

Operations Manager's Comments

Here we are – September again! Traffic has picked up since summer and drivers are starting to get back into rushed and erratic behaviors. Remember, driving continues to be one of the most dangerous activities we all engage in on a daily basis. Take a moment to review defensive driving tips with your team. This message cannot be reinforced enough. Thank you to all for a fantastic summer – and be safe out there! – *Chris Winsor, Deputy Ops Mgr, US Retail, PL, Terminals*

FROM THE FIELD . . .

Recently North American Gas (NAG) shut-in the Whitney Canyon Gas Plant and turned it over to RM for decommissioning, with the exception of the fuel gas system which continued to supply heat to administrative buildings. The shutting off of an air line triggered a pressure control valve to default fail in the closed position, preventing delivery of heat to admin buildings. A temporary bypass was manually opened, defeating the safety device, and allowing some 40MMcf of fuel gas to vent unnoticed to the atmosphere over the space of a few months. A few lessons learned: **Importance of proper risk assessment. Definition of roles/accountabilities.** Confusion around roles likely contributed to the lack of follow up to the 'temporary' bypass and lack of timely notifications to management and agencies. A better definition and understanding of roles/responsibilities in this SIMOPs environment would have helped to mitigate the incident entirely. **Communication.** MOC's that impacted both NAG/RM weren't shared. **Combined safety meetings** and routine project status meetings can help keep parties abreast of issues and prevent misunderstandings. In RM we often operate in environments that include multiple parties with many 'moving parts' and changing conditions, and when operations overlap, accountabilities are fuzzy or communication is poor, even highly skilled individuals can make mistakes. – *Special thanks to Alan Delisle, Deputy Ops Mgr, US Other Assets & Lower 48 Decom.*



Contractor's

This past May 2009, Project Manager Carlos Rodriguez and his Stantec San Diego field team demonstrated the importance of thorough **pre-work planning** in helping establish a solid "safety-first" mindset at the job site. When the team was forced to consider off-site residential drilling to monitor a groundwater plume, it was immediately faced with an encroachment permit containing specific city-ordained daily time restrictions, bringing into question the ability to finish the job in one day. Because BP already requires field teams to put together an extensive pre-work planning package, which includes the HASP, JSAs, subcontractor qualifications, equipment records and logistics; the team set to work planning the job ahead of time, considering such details as how to transport drums the 300 or so feet between the service station and the drill site. However, a thorough **backup plan** was still needed, should the work be unable to be completed by the city-ordained daily stop time. The Project Manager and Project Geologist, Michelle Maffucci, met with the drilling and traffic control subs to discuss "what-ifs" and together they were able to **determine a stop work time** and appropriate temporary well closure (in this case, a steel plate) should they need to return to finish another day. With everyone on the same page and familiar with the backup plan, each team member was **able to focus** on performing his or her **specific task well, without the temptation to rush** to make a specific deadline. Thorough, careful pre-work planning helped not only to mitigate physical hazards, but to transform a complex, time constrained job into a well organized, well executed, safely handled job. To top it all off, the team was able to smoothly complete the entire job in one day!

Consider This . . .

It's almost flu season again. In June we ran a short article about the 2009 H1N1 flu and general flu prevention, and with the onset of the regular flu season, it is anticipated that **more people than usual will be affected** by one flu strain or another. **Your conscientious commitment** to flu prevention this year **could have a significant role in helping you, your family, your coworkers and their families remain healthy.**

- Obtain a **seasonal flu vaccine**
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick – and with others in general
- **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK. PERIOD.**
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing.
- **Keep hands & work areas clean** – thorough washing, sanitizing
- Avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth.
- **PRACTICE GOOD HEALTH** (sleep, exercise, fluids, nutrition – a healthy body can fight illness better than a tired, unhealthy body).

For more information, see the [SOCs Resource site](#).

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.

@Traction

Year to date as compared with 2008, RM West has fewer first aid, recordable (none!), material release, loss/damage, transportation, security, and compliance/conformance incident reports. **Everyone's efforts** to think twice, check paperwork, use a spotter, and a host of other things **are showing!** In August, RM West reported 4 near misses, 1 material release stopped by secondary containment, and 1 site-wide illness. A few **common RM themes** seen globally and in the West: **site security** (an increasing issue), **bees/wasps**, bypassed **barricades**, dangerous **third party drivers**, and encroaching unmarked, unknown **utility lines** despite extensive locates and planning. Please continue to be aware of these issues and be **proactively defensive**. Keep up the safe work!