



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

HANFORD MISSION  
**HMiS**  
INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS



# MISSION: ENHANCE

Leveraging enhanced thinking to improve our skills and the quality and safety of our work.

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Enhancing what we do and how we do it at Hanford is critical to our success. We should constantly strive to improve; in safety, field execution, learning and driving efficiency, all to better support our One Hanford mission.

One of our core pillars at HMIS is to “evolve and enhance.” I am incredibly proud of our forward-thinking mindset and the innovative ways we work to solve new and unique

challenges in our day-to-day operations. Outdated ideas hinder our ability to make progress. Just think – how would your life be different if you weren’t open to new information, new ideas?

The HMIS family is committed to leading by example. We believe in challenging the process to bring the best ideas (enhanced) to the forefront of everything we do and don’t let “that’s the way we’ve always done it” be part of our way of thinking and doing! We also believe in career growth and professional development, and we know that your ability to leverage an enhanced thought process will help improve your own skills, which directly improves the quality and safety of the work you perform.

I will continue empowering you to enhance, not just your own skills and the work you do for HMIS, but our support for the rest of the One Hanford team. So, let’s keep working to enhance ourselves and our team.

Thank you for your continued innovation and eagerness to make smart – smarter and good – better!

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## 5 MINUTES WITH JOY MCCREA



What do singing Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive”, fishing and a bucket list trip to Australia have in common? Deputy vice president of Infrastructure and Site Services, Joy McCrea, ties all these seemingly unconnected things together. See what else Joy shared with us as we visited with her:

### 1. What brought you to Hanford?

While working for the Department of Ecology’s Nuclear Waste Program years ago, I got an opportunity to learn about Hanford’s history, the cleanup mission and the myriad of laws and regulations that guide the work that the Site does for the environment. This became the foundation for my passion about the environment and eventually shaped my career.

### 2. What made you want to be a leader?

While managing projects, I discovered how much I enjoy fostering collaboration and supporting my team through challenges. Leadership gives me the chance to do that.

### 3. Who is a mentor that has made an impact on you?

One of my first mentors at the Department of Ecology encouraged me to see the big picture while at the same time staying grounded in the details. He used to say, “It’s important to know what you don’t know.”

### 4. What does this month’s theme, *enhance*, mean to you?

To me, enhance means making those small, seemingly insignificant improvements that

lead to substantial positive changes over time. Small, thoughtful enhancements can make a big difference.

### 5. What do you like to do in your free time?

I really value the time I spend with my family, whether we’re enjoying Sunday “supper”, sneaking my grandchildren candy, travelling together or going fishing.

### 6. When you’re having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

When I have a down day, I try to refocus my attention to what I can control and break down tasks into smaller steps, so the day feels more manageable.

### 7. What’s something about you that people would be surprised to know?

I have over 30 years at the Hanford Site!

### 8. What team(s) do you root for?

Go Cougs! Need I say more?

## RAPID FIRE

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## RECOGNITION

### HMIS Employees Recognized by STEM Foundation

Contributor: Patrick Conrad

Congratulations to HMIS employees Andrew Crawmer, Shyanne Palmus and Drew Thomas who were recently recognized by the Washington state STEM Foundation for their contributions in supporting STEM activities around the area.

Drew has been volunteering for years, primarily supporting the “STEM Like ME!” program for middle schoolers. He also supports the foundation’s high school students with in-school internships to help them identify their personal likes, dislikes and abilities through real-world experience prior to graduating high school.

Shyanne and Andrew were recognized for their efforts in putting together May’s STEM Day event at HAMMER for



(From left) Todd Synoground, Heather Tibbet from the STEM Foundation, Drew Thomas, Andrew Crawmer, Shyanne Palmus and Amy Basche.

50 area high school students. The event included 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.

There was also a One Hanford career fair with representatives from DOE, the One Hanford contractors and several local colleges. Thank you, Andrew, Shyanne and Drew for your dedication in supporting STEM and cultivating the next generation workforce!

