



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

HANFORD MISSION
HMiS
INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

MISSION: ENABLE

Delivering infrastructure support and technology solutions are the backbone of our mission as Hanford's essential services provider.



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Enable. When you say it, it doesn't always sound impactful. It doesn't roll off your tongue like accelerate or expedite, yet enable is a great word and carries a big punch. When you think about what it means for us, it's a lot like the word integration, even though I know our communications team would tell me one's a verb and the other is a noun.

It could be argued that our role at the Hanford Site is to enable! We have utilities and maintenance crews who enable cleanup by providing robust Site services 24/7. We enable a safe working environment through our Safeguards, Security & Emergency Response. Our Mission Assurance not only enables the work to continue, but also ensures we meet required safety standards. Everywhere I look at HMIS, I can find an example of something our team enables at Hanford.

The work we do at the Hanford Site matters and regardless of what word we use to describe it, our teams are an integral part of the cleanup progress. We should all be proud of our contribution to the safer, more efficient and innovative progress at Hanford. Thank you for all that you do! Keep up the hard work and remain safe.

Bob

Hyperlink to this page

Guest Message – Dan Sours

Interface Management plays an integral role in Hanford Site governance, working to ensure there is a well-designed, controlled set of interfaces between HMIS and the One Hanford contractors to enable clear understanding of contractual, business and operational roles and responsibilities. As part of Interface & Integration Services, we work closely with the chief operating officer in leading the Contractor Interface Board, a key governance committee made up of OHC senior management. The CIB has addressed several emerging, cross-cutting issues affecting contractor operations, including sitewide COVID-19 policies, traffic safety metrics, new DOE cybersecurity requirements and inter-contractor invoicing.

Interface Management plays a key role in the day-to-day operations of all HMIS service areas as our project liaisons engage with our OHC customers daily to hear customer issues, connect them with the right information, resolve issues at the lowest possible level, and quickly elevate issues to senior management, if necessary.

Some of the key tools we use to implement effective Site governance processes and ensure HMIS is closely aligned to the service needs of contractor projects include the Annual Forecast of Services, where the OHCs estimate annual resource needs for services like IT, Crane & Rigging, Fleet Services, Maintenance and Site Training. Contractors then order services from HMIS via the Service Catalog and inter-contractor work order process, which we manage.

In FY 2022, the Service Catalog processed approximately 30,000 requests, and each year we process up to 2,000 customer work orders. We also manage and maintain more than 140 inter-contractor interface agreements and service delivery documents.

Our ultimate goal is to increase understanding between HMIS and our Site partners and resolve interface issues quickly, enabling more important cleanup mission work to be completed every day.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Jeffrey Ediger

Meet Jeffrey Ediger, Industrial Safety Training instructor for HAMMER and a volunteer for the Richland Boys & Girls Club. Earlier this year, Jeffrey contributed his time to lessons in STEM curriculum – assisting with the launch of model rockets! The kids were based at the White Bluffs Elementary location and the school's expansive field offered the perfect launchpad.

The students also learned about sound and Jeffrey demonstrated whip cracking to create a sonic boom. He showed how this breaks the sound barrier by forming a loop that travels along the whip to ultimately create the boom.

Jeffrey's wife, Jamie, is a site coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties, so Jeffrey said this makes it easy to help out – but not everyone would answer the call to help local kids. Thanks so much for making a difference with the youth of our community!

Time for a Celebratory Feast!

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Many team members were treated to a hefty breakfast burrito as a token of thanks for all the work done in recent weeks to repair broken water lines in the Central Plateau. For a while, it seemed that just as one leak was fixed, another leak sprung due to old piping. Many crews worked through their weekends to get the pipes fixed. The breaks affected more than a dozen facilities on the Hanford Site and became a top priority to repair.

Groups who assisted included Crane & Rigging, Engineering, Fire Systems Maintenance, Mechanical & Instrumentation Services, Maintenance Services, Electrical Utilities, Safety, Radiological Protection, and Water & Sewer Utilities, along with carpenters, cement masons, industrial hygienists, teamsters and heavy equipment operators.

Thank you for your dedication to getting these repairs completed quickly and safely to allow cleanup progress to continue!



Crew members got to review photos of the urgent work they performed.



