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July 2006 Newsletter

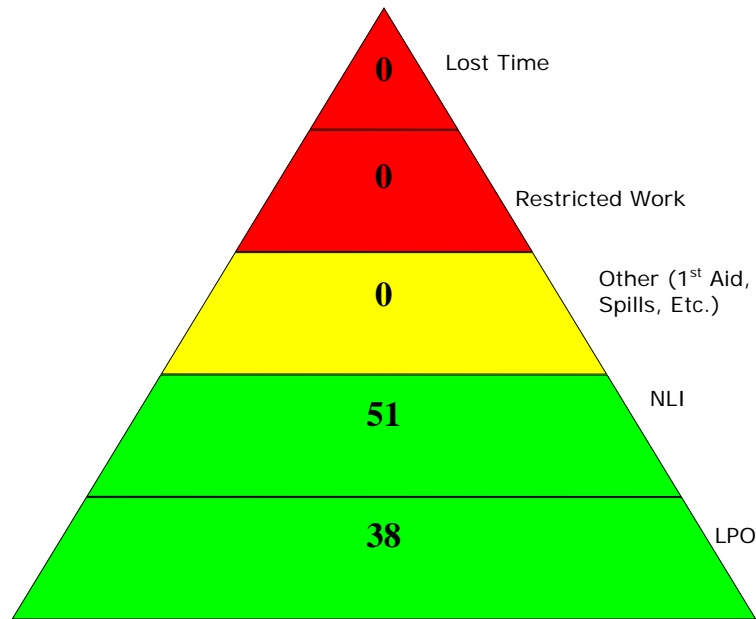
From the President

Congratulations! During the first half of 2006 AME staff and our subcontractors suffered no lost time or restricted work injuries. Our identification of NLIs has resulted in changes to tools, procedures, and attitudes that will enhance all of our safety. Thanks to all of

you for your diligent use of LPS tools. Please continue to perform SPSAs whenever you initiate, change, or resume a task. SPSAs are the first line defense against injury and loss. Using all of our LPS tools and looking out for our co-workers will result in an environment where **NO ONE GETS HURT**.

Safety Matters

2006 YTD (through June)
AME Total ExxonMobil Hours Worked YTD (2006): 8,059



June LPS Metrics

By Eric Chase: June was bustin' out all over, to paraphrase an old song, as AME's staff produced 19 NLI reports and 19 LPO reports throughout the course of the month. With a total of 899 AME and subcontractor field hours, the field hours per LPO ratio was 47.3, our lowest ratio to date. A low ratio indicates a high rate of LPO production. As we continue to improve LPS implementation across our projects, we are also improving the quality of the reports we submit. Our investigations of near-loss

incidents are becoming much more sharply focused on actual root causes, and are more effectively identifying the behavior-based solutions that really work. We are also identifying job factors as we encounter these incidents, resulting in improved Job Safety Analysis (JSA) sheets, improved procedures and practices documentation, better physical tools to get the various tasks done, and greater workplace safety is the result.

Congratulations to us all on these improved performances, and keep up the good work!

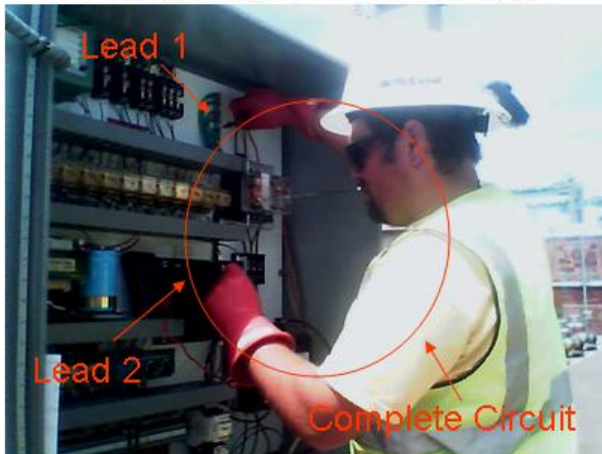
LPS Bulletin

Following a questionable observation during an LPO we identified both procedural (where you stand and hand placement) and equipment (need a clamp lead) items for correction. As a result Zach Guthmiller and Dan Sweet went to the two day electrical safety course in

June and AME bought new meters. Dan LaFontaine prepared this LPS Bulletin to share the information. Feedback from Tim Strawn, ExxonMobil, regarding the LPS bulletin was very positive.

