



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

HANFORD MISSION

HMIS

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

MISSION: ENERGIZE

Seek out ways to energize and harness the power of unity to achieve common goals.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



En-er-gize / en-er-jiz / 1.: to make energetic, vigorous, or active. "energized by the coach's pep talk." 2.: to impart energy to.

Is this where I say "Rah, rah, go team go!"?

Seriously, though, "ENERGIZE" is a great theme for this month's newsletter. We're in an exciting time in the Hanford Site cleanup mission. The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant successfully heated up both melters, more than one billion gallons of contaminated groundwater is being treated each year, waste is being processed through the Tank Side Cesium Removal system and so much more.

As the Site integrator, we play a crucial role in ensuring these cleanup activities can happen. We're also continuously on the lookout for opportunities to identify new solutions to challenges and drive innovation to ensure smooth operations sitewide.

I am proud every day of our work that provides this foundation for the cleanup mission. It can be challenging and at times draining. So, in the spirit of a coach's pep talk, I encourage you to seek out ways to energize – or re-energize – yourself and those around you.

Look for opportunities to collaborate that will bring new insights to our projects and initiatives. Harness the power of unity to achieve common goals. Celebrate achievements and recognize accomplishments. Set exciting goals and objectives for the future. And most importantly, take care of your own physical and mental wellbeing so you can maintain your energy for both work and your personal life. In our SIMPLE values, safety comes first for a reason.

Thank you so much for all you do – I'm grateful for every one of you! *Bob*

5 MINUTES WITH MARNELLE SHERIFF



A fan of 80's rock ballads and HMIS' director of IT Governance, Marnelle Sheriff came to Hanford in 1986 after hearing the lab was hiring. She started as a chem tech at 222-S labs and has worked for many contracting companies at Hanford over the years. Here's what else we learned during our conversation...

1. What made you want to be a leader?

I think it's natural leadership abilities and taking advantage of opportunities. I rise to the occasion and have naturally rotated to positions of leadership. At Tank Farms, I had a mentor who nominated me to be a manager in an area having troubles. That was my first management position and from there I have continued to grow through experience and training.

2. What does "energize," this month's newsletter theme, mean to you?

Energize means to put in motion. It can be anything from changing a cultural perspective or point of view to energizing something stagnant by looking at old concepts in a new way.

3. What do you do in your free time?

I am consumed with my 14-year-old twin daughters. I want to be there and be present for all their adventures. One is in music, and I support all her trips and concerts. The other one is an athlete with an equally busy schedule (she's currently running track).

4. When you're having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

I like the patio and garden at my house. Getting outside and walking for a few minutes around the garden with the flowers and getting a breath of fresh air is super calming. I have three cats and three dogs and when they aren't causing stress, they are releasing stress.

5. What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?

A whole lot. When I was 19/20, I had to apply for my first Q clearance. I had to go back 10 years of addresses and I had 13 in those 10 years. Most of my life, my parents moved all over the U.S. or several times in a city.

6. What's your bucket list travel location?

Italy and Albania. My dad is Italian and Albanian. France to visit the Louvre.

7. What team do you root for?

Dallas Cowboys (sorry Todd Eckman!)

RAPID FIRE

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RECOGNITION

The Sun Shines on HMIS Employees

Contributor: Jill Harvill

The spring 2024 Rise and Shine Awards were presented to 31 employees. Nominated by their manager, these employees exemplify key performance values of Safety, Hitting the Mark, Initiative, New Ideas and Exceptional Service.

The selection process culminates in a breakfast awards ceremony attended by the selected nominees and their leadership team. Please join us in congratulating the following employees for their awesome work when you see them!