Daniel Saucedo welcomed and thanked the crowd amidst 150 hefty burritos.



Feast time! Miss Tamale opened early to make all those burritos!

RECOGNITION



Members of USDOT's Office of Pipeline Safety visited HAMMER, including Greg Becker (far left) and Johnny Raisinger (far right), together with HAMMER staff (starting second from left) Tina Braswell, Barbara Winters, Ryan Akers, Nancy Ness, Nicole Zawadzki and Gary Karnofski. Not pictured: Elaine Jimenez.

DOT: "You continue to amaze me"

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

More praise for our team at HAMMER who reviews oil spill response plans for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Ryan Akers, Tina Braswell, Elaine Jimenez, Gary Karnofski and Barbara Winters review the plans as part of an interagency agreement between DOE and the USDOT.

A supervisor for PHMSA highlighted the work of our team, noting the number of plans awaiting review is at its lowest since he took on the role in July 2019, "I am really impressed with how the team has adapted and responded to the surge of incoming plans. You continue to amaze me with your talents and dedication to provide outstanding service to our pipeline operators."

Since the beginning of 2020, these HAMMER staffers have evaluated nearly 700 plans that cover onshore facilities nationwide. The well-deserved kudos show how this team stands out with their expertise and efficiency.

RECOGNITION



Annual Turkey Giveaway

Each year, Maintenance Services leadership takes advantage of the season of giving to give back to its workforce in a show of thanks for an outstanding year of performance. This year, the team handed out nearly 180 turkeys to workers as part of its annual turkey giveaway.

"It's more than a token of appreciation for all the hard work and dedication throughout the year," said Clint Donley, director of Maintenance Services, "It's an opportunity to get out, shake hands, and connect with those people we rely on every day to keep our facilities and systems up and running in support of the Site mission."



Health Physics Technician Bernie St. George performs surveys of waste prior to disposal.

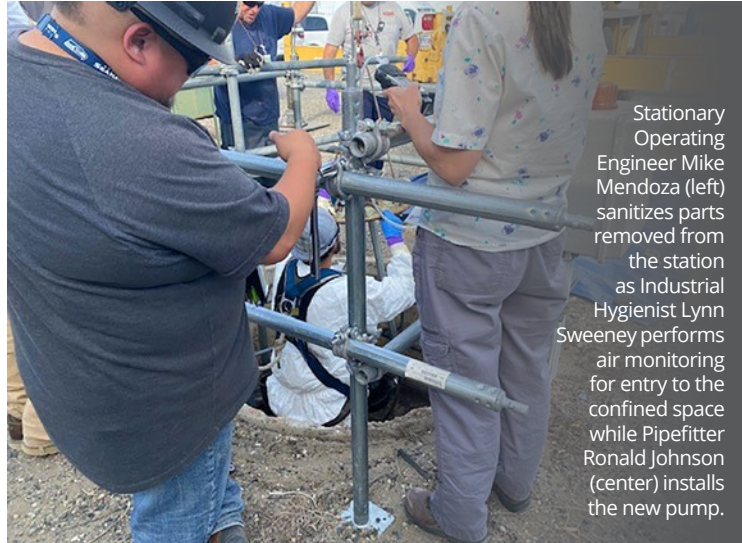
Sewer Lift Station Repaired Safely

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

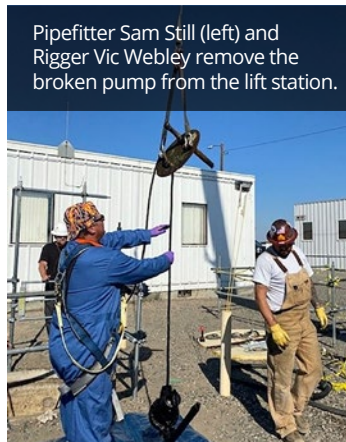
Our teams completed a major repair to a sewer lift station that serves 278WA, capping off an old pump and updating another to keep it functioning efficiently. Lift stations are used to combat gravity by moving wastewater to a higher elevation for disposal.

This project brought in pipefitters, riggers, crane operators, teamsters, stationary operating engineers, health physics technicians and industrial hygienists, starting with fall protection handrails and access ladders to reach the spot below ground.

