

Message from Operations

As a young man working in the steel industry, a grizzled veteran offered me some sound advice...**"keep your head on a swivel and always leave yourself a place to run."** What he was really telling me was to always be aware and plan ahead. We typically perform a mental PPE checklist prior to mobilization...hardhat, glasses, steel toes, gloves, etc. However, I would offer that your **wits and commonsense are your most critical PPE.** A hardhat will not tell you that you need a spotter while backing a rig. Steel toes don't care if your buddy is looking flush or tired. Using your wits and commonsense to keep **prepared and alert** will provide better protection than gloves or a hardhat. The next time you head out to the job site, please **don't forget your "Critical PPE."** You owe it to yourself, your company, project team, the communities in which we work and most of all, your family. – *Scott Ziegler, BP RM Deputy OM*

FROM THE FIELD . . .

On June 30, BP RM's only 2011 recordable incident occurred, at the former Wood River Refinery in IL. A heavy equipment operator in a skid steer was backfilling air-knifed excavations, and as the day progressed, the ground became rutted. Descending a slight decline with the filled bucket raised 3 – 4 feet off the ground, he abruptly encountered a depressed rut, causing the **skid steer to lurch**

forward. The lap belt and safety bar were employed, but did not fully constrain the employee, and he also lurched, **striking his hand and breaking a finger.**

A Root Cause Investigation (RCI) proceeded a few days later to discover **potential systemic and other causes that may have combined to trigger the incident.** The purpose of the RCI was not to find someone to blame, but to approach the situation **without preconceived ideas, ready to listen.**

As site workers discussed policies, toolbox meetings, events on the day of the incident, backfill operations, employee health, and site norms; it became clear **the issue was physics:** slight decline, abrupt stop, center of gravity thrust forward. However, they also found that **heavy equipment training** was little addressed, as long as the operator was highly experienced. As the contractor and sub work to **develop training certifications and refreshers,** addressing ground conditions (ruts, decline/incline) and driving with loads (elevated/non-elevated), please consider your own heavy equipment policies. The Wood River team will also recommend the manufacturer consider use of a 5-point restraint system to secure the driver.

– *Special thanks to BP's Tom Tunnicliff and Eric Larson, and the Wood River crew*



Per BP Hitco site requirements, Gregg Drilling's Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT) rigs employ a **video camera that is focused on the CPT shaft,** a traditional blind spot for operators, with a TV monitor relaying the images inside the cab to the operator. Use of a camera-monitor system **enables the inside operator** to avoid accidents, **see personnel more clearly and have immediate feedback** if a utility is encountered. The BP Hitco team implemented these precautionary measures in order to **avoid potential accidents** such as a recent non-BP site injury. An employee working on a non-BP remediation site broke the tip of his thumb while cleaning the CPT shaft, when the operator **lost visual contact** with him and raised the shaft, pinching the thumb between the shaft sleeve and the rig housing. The field team had walked through multiple scenarios for hazard control and mitigation, and management/safety had observed the site;

however, the rig was parked in an atypical position at this particular location, eliminating visual contact between the inside operator and the outside driller. **No positive means of communication was established** in this situation and the operator moved equipment prior to the driller being clear of the area. By establishing an additional engineering control, such as a camera-monitor system, the operator is able to maintain visual contact with the shaft throughout the task and **avoid the temptation to "assume"** all is clear – or simply remain ignorant of the shaft's immediate surroundings. Consider and share with your drill crews. – *Special thanks to Parsons' Paul Farmanian, Gregg Drilling, and the BP Hitco RM crew!*



Monitor view of probe inside cab

Consider This . . .

The CDC's **National Preparedness Month** is September. Quick quiz: have you put together an **emergency kit for you car** with water, food, warmth and sturdy shoes? Do you know how to shut off your home gas line? Do you have **extra water at home** in case of earthquake or water shutoff? Do you have a plan to stay cool/warm should electricity be compromised? How many of your **neighbors do you know?** Could you call on them for help? Do you know how to perform CPR? Are you familiar with **basic or intermediate first aid?** Do you have a communication plan to notify loved ones after a disaster? Visit the [CDC & FEMA Citizen Corps](#) websites for info and to get involved in your community! **(See SOCs website below for links.)**

Additional Resources

BP RM HSSE Site <https://wss2.BP.com/remediationmanagement/HSSE/default.aspx>

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

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@Traction

July 2011 saw **6 first aid cases** for RM, **3 related to sun/heat** (muscle soreness after long, hot, physical day; sunburn; headache after hot/sunny day), **and 3 punctures** (metal sliver; kneeling on hidden barbed wire; paper cut). Watch for potential hidden puncture hazards, and consider more frequent breaks and buddy watches during the last summer days. **Defective equipment, hydraulic lines and site security** continue to be issues. A few sites are performing **frequent equipment inspections**, catching signs of wear and tear early on. Consider as appropriate.