Your body completes the circuit!

Wrong way to read voltage



Correct way to read voltage



- Never take electrical readings with two hands!
- Electricity always follows the path of least resistance. Your body is a better conductor than the air surrounding it. When you use two hands to take electrical readings your hands complete the circuit and give electricity a path of least resistance through your heart.
- Always clip at least one electrical lead to take electrical readings. Use properly rated leads for the task at hand. CAT III or IV are properly rated for industrial use.

LPS Program Implementation

By Eric Chase: AME has obtained a license from Loss Prevention Systems, Inc. which allows us to use the system on all AME projects. We will also be implementing the use of the LPS, Inc. information management system, known as LPIS, having recently conducted talks between our information systems specialists and theirs. On July 25, 2006, LPS, Inc. will send their technical rep to our El Dorado Hills Office to meet with AME's MIS team to begin the implementation of LPIS in our system. We will soon have a server-based user entry system installed which will be the portal through which all LPS documentation will be uploaded by end users, such as field personnel, project managers, supervisors, and LPS specialists in our ranks. Our goal is to provide field data entry capabilities for all LI/NLI and LPO reports. The system

will be able to generate client-designed and client-required report documents from the data entered into the system, and will also be able to track these documents through their various stages of completion.

This automated system will be customized by our MIS team to produce client-specific reports, as well as internal tracking reports that will greatly streamline our LPS work. In six months, Dr. Jim Bennett, the originator of this world-wide loss prevention program, will conduct an all-day workshop with AME employees in our office in El Dorado Hills. ExxonMobil representatives have already asked to attend this workshop with us.

Train the Trainer Training (3T)

Eric Chase is now AME's third active LPS Trainer, having completed the 3T training June 20-22, 2006.

There were 21 attendees at the training, from seven different states from Florida to Alaska. Of these 21, 14 were full-time safety-only personnel, and all of those 14 were their respective company's chief health and safety officer. Among the many things learned are a few facts we should all be aware of. The allotted time to complete a Loss Investigation report is 5 working days (not calendar days). The allotted time to complete a Near-Loss Investigation report is 10 working days (not calendar days). At least 80 percent of LPO reports should be peer-to-peer LPOs. The remaining LPOs can have a supervisor/PM/LPS

coordinator as the observer. Verification of solution implementation and validation of the effectiveness of solutions (V&V) is a 100 per cent first-line supervisor responsibility. V&V must be done in the workplace and cannot be done via telephone or fax. V&V spot checks should also occasionally be performed by higher-level managers for QC purposes. Finally, the precept that "Safety is a value, not just a priority" was stressed by Roxanna Brom, ExxonMobil Global Remediation Safety Advisor. As stated by Roxanna, "priorities can change, but values do not". Words to live by, literally!



Montana Projects

By Manouchehr Salehi: AME's site work for four of the Montana projects started this month. Two AME teams, John Shaal and Brian Richardson from Portland and Will Speth and John Matthey from El Dorado Hills, started the sampling program. The four Terminals are located in Missoula, Bozeman, Helena and Cut Bank, Montana. On Wednesday, June 21, we began the semi-annual monitoring. Each site has numerous ground water monitoring wells. Site work in the Helena Terminal and Cut Bank Refinery will include soil and ground water remediation as well. Our first round of work was completed on June 28th.

The weather was perfect and there WILL not be any AME site that can even come close to matching the beautiful scenery that we saw in Montana. Our next



sampling event is set for mid-September and indications are that the work at the Billings Refinery and the opening of AME's Billings office are in the works. Stay tuned.