Crews discovered two deteriorating pumps, including one that had failed completely. Our Water & Sewer Utilities team determined the station could work with just one pump if it was repaired sufficiently. They replaced wiring and gaskets, allowing the station to work efficiently with the single pump.



Stationary Operating Engineer Mike Mendoza (left) sanitizes parts removed from the station as Industrial Hygienist Lynn Sweeney performs air monitoring for entry to the confined space while Pipefitter Ronald Johnson (center) installs the new pump.



Pipefitter Sam Still (left) and Rigger Vic Webley remove the broken pump from the lift station.



Pipefitter Ronald Johnson installs new piping to existing pumps.

Roof Repairs Extend Life of HAMMER Buildings

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our Technical Services and Construction Management teams wrapped up the first of two roof improvements at HAMMER buildings. Projects Z-337 & Z-338 will repair significant leaks that had damaged the buildings and begun to impact training courses. The Administration and Al Alm Buildings will benefit from a new membrane coating added to their metal roofs. The buildings were constructed in the mid 90's and the repairs should extend the service life of each roof by an additional 40 years.

Before the projects started, a subcontractor assessed the scope and the option chosen included the work completed this fall, with the likely need for a future coating in about a decade.

Our teams oversaw a thorough cleaning of each roof, followed by minor repairs before the coating could begin. A primer will also protect each roof from rust. The membrane coating was completed for the Administration Building, but the arrival of fall will require the Al Alm Building to get its final coating in the spring.



Subcontractor workers add a membrane coating to the Administration Building on the campus of the HAMMER Federal Training Center.



This is considered a compliance project, which typically has a smaller work scope and dollar value than the reliability projects found on the Hanford Site. "Technical Services project managers work with each project end-user customer through all phases of project initiation, planning, design, construction and closeout," said Mazin Kamil, director of Technical Services. "We are the coordinating element for bringing together the end user customer with our Engineering, Contracts, Construction, Testing & Commissioning, and Document Control personnel to manage Z projects from start to finish."

ONE HANFORD

Limited Exercise Simulates Transportation Scenario

Contributors: Joe Cook & Cerise Peck

The Emergency Management & Preparedness Exercise Team began planning for this month's Hanford Site Limited Field Exercise in July. A true One Hanford effort, this exercise involves participation and input from all contractors, requiring immense teamwork and detailed planning. Once the roles and responsibilities are outlined, players and control organizations are identified and the scenario is determined; briefings are then conducted starting the week before and continue up to the day of the exercise.

"This exercise was a unique opportunity," said Joe Cook, Emergency Preparedness Specialist and Exercise coordinator. "We used the **Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program** and created a scenario that allowed us to practice a non-typical response." As the Site cleanup mission progresses, the emergency preparedness team looked to train for what could be a future emergency or potential hazard involving the chemicals that will be brought on Site on a regular basis. Joe Cook and Jonathan Ullman, who make up the exercise team, wrote the scenario



Using the UAS team, exercise coordinators obtained images that provided a larger, overall view of the scene.

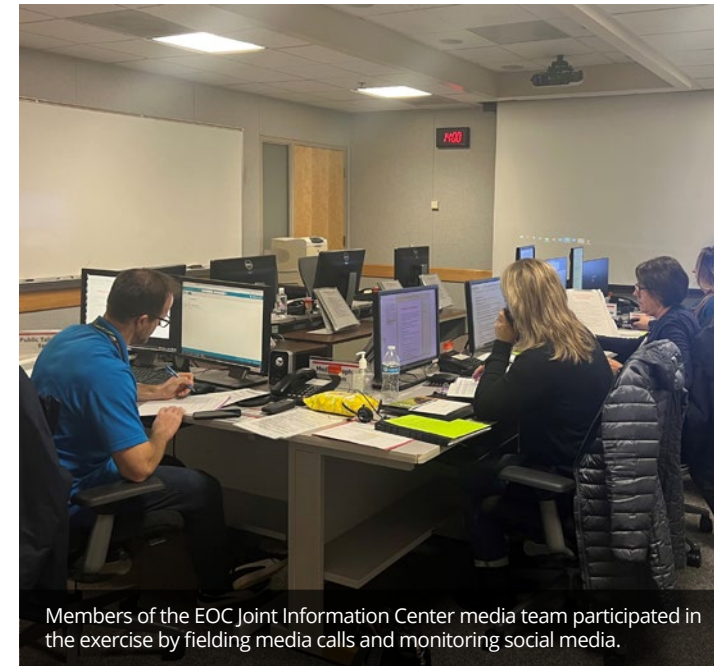
based on an ammonia spill involving a simulated DOE shipment to the Waste Treatment Plant, something that will become a regular occurrence with the startup of WTP. Hanford's primary hazards are radiological, but there are still several facilities across the Site that have chemical hazards and Emergency Action Levels associated with them, including WTP when it becomes operational.