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Cindy Hernandez

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Tess Misipeka
Shane Edinger
Justin Didier

SAFEGUARDS, SECURITY & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Christine Fowler
Duane Olsen
Gretchen Crowder
Kenneth Oldford
Kyle Haff
Michael Peale

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Jo Ann Kadinger
Meagan Martinez

MISSION ASSURANCE

Eric Hokanson
Steve Peterson
Kathy Keelean
Kelly Elsethagen

ENGINEERING & PROJECTS

Eric Dunford
Pierce Jones
Zach Howard
Khoi Tran

INFRASTRUCTURE & SITE SERVICES

Erika Lapp
Tonya Hubbell

INTERFACE & INTEGRATION SERVICES

Scott Downing
Gracey Dretzka
Matthew Storms
Kent Sumner
Eric Buckenberger
Cori Nickerson
Shahram Jadidi
James Marquardt
Florida Holden



Congratulations to the 2024 Rise and Shine Award winners!

RECOGNITION

HMIS Retiree Receives State Recognition

Contributor: Reneé Brooks

A recent HMIS retiree, Sam Camp, was honored by the Washington State Department of Health with a Commitment to Excellence award. Sam was nominated for this prestigious award by his former colleague Brent Stenson.

During the awards presentation, former supervisor Jon Kon with Water & Sewer Utilities shared that Sam often set the bar high for expectations, effort and leadership at Hanford. Instead of meeting requirements, Jon said Sam wanted to do better, which many referred to as "living up to the Sam Camp standard."

After accepting the award, Sam said that it was "not just a Sam Camp award. This is for everyone I have worked with over the years."

Sam began his career at the Hanford Site in May 1977 as a drinking water operator. He filled many roles over the years, including field work supervisor and senior technical advisor and retired from HMIS in January.



Sam Camp (center) was joined by many former colleagues and supervisors at the awards ceremony, including (left to right) Amy Basche, Todd Synoground, Bob Wilkinson and Jon Kon.

RECOGNITION

Ted Morales Recognized for Contributions to Emergency Management

Contributor: Steve Meyers

Emergency Management & Preparedness' Ted Morales was recently recognized for his years-long contributions to the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG) at the Emergency Management Symposium.



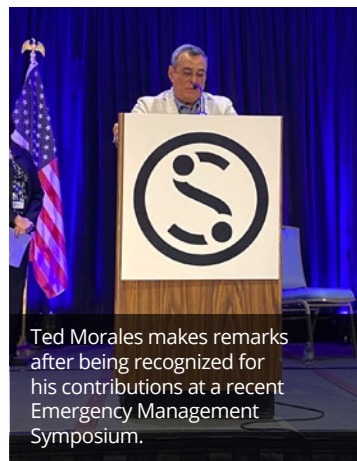
Ted Morales is accompanied by the One Hanford team who congratulated him on his recognition.

Ted's colleagues from across the entire DOE Complex view him as an innovator, subject matter expert, leader and friend.

This accomplishment is a testament to Ted's more than 43 years of service in Emergency Services Programs at Hanford. He has been with Hanford Patrol's Tactical Response Team, Site Physical Security and has spent the past 28 years in Emergency Management.

He has supported nine declared emergencies at Hanford, ranging from the chemical explosion at the Plutonium Reclamation Facility in 1997 to the PUREX tunnel collapse in 2017. He has also led the Hanford Site Exercise Program, acted as the EM&P director and currently serves as the Readiness Assurance manager for HMIS.

His leadership and commitment to excellence in emergency management is even more evident with this recognition. Congratulations Ted!



Ted Morales makes remarks after being recognized for his contributions at a recent Emergency Management Symposium.

He has also supported efforts to increase information sharing and lessons learned among emergency management professionals.

RECOGNITION

Melissa Torres Recognized as Young Professional

Contributor: Reneé Brooks

Congratulations to Melissa Torres, director of Fire Systems Maintenance, on being recognized with a Young Professional award from the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business! Melissa was nominated due to her commitment to the Hanford cleanup mission, dedication to continuous improvement and excellence in professionalism as a young professional at HMIS.

Although Melissa has only been with HMIS since Jan. 2022, she has demonstrated her initiative and technical expertise at the Hanford Site for several years, working for Washington Closure Hanford, WRPS and DOE before coming to HMIS.

Melissa worked full-time as a college student so she could graduate without any student loans and later completed her Master of Business Administration in information technology management in just seven months.

