

Operations Manager's Comments

As we head into the holiday season I want to emphasize the importance of beginning each work day **"fit for work."** Not only are road conditions, weather and temperatures changing quickly, but with the holidays here it's easy to become distracted thinking about family gatherings and holiday plans. Take a moment to check in with your crew and make sure everyone is **mentally and physically** fit for work before beginning the job and throughout the day. And remember the number one reason for staying safe on the job – we all want to be able to **go home to family and friends at the end of the day!**

– Chris Winsor, Deputy Ops Mgr, US Retail, PL, Terminals

FROM THE FIELD . . .

"One of the **easiest safety features** you can install for your site is an **earthquake valve for gas shut-off**," says San Diego Retail Operations PM, David White. There are three types of gas shut-off valves: manual shutoff, earthquake sensitive automatic shutoff and excess flow automatic shutoff. Commonly used, the earthquake sensitive automatic shut-off valve can be purchased for \$150-400, and per manufacturer instructions, requires zero maintenance after installation and initial testing other than visual inspection. Justin Hawkins of Stantec recommends **performing a periodic bump test** to ensure it triggers the shut-off mechanism. Jim Krivan of Stratus also recommends a monthly tap test and notes the importance of maintaining a clear space around the valve as running a heavy truck next to it or allowing a fence to lean on it may also cause enough pressure to trigger the shut-off. Jim also offers a reminder to be sure to **install the valve at the meter or upstream of the flexline**, as the flexline, being the weakest point, may break in an earthquake. Whether or not a gas shut-off valve is required in your area varies by city law. However, as David notes, the **entire West Coast can have seismic activity**, from Southern California extending through Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Idaho as well. For a list of certified installers and manufacturers, check your state or city government website. *For more information, see the SOC's Minute Resource Site.*

Photo courtesy of Justin Hawkins



Contractor's

Last month a Delta field team in Everett, Washington encountered an unusual situation, illustrating the importance of constantly being **aware of your surroundings**. The team was performing enhanced liquid recovery at a busy retail station, when they noticed sirens approaching the station. The team stopped work and shut off the vacuum truck as emergency personnel arrived and ran to a vehicle at one of the pump islands. While waiting to resume work, the team learned from a police officer that the **driver** of a vehicle at the pump island **had fallen asleep** with his foot on the brake and his **vehicle pointed directly downhill at the exclusion zone**. The driver was arrested, and the team held an impromptu safety meeting. In a busy work area, unless something stands out in an obvious way, it can tend to go unnoticed, and little things, such as a sleeping driver, can be entirely missed, as a stationary vehicle at a gas pump does not trigger an alert response under normal circumstances. Be wary of taking routine day to day activities and traffic patterns for granted. It is incredibly important to **maintain "situational awareness" at all times**. With many teams favoring partner work over solo work, try to designate one of your team members to be on a defensive watch. As with defensive driving, **practice defensive job performance**.

Consider This . . .

With the holidays just around the corner, we thought we'd give you a fun list of health and safety related gift ideas. For more ideas, check out the supplement at socs.dataaccel.com.

- Emergency/first aid reference book
- First aid/CPR classes
- Oven stick (notched stick for pushing and pulling hot oven racks)
- Polarized sunglasses
- Reflective clothing for morning/night jogging, biking, etc.
- Headlamp
- Your services as a designated driver
- Vehicle emergency kit

Additional Resources

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

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

How many times are our incidents and near-misses directly tied to **Control of Work**? Ankle rolls, slip/trip/falls, pinches, lifting, visibility issues? While CoW was only mentioned specifically in 3 incident reports since the beginning of October, **lack of, incomplete or inadequate** SPPs, risk assessments and TSEAs are mentioned multiple times. ALL of these relate to control of work. It is imperative that each team be conducting **proper Work Risk Assessments** prior to the field, and **TSEAs at the task site**. Nearly half a year into the rollout of RM's new HSSE Management System, which includes CoW, it is important to continue to have everyone involved, even if you are not perfect or even close to CoW compliance. Remember your 4 CoW steps – **define/plan** the work to be performed, **assess the risks, identify controls** to mitigate the risks and **act on it!** For more information on Control of Work, contact your BP PM.