While the scope of a limited exercise is narrower than a Field Exercise, meaning it does not involve any outside agencies, it doesn't make this

exercise or the opportunity it provides to evaluate our emergency response capabilities any less important. It provided an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to work as One Hanford and involved emergency responses from multiple groups including Hanford Fire, Hanford Patrol, the Emergency Operations Center and HPMC. HFD performed an extrication on a simulated crashed vehicle to have the exercise response be as real as possible.

After an exercise is complete, debriefs and hotwashes are held with the control organization and players. The control organization receives

feedback from the groups involved and has discussions regarding strengths and opportunities for improvement to include in the After Actions Report. The Emergency Management & Preparedness Exercise Team tries to keep the scenarios current to Site operations and to provide real-world training opportunities for responders involved so that we are all ready to respond as One Hanford.



Members of the EOC Joint Information Center media team participated in the exercise by fielding media calls and monitoring social media.



Hanford Fire and EOC responders work as one team during the limited exercise to ensure the best outcome of the event.



Workers from CPCCo utilize a prop at HAMMER to rehearse repair procedures for a damaged overhead crane at the 324 Building.



CPCCo field work supervisors conduct a pre-job brief before crews practice repairs.

CPCCo Workers Rehearse Risk-Reduction at HAMMER

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our team supported important risk-reduction work at the 324 Building by using props available at the HAMMER Federal Training Center. CPCCo is working to remove contaminated soil under a portion of the 324 Building and uses tools that allow for remote work to limit the time workers are in the building.

An overhead crane in the building's airlock needs repairing, and a similar crane is available at HAMMER for the Hoisting & Rigging Program. The best shot at repairing the crane quickly included practicing the repair procedure at HAMMER ahead of time. This adheres to the principle of minimizing radiation exposure to as low as reasonably achievable.



While at HAMMER, CPCCo radiological control technicians oversee proper glove changing for workers set to perform repairs in a contaminated area.

HAMMER staff coordinated the training while radiation control technicians offered coaching and assistance, including proper glove changing techniques.

The 324 Building once supported research on highly radioactive materials while in operation from 1966 to 1996. Remediating its contaminated soil will allow for eventual demolition of the facility.

New Forklift Lowers the Budget

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

What a win – our Fleet Management team researched a replacement forklift, Procurement nailed down the purchase, and together this enabled a substantial cost savings while still meeting the needs of WRPS' Waste Operations team!

The almost-new Hyster forklift replaces one used on the Hanford Site since 1983. WRPS will utilize its 55,000-pound capacity to load and unload storage boxes along with pallets holding vitrified waste.

The initial expectation was that the replacement machinery could cost upwards of \$560,000 and take as long as a year to arrive. Our Fleet Management group located a pre-owned forklift made by a leading industry manufacturer that could be delivered in just 12 weeks, along with a savings of more than \$125,000. "By selecting the Hyster, HMIS and WRPS retain the brand familiarity in regard to the operation and maintenance and, if needed, local dealer support," said Fleet Services Director David Baie.

The Procurement team negotiated valuable upgrades to the forklift before it was shipped – including adding A/C in the cab and an aftermarket load scale that will allow the 20-foot storage boxes to be weighed by Waste Operations.



A WRPS team member utilizes the new-to-Hanford forklift to move a Conex box.

This will allow WRPS to avoid the extra work of weighing each box before disposal.

The forklift arrived in October and was given a full inspection by Fleet Services before being put into use, and sending the aging unit into retirement. Congrats to all the teams for finding a better-than-new solution that fits the bill!



Fleet Services Mechanic Dan Morford inspects the newly purchased forklift, ensuring it was not damaged during shipping and works as expected.