More than 60 people were nominated for this prestigious award and Melissa was one of just ten who were honored.

Read the Journal of Business article [HERE](#).



Melissa Torres was recently announced as one of ten Young Professionals recognized by the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business. Photo credit: Rich Breshears Photography



HMIS electricians walk toward a power pole in the distance to check their lock and tag boundary as crews prepared to “sunset” the 6266 and 6270 buildings.

Each one of the locks and tags on this box represents a person who was completing some sort of work around the facility during the four-day shutdown.

This pile of cut-up electrical wires represents just a fraction of all the wiring that was removed from the 6266 and 6270 buildings.

MISSION: ENERGIZE

Collaboration and Coordination Send 6266 & 6270 Into the Sunset

Contributor: Shane Edinger

A lot of preparation goes into decommissioning a building at Hanford, and our Electrical Services team recently joined forces with Electrical Utilities and several other groups to take the 6266 and 6270 buildings cold and dark. The work at the former Radiological Site Services buildings took four days to complete, including three 10-hour days on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

“EU had multiple work packages, we had multiple work packages, and we were under a tight timeline,” shared David VanEaton, a field work supervisor with Electrical Services. “We had to get everything finished so we could turn the power back on for the complex before everybody came back to work on Monday.”

The rundown of completed tasks is impressive; one team removed all the wiring feeding power to the 6266 building while another team was repairing wires in a vault. Meanwhile, the Guzzler truck crew cleared a trench so wiring could be laid to establish a new

power feed to the parking lot lights, while EU crews replaced a 2,000-amp transformer with a much smaller one that’s a better fit for the complex’s reduced power needs. Several hundred feet of wiring was pulled from the two buildings and surveyed by radiological control technicians before it was cut into chunks and hauled away.

The amount of coordination it took to get everything completed in one weekend was staggering, and that’s where field work supervisor, and longtime Hanford veteran, Ken Buchanan came in.

“Ken really took this project on his shoulders and made sure we had all the ERAs (electrical risk assessments) we needed before we started, and that we identified all the gear we needed to lock out,” VanEaton added. “Then he had an idea in his mind on how to coordinate all the pieces and make it all happen.”

“We had a huge wealth of experience working on this project, and it was awesome to watch them all share their expertise to get everything accomplished safely and efficiently. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

MISSION: ENERGIZE



TEAM FOCUS: Hot Stick Testing Team

Contributor: Shane Edinger

When it comes to the safety of our electricians and linemen, one team plays a key role in ensuring they are working with equipment that will keep them safe.

Substation electrician Sean Thomas and substation supervisor Harley Hall make up the hot stick testing team with the Electrical Systems group. Hot sticks are fiberglass poles used in the field and at electrical substations to protect workers from a shock or the risk of an arc flash. They must be tested yearly to ensure structural integrity.

Thomas handles the hot stick testing for all the prime contractors, along with testing all the voltage-rated gloves workers use, which must be tested every six months. This equipment is critical to worker safety since most Hanford power lines carry a voltage ranging from 13,800 to as high as 230,000 volts. Anything over 600 volts is considered high voltage.

“The biggest thing is keeping the workers safe,” Hall shared. “Making sure their gloves are good and their sticks are ready to go before they start working with energized equipment.”



Substation electrician Sean Thomas (left) and substation supervisor Harley Hall stand in front of the hot stick testing machine.

Hanford’s large inventory of hot sticks and voltage-rated gloves keeps the team busy year-round, and Thomas takes pride in their ability to get the equipment tested efficiently and back in the hands of the workers who need it.

“The next closest testing facility is probably Spokane and we’ve got a lot of people who use voltage-rated gloves here on the Hanford Site,” Thomas said. “Our turnaround is pretty fast. Instead of waiting weeks to get their gloves back, we usually get them back to them in a day or so.”



Thomas demonstrates how voltage-rated gloves are tested.

MISSION: ENERGIZE



Our Workforce Solutions team attended the CBC All Career & Internship Fair to share job and internship opportunities.



