

Operations Manager's Comments

Earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, fires. It seems like every week a new major catastrophe has occurred, quite often outside our control. This is a great reminder to all to be considering and **discussing TSEAs and RAs thoroughly with all involved team members**. Weather changes and natural disasters are examples of events that will likely warrant a new CoW and/or MoC process, prompting review and modification of current RAs. The **Work Risk Assessment Tool (WRAT)** has been developed specifically to assist you in thoroughly and completely assessing and minimizing your risk. Talk to your PM or HSSE Advisor for help in completing your WRATs – and be safe out there!
– Ron Halsey, Operations Manager, U.S. Mining, Canada & Alaska

FROM THE FIELD . . .

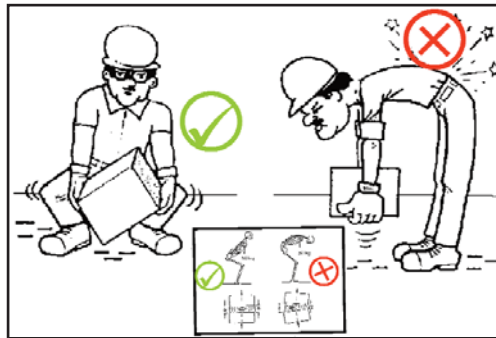
While BP and other companies have identified 50 pounds as the lifting maximum for workers not using assistance or mechanical devices, the BP policy also states that **workers should not lift anything greater than their comfort level**, and as the Project Oversight for Yerington Mine, John Batchelder, notes, most people should probably not be lifting 50 pounds by themselves. At roughly 1/3 to 1/4 of many people's body weight, 50 pounds is a large load for a frontal lift, regardless of the worker's strength or physical fitness level, utilizing back muscles not usually used. "Workers should only be lifting objects within their comfort level, regardless of the weight, and should be monitored for correct body position while lifting. Bending repeatedly to pick up a 10 pound weight while performing routine sampling activities may have just as detrimental an effect as lifting a compact chest level 50 pound weight," says Batchelder. Large objects, uneven terrain and awkward lifting positions further affect the lift. **Consider your body position** during routine lifting and stooping events and **look for ways to get help** from a coworker or mechanical device. – Special thanks to John Batchelder of EnviroSolve



Chicago fitting



Lock-Down screw is highlighted in yellow. Highlighted in red are the two components that twist lock and snap together.



Contractor's

Sometimes a great device has an **excellent safety record . . . if** assembled and used correctly. When worker safety hangs on that "if," it may not be enough. The Chicago or Sure-Lock Quick Acting Coupling, an industry standard for drillers, was used exclusively within Cascade Drilling at one time. However, Cascade personnel noticed that because the safety pin was a completely separate component with no attachment to hold it to the fitting while assembling or storing, it could be **easily misplaced or forgotten**. Realizing the **potential for human error**, the company

researched other options, and switched to the **Dixon fitting**, also known as the Dix-Lock Quick Acting Coupling. With the Dixon fittings, all components are physically attached, including the locking screw. This lock-down screw works by tightening up against the locking mechanism of the fitting connection, and must be manually loosened before the two connections can come apart. By investing in a technology providing one more safeguard, Cascade drillers and helpers have been able to continue to work safely with **one less opportunity for hazard due to human error**. – Special thanks to Gerry Woods of Cascade and Brad Eisenberg of Stantec

Consider This . . .

Summer is upon us! Whether it's hitting the home "fix-it" list, sprucing up the yard or finally tackling that big project, many of us will be spending more time with our tools. **Cultivate a safe work culture with the right PPE!** You can

set a positive example for your kids and neighbors simply by putting on your gloves and glasses. Weeding, weed wacking, mowing, planting, hammering, chopping, cutting, spraying, building, auto work, fixing the bicycle. A few things to keep on hand: **thick work gloves, wrap around eye protection**, box of dust masks, thin garden gloves and a box of nitrile or latex gloves for changing the oil and handling other fluids. Consider keeping an extra pair of work gloves and eye protection on hand, too – **kids like to help and this is a great time to help them learn safety!**

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

Common themes in April and May incident reports included securing loose items, use of spotters, proper PPE, negligent 3rd party drivers and **equipment deficiencies**. With remediation systems back up and running after the winter months, now is a great time to ensure that **inspection and O&M procedures are in place** for each component of your remediation systems and equipment inspection **checklists are thorough**. These past few months field crews discovered RAs/TSEAs were not always comprehensive enough, and had to update accordingly. **Do your WRATs cover parking hazards, onsite driving hazards, vegetation, wildlife, use of spotters and securing loose items?**