MISSION: ENABLE

ESF #12 Team Responds to 2022 Hurricanes

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our HAMMER Emergency Support Function #12 energy response team enabled life-saving support and emergency response efforts during this year's hurricane season, which just ended. Most recently, the team coordinated responder deployment to multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency state, regional and national response centers after Hurricanes Ian and Fiona made landfall in September. Responders provided both virtual and "boots on the ground" support in Puerto Rico and Florida to help restore power.

In preparation for potential devastation from Hurricane Ian, HAMMER's Tony Jimenez deployed to a FEMA response center in Atlanta to support the assessment of impacts to Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas and assist

with reestablishing power. This included starring in a safety video posted on a FEMA Twitter account and shared by DOE's Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm.

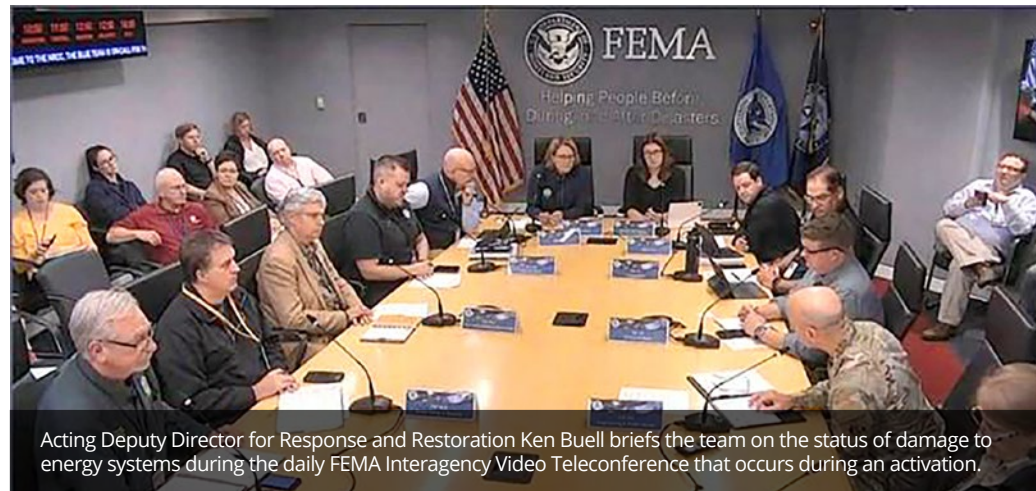
ESF #12 members Deborah Croskrey, Bill Eaton and Nancy Ness also deployed to the Energy Response Organization at DOE's headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they supported field operations, industry coordination, response product development and cost tracking. Other



HAMMER's Tony Jimenez, an ESF #12 responder, was featured in a **safety video** shared on Twitter by Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

members of the ESF #12 team remained at HAMMER to provide support to deployment coordination and safety oversight.

The ESF #12 mission is led by DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response, and HAMMER has supported response and training since 2003. HAMMER trains and responds alongside the ESF #12 team to assist during natural disasters that impact the nation's energy and utility infrastructure. The ESF #12 team also supports planning for special events, including last year's Olympic trials in Oregon, the Super Bowl and the Chicago Marathon.



Acting Deputy Director for Response and Restoration Ken Buell briefs the team on the status of damage to energy systems during the daily FEMA Interagency Video Teleconference that occurs during an activation.



Bonneville Power Administration's Rasha Kroonen (right) works with members of the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, using the survey software provided by our GITS team.



HAMMER's Energy Response Program Manager Bill Eaton pulls up the survey software on his phone.

MISSION: ENABLE

GITS Team Supports ESF #12 Response

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Years of response to Gulf Coast devastation prompted the Emergency Support Function #12 disaster response team to find a better way to capture and report pictures and videos of damage caused by natural disasters. HAMMER's Energy Response Program Manager Bill Eaton contacted our IMS Geospatial Information Technology Services team to help find a solution and said he was surprised at the speed with which the GITS team was able to help, "We reached out and the group had something ready in minutes using a software program suitable for our needs by adapting their Hanford Site expertise to assist our national emergency response mission with the Federal Emergency Management Agency."

The software identifies locations using geotagging, which assigns GPS coordinates to images, plus the added ability to seamlessly upload data from remote locations. This proved helpful for responders documenting damage during this year's response to hurricane season.