Workforce Solutions hard at work at Perry Technical Institute's Employer Expo.

Energizing the Future of Hanford, One Job Fair at a Time

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

Workforce Solutions has been hard at work recruiting the next generation of Hanford workers at job fairs throughout our region. HMIS attended the Columbia Basin College All Career and Internship Fair to share local job and internship opportunities.

The team also traveled to Yakima for the Perry Technical Institute Employer Expo, informing eager students about employment opportunities available at Hanford for those in trades or skilled disciplines. HMIS representatives toured the campus to see Perry Tech’s hands-on approach to curriculum within the classroom.

Finally, they presented to CBC students during a new series called “Food for Thought.” The multi-week series helps prepare students for real-world topics in the workplace. HMIS presented on “Networking and Preparing for a Successful Career.”



Several leaders gathered for the pilot launch of a new DDI course, "Your Leadership Journey".

Your Leadership Journey...Starts Here

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

Last month we launched a new class, "Your Leadership Journey," as part of our Development Dimensions International (DDI) curriculum offerings. Senior leadership, directors and other managers took part in the pilot launch, with the official launch occurring for Supporting Talent & Engaging Professionals for Success (STEPS) program participants.

The course focuses on an employee's transition from individual contributor to a leadership role and looks at both the career change and the shift in day-to-day work assignments. It is intended for new or prospective leaders and equips them with tools to address challenges and transitions.

The class will be offered on a recurring basis to employees. For additional information about DDI classes, contact Jim Whalley, Workforce Resources and Development program manager and DDI master trainer.

HMIS Leads Development of New HFD Doffing Training

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Safely doffing our Hanford firefighters after entry into a potentially contaminated area was the recent presentation focus for Jose Garcia, emergency preparedness specialist. Jose presented on the challenges of training for radiological firefighter doffing in a multi-contractor environment at the 2024 Emergency Management Symposium. DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration and the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group host the annual event to share ideas and information.

Hanford's challenge was that each contractor had their own doffing procedure. And with hundreds of possible radiological control technicians (RCTs) that may respond to a drill or emergency event, it was time to standardize the procedure and the training.

As the training coordinator for Hanford Site Emergency Management & Preparedness courses at HAMMER, Jose shared how the collaborative effort of contractors led to the development of a new DOE-RL Emergency Procedure (RLEP) that established sitewide training requirements for the contractor doffing team. These training requirements include standardized biennial classroom training and a new training video detailing a firefighter doffing scenario.



HMIS attendees (left to right) Ted Morales, Dulcie Allen, Renae Harvey, Gina Miller and Jose Garcia.

The video was shared during the presentation as well as with the first responders subcommittee, comprised of firefighters and trainers from across the DOE complex. "Some facilities have very few RCTs, so the video may help them train and staff emergency response personnel," Garcia said.

The One Hanford effort in developing the RLEP and training video provides safer, more efficient emergency response training.



Hanford Firefighters Levi Buttrey and Robert Reynolds pull a crash test dummy from a truck during an emergency preparedness drill at WTP, while Captain Anthony Lovato assesses the response.



During a drill at the WTP ammonia facility, participants simulate scanning for potential radiation exposure.

ONE HANFORD

HFD Participates in Simulated Crash Drill at WTP

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

The Hanford Fire Department regularly participates in drills at the Waste Treatment & Immobilization Plant (WTP), where they walk through scenarios, simulate responses, find out do's and don'ts based on hazards and ensure all parties have the best information available to execute an effective response.

Subject matter experts from HFD, Emergency Management and the WTP Facility Emergency Response Organization have ongoing dialogue to discuss what can be expected. For instance, knowing what chemical may be encountered can provide HFD with information on what personal protective equipment will be needed or if they can use water. The fire department can provide feedback on what will help them when they respond to the scenarios. "It's a dance of all parties," shared HFD Captain Anthony Lovato. "And the input makes everything smoother and pays off big time."

In addition to simulated events, two to three times per year the WTP Emergency Preparedness team conducts drills that fit the "as real as it gets" mindset.

