

Operations Manager's Comments

No doubt you have been following the news related to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. RM is involved in the spill response with a number of staff already deployed to the various incident command centers. Additional RM staff will likely join them in the near future as supplemental help or to take their turn in the resource rotation. While efforts continue in the Gulf it is essential that we maintain our focus on our areas of responsibility and in particular on the safety of all who are performing work for us at our project sites. As a reminder the Work Risk Assessment (WRATs) practice including use of the Task Safety Environmental Analysis form has been developed specifically to assist you in thoroughly and completely assessing and minimizing activity risks. – CW

FROM THE FIELD . . .

Last year's roll-out of Control of Work included work Risk Assessments (RAs). Unlike JSAs in the past, RAs now involve and leverage experience of the entire field team to further define "Job" risks down to the "Task" level. "Job" level RAs, such as "monitor well drilling and installation" and "cover materials characterization," should be completed ahead of time using the interactive Work Risk Assessment Tool spreadsheet. Task level RAs, or TSEAs, go one step further, and include all activities collectively needed to complete a job, such as "mobilization", "prep site for drilling" and "monitor well construction." TSEAs can be started ahead of time but MUST be completed at the field. When the Yerington Mine team met to compose their drilling TSEAs, they began by bringing the entire team – drillers, scientists, PMs – together to talk through each step and each potential hazard, consequence and control, with one person taking notes on separate TSEA worksheets. These TSEAs will be reviewed with any new site workers to make sure they are fully onboard, and to ensure each of their responsibilities, hazards and controls has been sufficiently addressed. If not, the team will institute a STOP WORK and the TSEA will be modified to address the newly identified hazards or controls. Because each person fills a different role in the Task, it is of paramount importance to workplace safety that each person take part in identifying hazards and controls. – special thanks to EnviroSolve's John Batchelder and Brown & Caldwell's Penny Bassett



As the new lead supplier to several RM sites, Delta-Hull field techs and geologists recently performed routine site walkovers to check out their new sites and their conditions. During one such walkover, one monitoring well was discovered without either its plug or its lid. In fact, both were still lying on the ground next to it! Records showed that this well was sampled sometime during the middle of the most recent sampling event, indicating that perhaps the previous supplier's tech had been called away

for a moment and forgot to come back and cover the well. The uncovered well and lids could have become a trip hazard,

in addition to collecting 3 months of debris and rainfall. While sampling is a routine activity, don't let it become a "routine activity without thought!" "Incidents like this reinforce the importance of double checking each site before we leave and making sure nothing has been overlooked," says Senior Delta-Hull PM, Brent Graves. This incident also served to heighten awareness of site checks among Indiana crews and prompted further discussion of site awareness. – special thanks to Delta-Hull's Brent Graves and BP PM David Clauson



Consider This . . .

With spring warming up into summer, tick season is here! The U.S. Armed Forces Pest Management Board recommends a two-fold approach for military personnel protection, using DEET on exposed skin and permethrin on clothing. Research has shown that standard commercial bug repellents with DEET concentrations of 15-30%, reapplied every few hours, combined with very small concentrations of permethrin on clothing, are the most safe and effective means of protecting against ticks, other than complete tick avoidance. While DEET repels, permethrin kills – ticks, that is. Research has shown that permethrin is poorly absorbed by human skin and has low toxicity for mammals, but can actually kill an exposed tick in a short amount of time. Permethrin that has been manufactured for bonding to clothing can last on your clothes 2-6 weeks and through multiple launderings as well.

@Traction

Over this past month, unsecured equipment was a common theme reported in Traction incidents. During March, we traveled with unsecured equipment, did not secure equipment properly and saw it become unsecured en route and fall to the road, did not properly secure equipment at the work site and saw it drop or fall over during the job, and left a vehicle unsecured and experienced the theft of its contents. Neglecting to double check or add an extra security measure resulted in several near misses and one theft, all of which could have been significantly worse had they occurred under different circumstances. This month, be extra cautious of "routine activity without thought" and take the extra 5 minutes to make sure your equipment is always secure – whether while traveling, sitting in the vehicle or in operation at the work site.

Additional Resources

- HSSE Bi-weekly communication** <http://rmhsse.bpglobal.com/communication/hsseiweeklycommunication/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.