"The GITS team provided a test account and quickly modified an existing FEMA form customized for our energy response mission," said Eaton. "This allowed us to kick the tires with folks sent to disaster response in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Florida who quickly submitted dozens of damage assessment surveys."

Responders review damage related to energy infrastructure, and often there is no Wi-Fi or internet service. The GITS-created system uses a mobile device application to store the data for uploading when a connection is available. This replaced a "hodgepodge" of methods to get photos to a government computer — manually geotagging, emailing and texting, all with varying degrees of success.

"It's been a really successful partnership," said Eaton. "The way the GITS team wrote up the instructions was such that anyone could do it."

HAMMER invited the GITS team to present at a responder engagement webinar, showcasing this new program and demonstrating why this teamwork is a critical component to HAMMER's growing national programs mission.

MISSION: ENABLE

Team Focus: Special Projects and One Hanford Communications

Contributor: Jill Harvill

When Special Projects and One Hanford Communications Program Manager Heather Flora was asked how the last year has been, “Busy!” was her response. Late last year, the One Hanford Communications Program was added to her scope. “The opportunity to centralize and improve communication products and events from a One Hanford perspective was too great to pass up,” Heather said.

She added four new staff members to complete the Specials Projects and One Hanford Communications team.

In addition to completing Special Projects for HMIS, this talented team is tasked with integrating One Hanford communications across all Site contractors in support of DOE’s Hanford Office of Communications.

With such a wide creative and mission-oriented scope, the team works with HMIS Communications and others to coordinate development and delivery of many projects.



Less than a year into this new scope, the staff is busy planning events and delivering products to support Hanford’s mission and priorities.

Recent One Hanford events include the VALOR Program BBQ, the congressional staff visit and the One Hanford Panel at the National Cleanup Workshop. They’re currently planning a One Hanford exhibit for the Waste Management Symposia in February that will highlight the collaboration of contractors to support key cleanup initiatives.

Keep an eye out for new social media engagement, like **“Name the Reactor”** and the **“#WeAreOneHanford”** positivity campaign. You might also see someone at your worksites getting project photos for the **Hanford Virtual Tour website** and other multimedia use.

MISSION: ENABLE

Advances in Notifications Help Workforce

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik



Our AtHoc support team, from left, Greg Hanson, Mike Murdoch, Nathan Mulroy and Derek Trebes.

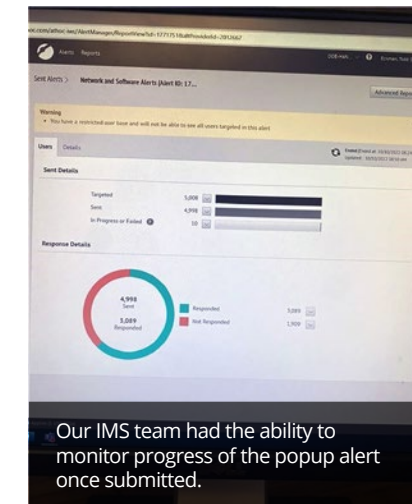
Hats off to Information Management Services for teaming with North Wind Solutions and developing a new, speedy way of letting people know quickly when there’s an issue with the HLAN or some other IT disturbance.

If you were online on Oct. 10, you might have seen the first popup alert come across your screen notifying Hanford workers to a TIS/ESS outage. It was sent to about 5,000 active desktops (people who were logged in), and about 3,000 of those acknowledged the alert within 15 minutes.

“Being that most of the Hanford workforce relies on technology in some way every single day, the need to get this information out fast was determined as a high priority and these popups enable us to do that,” said Brittany Scales, HMIS project specialist. “The notifications will be used for high-impact IT issues as they happen, which could include sitewide systems or services and major platforms that impact all HLAN users.”

The popups, developed by the IT Infrastructure team at North Wind, are part of the AtHoc system used by our Emergency Operations Center. When a popup alert is sent out, only those logged in will see it, and it can be cleared by simply clicking a button.

Emergency notifications have also been enhanced using the same AtHoc system. HMIS migrated the Hanford Site Emergency Alerting System to AtHoc, making the alerts more efficient and informative by allowing our Hanford EOC to customize 500 pre-drafted messages.