## RECOGNITION

### HMIS Safety Programs Recognized by VPPPA

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

Ginger Benecke with HMIS Safety Programs was recently awarded the Voluntary Protection Program Participants’ Association (VPPPA) Emerging Safety Leader Excellence Award at the Annual VPPPA National Safety+ Symposium. Ginger was nominated by colleagues from CPCCo, who praised Ginger’s “exceptional contributions to advancing health and safety excellence through collaboration, mentorship and education,” showing the true value of working as a One Hanford team. Ginger’s passion for traffic safety and leadership of the Hanford Sitewide Traffic Safety Initiative continues to bring a safer commute to the entire workforce. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and innovation in advancing health and safety excellence, and honors safety professionals who have gone above and beyond in making a significant impact on workplace safety.



Chris Nielsen, Safety Programs senior manager (left), congratulates VPPPA Safety Award recipient Ginger Benecke on her recognition.



HMIS attendees at the annual VPPPA conference learned a great deal to help elevate our already impressive safety programs.

## MISSION: ENHANCE

### A Sky Full of Stars for HMIS

Contributor: Reneé Brooks

Not only did several of our employees attend the annual VPPPA 2024 Safety+ Symposium, they brought back hardware – stars to be exact! VPPPA stands for Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association and is dedicated to helping worksites improve their workplace safety and health. The annual symposium gives attendees a chance to learn and network in order to take their safety programs to the next level.

Before this year’s conference began, HMIS was already a winner, receiving three Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star of Excellence Awards. HMIS maintains three separate VPP programs, which are aligned to different scopes, one for our general contract, one for HAMMER and one for Safeguards and Security.

The STAR of Excellence is awarded to Star Sites that, among other goals, achieve an occupational injury and illness rate at least 75% below each of the applicable U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics industry averages. Being awarded three Stars of Excellence highlights the commitment of our workforce in ensuring safety is our first priority – keep up the great (and safe) work!

## MISSION: ENHANCE

### HMIS Represents at National Cleanup Workshop

Contributor: Reneé Brooks

Along with several other Hanford executives, HMIS President Amy Basche participated in a Hanford-focused panel at the National Cleanup Workshop. The panel, *A New Phase for Hanford Cleanup*, gave Amy the chance to highlight our sitewide services and our support to the One Hanford team. She shared several facts and figures to help the audience understand the breadth of our scope at HMIS and how critical infrastructure is to the cleanup mission.



(Left to right) Amy Basche, President, HMIS; Heather Dale, Assistant Manager, ORP; Brian Hartman, Project Director for WTP, Bechtel; and Moderator Brian Vance, Manager, Office of River Protection/Richland Operations Office, DOE-EM.



The fire brigade with Group 14 Technologies also trained to put out a fire involving a tanker truck containing flammable liquids.

## MISSION: ENHANCE

### HAMMER Hosts Fire Brigade Training

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

HAMMER's motto is to provide "training as real as it gets," but it's not just the Hanford workforce that benefits from HAMMER's vast array of hands-on training props. Every year, HAMMER welcomes several local and regional fire agencies who utilize the facility's custom-built firefighting props to train their teams.

"HAMMER was built to address a need our regional fire departments and law enforcement agencies expressed more than 25 years ago," shared Nicole Zawadzki, HAMMER's National Programs and Business Services manager. "Community leaders told us they needed a hands-on training facility focused on HAZMAT emergency response, and that has become one of HAMMER's founding principles."

*Cont'd*

Training the Hanford Fire Department accounts for most of HAMMER's fire operations. HAMMER also hosts fire training sessions for many of the nearby fire agencies in Benton and Franklin counties, as well as regional fire departments from all over Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

"Offering up our facilities to train these outside agencies helps the Department of Energy exercise their mutual aid partnerships throughout the region," Zawadzki added. "Having those mutual aid responders trained and ready to go if something were to ever happen on the Hanford Site is vitally important."

This summer, Group 14 Technologies, which is building a battery manufacturing plant in Moses Lake, brought members of their fire brigade to HAMMER for some extensive industrial-type firefighting training.

"They brought two separate groups for three days of training," said Todd Ofsthun with HAMMER's Fire Operations team. "They focused on interior fire attack, exterior fire attack and search and rescue. They wanted to simulate situations they might face once their plant is operational."

Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station and REC Silicon, which operates a silane gas production facility in Moses Lake, also bring their fire brigades to HAMMER twice a year to practice their skills and ensure they're response ready.

Members of the Group 14 Technologies fire brigade practice extinguishing a car fire during their training at the HAMMER Federal Training Center.

## MISSION: ENHANCE



### TEAM FOCUS: IT Product Management

Contributor: Alison Manka

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, effective product management is essential for successful project execution. Our IT Product Management team plays a crucial role in optimizing the product life cycle, from initial concept through deployment. Their approach includes rigorous planning and leadership, ensuring that every solution is precisely tailored and successfully implemented from the start.

IT product managers are responsible for driving projects from initial customer requests to final deployment. They develop business cases, define minimum viable product requirements and make critical decisions on whether to make or buy solutions. Once these steps are complete, they oversee the execution, deployment and training to ensure a smooth transition and successful implementation.

For the Product Management team, led by Director Alison Hull and comprised of Andrew Thomsen, Suzanne Johnson and Annette Fox, no two days are alike. Their days are filled with stakeholder meetings, technical discussions and customer engagements. Their diverse skills in communication and problem-solving enable them to navigate and overcome obstacles, ensuring timely project delivery.



Alison Hull, Director



Andrew Thomsen



Suzanne Johnson



Annette Fox

"This team maintains a professional and positive attitude, all while dealing with high-visibility projects," Hull noted. "I admire how well they support each other, especially when navigating roadblocks. Their professionalism and attitude represent this department very well."

Partnering with the IT Product Management team allows customers to thoroughly vet solutions and plan projects before implementation, ensuring a first-time-right approach. This strategic collaboration enhances the overall customer experience and maximizes the success of each project, making the team an invaluable asset to our organization.

## MISSION: ENHANCE



### Women in Business 2024

More than 130 HMIS employees had the opportunity to learn and grow by attending the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Women in Business Conference. Attendees listened to two keynote speakers and participated in breakout panel sessions throughout the day. Holly Munroe with Organizational Change Management was one of our attendees. A key takeaway she shared was, "the reminder to stay committed to your decisions, while staying flexible in your approach. In an environment that is constantly changing and evolving, adaptability is essential. Flexibility allows us to navigate challenges and seize new opportunities, ensuring that our vision stays on course, even when the plan looks different than we originally planned."

Thank you to everyone who attended, whether you're in introvert or an extrovert, we hope you found it worthwhile!





The Hanford Fire Department tests aerial ladders to meet National Fire Protection Association standards.

## ONE HANFORD

### Hanford Fire Streamlines Management of Asset Compliance

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

The Hanford Fire Department manages upwards of 15,000 assets, all required to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards. Assets include fire engines, ladders, pumps, hoses, fire extinguishers, nozzles, rescue ropes, self-contained breathing apparatuses and more.

Each asset has its own set of requirements to meet NFPA standards, from daily inspections to multi-year reviews. Inspection forms also vary based on the asset, along with the requirement for third-party vs. in-house inspections. In other words, there are a lot of unique requirements to maintain each asset!

“The team has done an outstanding job pulling together feedback from all department personnel to develop a more streamlined process to maintain our assets to NFPA standards.”

- Hanford Fire Chief Nick Thomas

To ensure ongoing compliance with NFPA standards and to streamline management of each asset, the team recently established a formal compliance management process, developed an HFD compliance management procedure and procured an inventory software to manage assets.

The new software allows the team to pull NFPA standards associated with each asset, putting automatic tracking and notifications in place when inspections or testing are due. Inspection forms are created in the software, allowing firefighters to input inspection information directly into the software for all in-house inspections.

A baseline inventory is currently being entered into the new system and software training for firefighters, demonstrating proper use of the features of the new system, will happen in the coming months to maximize compliance outcomes.



Aerial ladders are one of thousands of Hanford Fire Department assets with unique compliance requirements.



An aerial view of the mounds of material from the Effluent Treatment Facility construction project currently stored inside Pit 30. The material will be used for other construction and remediation projects around the Hanford Site.

## ONE HANFORD

### Hanford's "Pit Boss" – HMIS' Land Management Team

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Need sand, gravel or rock for that construction project you're working on? We may know somebody who can help you out... Managing Hanford's borrow pits is just one of the many responsibilities for HMIS' Land Management team.