A recent drill simulated an event where a transport truck and trailer carrying Immobilized Low-Activity Waste containers crashed, causing a release of ammonia. HFD's response included entering the event scene to mitigate the ammonia leak, assessing the condition of the containers and rescuing the victim from the truck.

It's clear to HFD that WTP's Emergency Preparedness team is committed to being ready for an actual emergency. To provide crews the opportunity to climb into a truck this size and to see the actual size of the tanks makes a big impact.

"Those details add to the thinking, strategy and tactics for the fire department, adding an additional level of awareness to the possibility of what can be encountered," said Captain Lovato. The teamwork among all participants in these drills is paramount to safely moving the One Hanford mission forward.

ONE HANFORD



This aerial photo shows the exterior of the Central Plateau Water Treatment Plant is nearly complete.

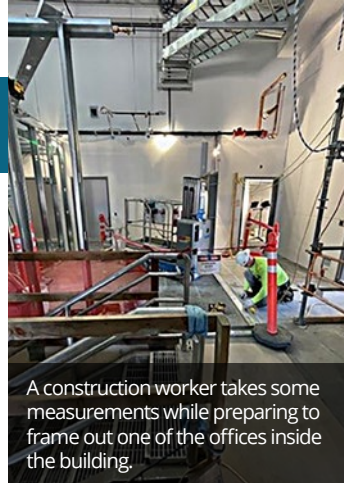
Construction Focus Shifts Inside at New Water Treatment Plant

Contributor: Shane Edinger

From the outside, the new Central Plateau Water Treatment Plant looks like a building that's just about ready for business. But step inside, and you'll realize there's still plenty of work left to do.

Construction crews have been focused primarily on the interior of the building for the last six to eight months, with an extensive amount of steel stud framing and drywall work completed, along with fire barrier installation. Piping has also been installed for the innovative microfiltration system the plant will use.

The plant's control room and offices have been framed and built out, along with the locker room. An extensive amount of electrical work has also been completed, including the installation of transformers and auxiliary electrical equipment.



A construction worker takes some measurements while preparing to frame out one of the offices inside the building.

"Given all the requirements that we've had to meet along the way, I've been impressed with our productivity in getting different aspects completed," shared Mark Berkenbile, HMIS' Construction Services manager. "The integrated project team and the subcontractor have done a great job in managing all the design changes to make sure things are done right the first time, while maintaining a focus on quality, safety and compliance."

Crews still need to install the water softener system, air compressor system and chemical systems that support operation of the Pall® filtration system. Several ancillary support systems also need to be installed before the building will be ready for construction acceptance testing. Once that testing is complete, the plant will go through operational acceptance testing and then performance testing.

When it's operational, the 10,000-square-foot facility will support the water needs of Central Plateau operations, providing a minimum of 3.5 million gallons of water a day.

ONE HANFORD



Approximately 70 participants gathered at HAMMER for the FAR workshop.

One Hanford Contractors Navigate Federal Acquisition Regulation Guidance

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

Over 70 Hanford employees recently converged at HAMMER to navigate the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Guidance, a primary document for all government procurement and acquisitions. The four-day workshop focused both on understanding FAR basics and a deep dive into the interpretation and nuances of the guidance document.

This was the first workshop of its kind to be offered as a collaborative effort for all One Hanford contractors (rather than each contractor having on its own workshop, training and scheduling), with participation from HMIS, WRPS, CPCCo and Navarro-ATL.



Jeremy Becker-Welts, a third-party government contracting expert, presents to One Hanford contractors about FAR Guidance.

"The ability to integrate with other Hanford contractors and talk about our similarities and differences in contracting was a great way to collaborate and promote teamwork, while learning along the way," said Lynn Chandler, HMIS' Prime Contracts manager/contracting officer.



Hanford firefighters show students how they would extinguish a car fire, one of their many training exercises.



Students were able to participate in a hoisting and rigging demonstration, learning about the process and mechanics of the job.