By sending standardized mass notifications, the EOC can reach thousands of people within minutes and the cloud-based platform also puts the alerts on smart devices. Using the cloud, operators can access the system even off the HLAN, while still providing a high level of cybersecurity assurance.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Dinner with Mario Lopez & Friends

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS was proud to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties at its annual Dinner with Friends fundraiser. Several HMIS employees attended this year's event, which featured a special appearance by Boys & Girls Club alum Mario Lopez. Many of us remember Mario from his role as a teen heartthrob in the 90's sitcom "Saved by the Bell." These days, Lopez keeps himself busy hosting "Access Hollywood" and serving as a Boys & Girls Clubs of America Alumni Ambassador of Fitness.



This year's event raised more than \$500,000 for youth in our community. Congratulations!

Supporting Scholarships at CBC

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

HMIS supported this year's Power of Connection fundraiser for student scholarships at Columbia Basin College. The annual event is the main fundraiser for the CBC Foundation and helps students soar by providing much-needed tuition assistance. The CBC Foundation gives out about \$1 million in scholarships each year!



Who's that masked crew? Our HMIS team members!

A Carnival at Yearly Autumn Affair

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

We were proud to be the presenting sponsor of the 22nd Annual Autumn Affair, benefitting the Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation. Featuring a Venetian carnival theme, attendees were encouraged to wear masquerade attire. The event celebrates the community and raises money for both cancer care and local patient support.



Employees Melissa and Lynn Ver Steeg enjoyed a night at the carnival helping raise money for local cancer patients!

HMIS is a regular supporter of fundraisers put on by the TCCCF, including the Cancer-Crushing Breakfast and Dine In for Patients events. This year's Autumn Affair raised more than \$378,000 in a single night!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HMIS Offers Veteran Support

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

This month, we were thrilled to donate to two organizations that support veterans in our community. The Columbia Basin Veterans Center and Service Peace Warriors each received \$7,500 to support the programs they provide to local veterans.

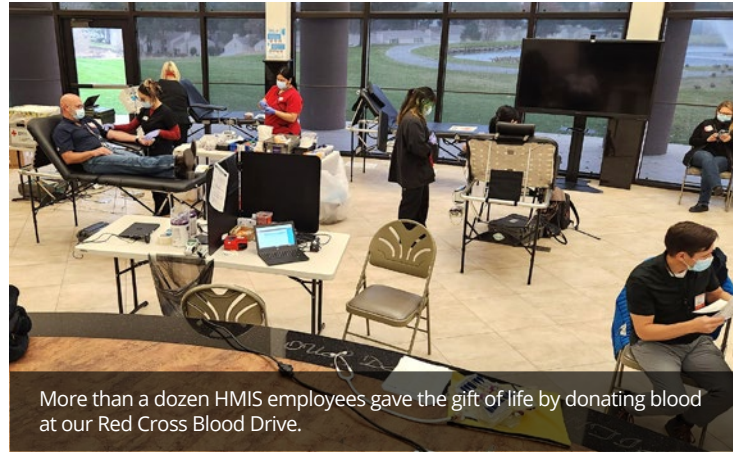
CBVC assists veterans with getting the benefits they've earned with their service, and also offers programs and resources, including transitional housing, short-term rental assistance and outdoor recreation events.

SPW covers the costly expense of training and certifying service dogs to assist veterans with PTSD. To date, the non-profit has placed nearly 60 dogs with veterans and hopes to place another 20 in the upcoming year, while also training support dogs for local law enforcement jurisdictions.



Representatives from Service Peace Warriors met with HMIS representatives to accept the donation. They included Operations Director Kari St. Hilaire (left), founder Mary Mattox (second from right) and SPW Polar, who is being trained to be a support dog for the West Richland Police Department.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



More than a dozen HMIS employees gave the gift of life by donating blood at our Red Cross Blood Drive.

Giving Blood, Saving Lives

Contributor: Shane Edinger

Did you know that every two seconds there is someone in the U.S. who needs blood, but only 3% of eligible Americans donate blood? Plus, each pint of blood donated can save up to three lives. Those are just some of the reasons why more than two dozen HMIS employees rolled up their sleeves recently to help replenish the blood supply.

