a slip/trip/fall. However, it was not the only incident related to “**being aware of your surroundings**”. This month please **focus on yourself**. Take a moment to check the ground before you step out of a vehicle or off the pavement. As you depart your site, consider how you will get out and home safely – is your vehicle secured, are there posts or barriers sticking up or traffic rushing by?

Project description

Coined "The Big Dig," BP's remedial excavation of the former Atlantic Richfield Company retail station #6071 in Santa Ana, California, was a 5 ½ week project which began March 20 and ran through April 28. Previous remedial activities at the site had reached a point of no return, and due to BP's sale of the property and liquor license timing, work was expedited. While required site activities were relatively basic, the expedited timing and lot size, roughly half an acre, meant that many activities were occurring simultaneously within a close space. Site work was conducted methodically, with holes consecutively shored, dug and dewatered as needed. **Eight different contractors** (Delta, Stantec, AECOM, California Barricade, Belshire, J.C. Palomar, AIS, Treebor Shoring and BP) were involved in the project, with an average of 12 people on site per day, in addition to another 30 workers trucking 15 loads of backfill in each day and trucking off 15 loads of soil waste for disposal. Over **8,000 tons of hydrocarbon impacted soil** were excavated to an approximate depth of 15 feet below ground surface and removed from the site. More than **149,000 gallons of hydrocarbon impacted groundwater** were extracted and treated. Over **103,000 miles** of driving occurred. Almost everyday, site activities included soil excavation (ground disturbance procedures), groundwater extraction, dumping of backfill material, box shoring installation and removal, working from heights, confined space entry, spraying of suppressant foam, traffic control erection and removal, and air, water and soil sampling. In the midst of all of these activities **the team did not incur a single H&S first aid or recordable.**



How did they do it?

As always, **the team made safety its number one priority.** Given the job's unique parameters of time, space and type of work, this focus was played out in four different aspects, enabling safety while also completing the job.

1) **TIME.** "We communicated, planned ahead and made sure it was done safely," says Danny Monson, project EBM. In order to take the time to do it safely, Danny had to hire several contractors and personnel to be on site at the same time. By performing multiple jobs at the same time, **no individual task needed to be rushed**, allowing workers for each task the time to complete their specific work load safely.

2) **COMMUNICATION.** The team talked about safety, and specifically as it relates to multiple people and tasks on-site at the same time, every day, and also sought to talk everything through. This took the form of tailgate meetings, JSA review, quick meetings before tasks, and discussion and review of appropriate JSA prior to initiation of every task change. **Site workers were continually brought on to the same page on a daily basis.** "I was relentless about HSSE," says Danny.

3) **DELEGATION.** No one is an expert in every field. Recognizing the need for teamwork and expertise in other areas, Danny was able to **delegate and divide the work load**, promoting not only efficiency and job accuracy, but also safety in each individual type of task. For instance, he was able to bring in a contractor who was an expert in confined space entry shoring technique. Says Danny, "I had Health and Safety third party oversight during the entire job."

4) **REWARDS/APPRECIATION.** More than just icing on the cake, rewards and thanks offer team members appreciation for a job well done, and stimulate team morale, encouraging continued safe work practices. On The Big Dig, Danny provided workers with BP long sleeved fluorescent yellow T-shirts and BP water bottles as rewards for safe work practices, **reinforcing the team commitment to safety and also his appreciation of their success.**

