

Message from Operations

On January 28, 2012 a very tragic accident occurred at a construction site in northern California. Three days prior to the accident, city workers deemed the construction site too dangerous and ordered a stop to all work. The **stop-work was ignored** by the construction company, and a carpenter entered a 12-foot deep trench without shoring protection. The trench collapsed, burying him alive and, unfortunately, killing him. In addition to the construction company neglecting to inform employees to cease activities, **none of the employees recognized the inherent danger** in working in a 12-foot deep trench without shoring, and none of them stopped the carpenter from entering that trench. **The single most important tool in our H&S toolbox is our Stop Work Authority.** If something doesn't look or feel right (whether at the job site or at home), exercise your Stop Work Authority, re-assess the situation and resume work only once all issues have been resolved. Anyone working in or for RM should **never hesitate to stop work** if they question the safety of any situation.

– Sergio Morescalchi, BP RM OPM

FROM THE FIELD . . .

A recent incident near a retail site in IL reminds us of the importance of **exercising caution and skepticism**, even when a seemingly knowledgeable person gives information regarding a job. During a pre-dig meeting at a private residence, after utility locates, the property owner explained that he had also personally replaced his sewer line at about 6' bgs. Being a former city inspector, the team took his word as good, and cautiously decided on a small excavator. However, the line was actually **encountered at about 3' bgs**, with no sand or pea gravel backfill to indicate its presence, and located extremely close to a water well – not within proper utility installation distances. A stop work was called, and the issue was quickly resolved. Additionally, an apparent fiber optics line was encountered in an area not delineated by the utility locator. In reflecting on the incident, RM OPM Diane Diks shares a few thoughts regarding interaction with third parties, "It's important to consult [the third party] – but **you can't assume the knowledge you are receiving is without error**, or that the initial utility installation work was performed correctly. You always have to **approach with caution.**" Expect the unexpected. Please consider and share with your teams. – *Special thanks to Diane Diks & the Pangean-CMD team*



USA workers on site

Contractor's

Fit-for-duty vs. pre-existing condition – we all grapple with this. USA Environment L.P. operates under a Control of Work framework which includes a comprehensive training matrix, multiple daily safety meetings, sharing of safety observations and an open door policy. Recently two sites overseen by USA called stop works when it became apparent that workers were unable to perform assigned duties safely, **inhibited by prescription medication and pre-existing conditions.** Site safety officers immediately noticed worker behaviors, and stopped work before incidents could develop. USA offers a couple valuable lessons: 1) Site workers (union and non) need to understand the **importance of disclosing everything** and letting the SSO decide if reassignment is necessary. Better to be overly cautious and avoid an injury, that overly optimistic and further injure self or others. 2) PMs and/or SSOs need to **verify documentation.** Add risk of fraudulent documents to the WRAT. Can the contractor verify that the worker has disclosed pre-existing conditions,

including those for which a doctor was never officially seen? 3) As USA and many others already do, continue to build a **culture in which workers are comfortable talking** to the SSO – whether to mention a recurring bad back, or to stop work and share a safety observation. *Special thanks to Steve Grice, USA PM*

Consider This . . .

According to researchers, most cases of influenza (the common respiratory "flu" – not stomach flu) occur in winter, as do a spike in heart incidents. Two factors – low absolute humidity, allowing **flu virus to remain in the air longer**, and **significant decrease in daylight** hours, negatively impacting heart related hormones – are contributors. Research indicates **Vitamin D may enhance the immune system** in such a way as to prevent flu infection; consider a multi-vitamin or Vit D supplement during winter. For winter heart health, consider 7-8 hours of nightly **sleep**, 30 minutes of **daily aerobic exercise**, drinking lots of **water** and changing out whites (bread/pasta) for **whole grains** (more fiber=more nutritional benefit, plus you feel full!). With the holidays over, now is a perfect time to fight disease and get ready for a healthy spring!

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)

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, 818.889.0090, or Sergio Morescalchi at sergio.morescalchi@bp.com, 925.275.3807.

@Traction

RM closed out 2011 with no DAFWC's, and fewer recordables, occupational injury/illness and first aids than the previous couple years! As well, the bulk of our material releases (~80%) were categorized as "leaks" rather than "spills," and were primarily to due defects in equipment. **Compliance/conformance events grew** by more than double over 2010, to 28 incidents, and were primarily related to exceedances and loss of containment. **A few stats**, as reported:

- DAFWC: 0** (2010=3, 2009=3)
- Recordable: 4** (2010=5, 2009=5)
- First Aid: 23** (2010=29, 2009=48)
- Occupational injury/illness: 36** (2010=43, 2009=66)
- Leaks: 47** (2010=31, 2009=31)
- Spills: 12** (2010=7, 2009=21)
- Compliance/conformance: 28** (2010=12, 2009=4)

As we begin 2012, let's be alert to **compliance opportunities and equipment integrity** – and keep up the great work protecting worker health and safety on site!