HMIS partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on Nov. 16, and each donor received an HMIS water bottle filled with tasty treats, along with a \$10 e-gift card from the American Red Cross.

THANK YOU TO THESE HMIS FAMILY MEMBERS FOR DOING THEIR PART TO HELP SAVE LIVES!



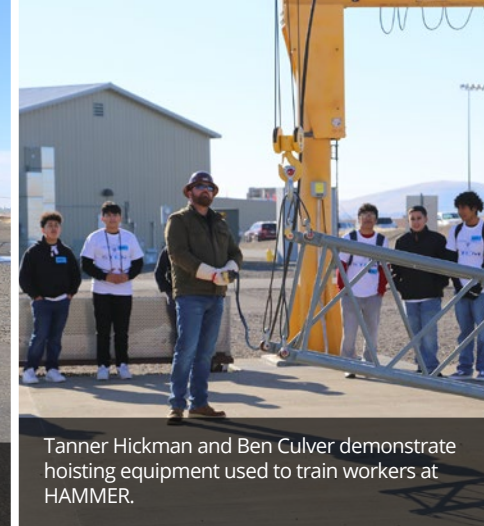
HMIS President Bob Wilkinson rolls up his sleeve to donate blood.



Vice President of Workforce Solutions Julie Lindstrom offers a wave and a smile while she donates blood.



STEM students from Chiawana High School stand alongside one of Hanford Fire Department's fire engines during a recent visit to HAMMER.



Tanner Hickman and Ben Culver demonstrate hoisting equipment used to train workers at HAMMER.



Scott Downing demonstrates respiratory equipment at HAMMER.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HMIS Supports Chiawana STEM Day

Contributor: Amber Peters

HMIS invited STEM students from Chiawana High School to the Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center to learn about the past, present and future of the Hanford Site and the various career opportunities available to the next generation workforce.

The visit kicked off with a warm welcome and introduction by HAMMER's director, Paul Vandervert, followed by a Hanford Site overview.

"While we focus on emergency and safety preparedness at HAMMER, we are also thinking about preparing for future needs," said Vandervert. "It's always exciting to have the opportunity to speak with promising students about career opportunities at Hanford. Ultimately, we want them to consider working at the Site, and visits like this help us make that initial connection."

Throughout the day, the students rotated through several stations where they learned about various Hanford organizations, their capabilities and training protocols. Hanford Patrol took the students through an overview of the Patrol Training Academy, the Emergency Vehicle Operations course, and the K-9 program. Members from the Hanford Fire Department provided a fire response overview with a walk-through of HAMMER's training tower. The students' visit concluded with a Workforce Solutions presentation that highlighted career opportunities at Hanford and how the Site is preparing its future workers.

STEM visits not only help educate local students and teachers, but also serve as a crucial step in preparing to build a future workforce made up of bright and talented individuals who will oversee an exciting new era of environmental cleanup at Hanford.



Special thanks to these HMIS Family members for their efforts to support habitat restoration at Leslie Groves Park. From left: Debbie Berkowitz - WA Native Plant Society, Doug Fenske, Harry Bajwa, Jill Harvill, April Johnson, Emily Norris and Katie Hall.



Katie Hall works to remove cheatgrass from the habitat around several native plants in Leslie Groves Park.

Clearing the Way to Help Native Plants

Contributor: Shane Edinger

Sustainable environmental stewardship is one of our key commitments, and a group of seven hearty HMIS employees braved the rain and cool fall temperatures recently to support the Washington Native Plant Society's efforts to restore native plants and habitat at the north end of Leslie Groves Park in Richland.

The team spent the morning clearing out unwanted vegetation, pulling "weeds" in layman's terms, and cheatgrass, to be specific, to help improve the habitat for native plants in a two-acre portion of the park. The work was not easy, but it was rewarding, and appreciated.

"I want to personally thank your crews for the time you spent vigorously removing cheatgrass at Leslie Groves Park," shared Debbie Berkowitz with the Columbia Basin chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. "It will make a huge difference this winter when we spread native grass seed in the cleared area and it brings us one step closer to establishing a more native habitat."

The Native Plant Society has been working with the Audubon Society to restore the habitat in this section of the park since 2006. The group also works to educate students and the public about indigenous plants and share their beauty.