The Site's supply of sand, gravel and rock is located in six active borrow pits situated throughout the Hanford Site.

"Our job is to manage these borrow pits and make sure there's material available to support the cleanup projects on Site," shared Ben Cowin with the Land Management team. "If you think about it, almost every type of project on Site will need some amount of gravel or topsoil, right?"

The LM team uses the Hanford Stewardship Information System to catalog all the materials available and where they are stored in the borrow pits. When a contractor makes a request for specific material for their remediation or other type of project, the team grants a use permit to access the borrow pit where that material is stored.

So, how much material is stored in these borrow pits? That's a good question. The LM team uses several methods for estimating volumetric measurements.

"The UAS team is helping us with that this year," said Aaron Lambert, a project manager with the Land Management team. "We're using the drone and GIS mapping tools to estimate how big the pits are and how much material remains in each pit."

Borrow pits can also be used to 'recycle' material that is safe for reuse.



Crews with the HMIS Roads & Grounds team use front loaders to load up material from Pit 30 for a construction project on Site.

Thanks to the construction projects at the Effluent Treatment Facility and the Central Plateau Water Treatment facility, more than 10,000 cubic yards of clean material was added to the borrow pits this summer.

"Some of that material has already been used on other projects," Lambert added. "By reutilizing these materials for new and upcoming projects, we're reducing our impact on the environment and being good stewards of the finite resources we have available here on the Hanford Site."

## ONE HANFORD

### Deck Repair Enhances Safety for Staff, Visitors

*Contributor: Shyanne Palmus*

In early September, HMIS carpenters were sent to the onsite medical facility to repair soft spots in the entry deck. As the team prepped for the repair, they noticed the damage to the deck was worse than expected. Instead of just completing the requested task and moving on, they made sure the field work supervisor and building owner were aware of the extent of the damage.

Since damage to the deck was greater than expected, a new plan was implemented for its repair before the issues could become a serious safety hazard. Carpenters ensured that the deck was left safe for temporary use until a permanent repair was implemented.

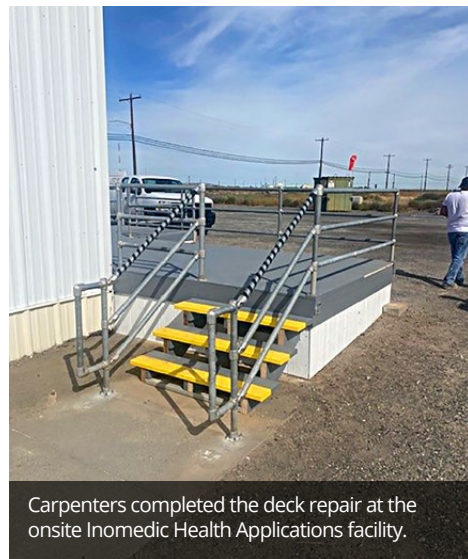
Thanks to the carpenters' quick thinking and commitment to safety, the entire deck including the northeast entrance was replaced over the course of a single weekend and ready for use when work resumed the following Monday.



Carpenters remove decking at Inomedic Health Applications' onsite facility, exposing additional damage to the support structure.



As carpenters removed the deck surface, they discovered the damage was more extensive than anticipated, as shown by the deteriorated and damaged supporting beams and joists.



Carpenters completed the deck repair at the onsite Inomedic Health Applications facility.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



(Left to right) Tracy Roberts, Rick Boarder, Nic Croft, Candace Croft, Daniel Saucedo and Becky Saucedo.

### Wishing Star Foundation Event

HMIS was proud to be an Elite Level sponsor for the Wishing Star Foundation's annual fundraiser. Attendees enjoyed an evening of auctions and dinner while supporting Wishing Star's mission: to provide hope to children and families facing life-threatening illness. Thank you to our HMIS team who could attend!

The logo consists of the letters 'HMiS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'H' is stylized with a horizontal bar extending to the left. The 'M' and 'i' are connected, and the 'S' is a simple, blocky letter. The 'i' has a dot above it.

**HMiS**

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