Meteorologist Grant Gutierrez and wildlife biologist Justin Wilde talk with students about their careers and other various career opportunities available at HMIS.

ONE HANFORD

Hanford Careers Featured at High School STEM Day

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

Over 50 high school students visited HAMMER to learn about career opportunities available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields at Hanford. The STEM Day gave these students the chance to see the One Hanford mission up-close.

Hosted by HMIS and HAMMER, this event highlighted our efforts to build pathways for students to pursue STEM careers while encouraging future workforce development aligned with the One Hanford cleanup mission.

Students rotated through hands-on demonstrations and presentations in a variety of disciplines, including radiation safety, respiratory protection, hoisting and rigging, emergency and fire response and the Hanford Patrol K-9 program.

Joshua Garcia, a Chiawana High School student said, "I enjoyed the simple understanding of everything and all the opportunities there are at Hanford – it was a really good experience."

Students ended their day at a One Hanford Career and Resource Fair, with Hanford representatives and local higher education institutions to learn about the careers or internships at Hanford. Students were impressed with the variety of career options available and surprised there were so many opportunities at Hanford, sharing that the team's explanation was easy to understand and made the work really clear.

HMIS FAMILY



Darci Teel and the Safety team with the classic look.

JA Bowling – Vegas Style

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Viva La Vegas! From the King himself to the Queen of Hearts, and Area 51 to Tiger Trainers, this year's Junior Achievement Bowling Classic was FIRE! With 28 teams bowling across two shifts in one night, our teams raised \$17,731 for programs that support youth in our community with financial literacy and empowerment.



Performance Oversight delivered the perfect performance with the KING.



A team from HAMMER wrangling those tigers!



Another HAMMER team and their out of this world costumes!



The Finance team representing a pretty strong hand with those shirts.



HMIS FAMILY



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Annette Fox IT PRODUCT MANAGER

Annette Fox grew up volunteering with her family and within her religious community. It was not only something she was taught to do, but something that she always enjoyed. So, when she had children of her own, it was a natural progression.

“I love helping others and making a difference outside of myself. Bringing my kids along lets us do that together.”

When Annette, an IT product manager, joined HMIS a couple of years ago, she was already involved with multiple organizations and immediately jumped in to help with several company-sponsored volunteer activities, such as installing smoke alarms for the Red Cross’ Sound the Alarm campaign, adopting a family through Domestic Violence Services at Christmas, and shopping for the teen shelter.

She also sponsors a child in Guatemala through Compassion International, helps raise



Mementos of Annette’s volunteer work includes t-shirts from Special Olympics.



Annette and her son Bryce joined Reneé Brooks, HMIS Communications manager, and other HMIS staff for the 2024 Red Cross Sound the Alarm event.

awareness of their program, and helps match other children with sponsors.

On top of all that, she devotes a significant amount of time to the Special Olympics organization, where she manages the scoreboard for a variety of sporting events throughout the state as well as training others on scorekeeping. “I especially enjoy volleyball and softball tournaments, but I like to help wherever I can and jump in where there are shortages.”

Thank you, Annette, for everything you do for our community!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sounding the Alarm to Save Lives

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

According to the American Red Cross, seven people die in home fires every day, most often in homes without working smoke alarms. That’s why they launched the Sound the Alarm campaign. Through home visits, more than 2.5 million free smoke alarms have been installed, making more than one million households across the country safer.

A group of HMIS employees volunteered their time earlier this month to let people know about the free smoke alarm install date coming up. One week later, HMIS volunteers installed 93 smoke alarms in 38 homes alongside the Kennewick Fire Department.

What a great opportunity to share our passion for safety with others in our community! Thank you to all our HMIS Family volunteers for taking the time to sound the alarm!



Volunteers listening to instructions and gathering their gear to head out to the installs.



HMIS volunteers ready to go. Left to Right: Darci Teel, Dustin Arbogast, Tera Teas, Greg Granados, Annette Fox, Bryce McGregor and Reneé Brooks.



Darci Teel and her team working with the Kennewick Fire Department to install free smoke alarms.