Fort Bragg Update

By John Matthey: We are continuing our field work at the G-P Fort Bragg site. Our current field activities involve Tom Carroll and Marc Fawns collecting soil samples as selected foundations are removed. The deadline for foundation removal is October 15, 2006

and we will be out there on and off for foundation sampling through that date.

Timesheets, Expense Reports, Equipment Usage Reporting

Written by Ellen Frosch: You've heard Jennifer or I remind about proofing your timesheet for accuracy, or follow up with you to turn in your paperwork. We try to speak with people individually who use the wrong project number, or use the wrong format for submitting their information. *Why is this so important?* Let's look at all the information that comes from the timesheet.

- o Client Billing
- o Manhour Reporting (to clients, OSHA records, etc)
- o Safety Statistics
- o Internal Financial Reports
- o Revenue Reporting (paying taxes to local and state agencies)

All of the above administrative tasks are handled from timesheet-based information. That is why we have requests that information be submitted in a particular format, to streamline the data gathering and data reporting process. Monthly, we have reports (both internal and external), with due dates as early as the 10th. Processing the data begins immediately after the pay period ending date (15th or end of month), and a lagging submittal can bring the entire process to a halt. It takes a commitment from everyone to submit their information on time and in the correct format. Thank you for paying attention to this.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

By John Matthey: The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District has published an asbestos Review Map for the Western Part of El Dorado County. The map is a working document that is updated periodically as additional information is acquired. The map is viewable on line at <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd/apcd/PDF/Map.pdf>. The County also publishes a quarterly newsletter entitled "BEACON, Dust Enforcement Program" which provides updates to the naturally occurring asbestos (NOA)

wars. NOA can be found in serpentine, the State Rock that can be found in 44 of the 58 California counties.

Sinkholes, Flooding, and Asphalt

By Jeffrey Johnson: On the morning of April 2, 2002, maintenance workers at a cement plant located in the karst terrain of southeast Missouri heard an unusually loud grinding noise. To their amazement, they witnessed the ground along the nearby railroad tracks being engulfed – ultimately forming a huge circular sinkhole. The sinking ground, which was within several yards of the plant's 100 foot tall, 40,000 ton silos, produced a panic among the working staff. At the same time in the limestone quarry 500 feet to the north, ground water flow began to increase and as the water level began to rise, a general aura of concern enveloped the plant.

Later that day, after collapsing 10 feet beneath the former railroad tracks, the ground movement beneath the sinkhole subsided – saving the integrity of the silos. However, fortune was not as gracious for the quarry. Within two days after the sinkhole collapse water began pouring into the quarry at a depth of about 350 feet below the surface. Ultimately, ground water flow would increase to over 30,000 gallons per minute and would produce a 34-acre lake with a depth of over 200 feet. It was from these auspicious rumblings on an otherwise beautiful April morning that an intensive five-month program began with the goal of stabilizing the sinkhole and plugging the underground river flowing into the quarry.

The remedial program to terminate the ground water flow into the quarry began immediately after the sinkhole formation. The first attempt was simply to try to dam the incoming ground water flow. The flow was coming from a 12-foot square opening in the face of the quarry wall. Pipes, a bulkhead, and low mobility grout were placed in the "portal" opening in an attempt to redirect the flow. To the surprise of the quarry workers, the water started rising up the face of the quarry wall and weeping out of the horizontal bedding planes of the limestone rock. As the water began to rise along the wall, a second breach formed about 50 feet east of the original opening. Recognizing the magnitude of the problem, the cement plant called in a geotechnical consultant for assistance.

In late April and early May the geotechnical consultant began a series of borings and geophysical tests. From these tests it was recommended that a grout curtain be constructed at depth between the sinkhole and the quarry in an attempt to intersect the incoming water. Before the attempt could be initiated, new sinkholes developed to the south of the plant and a new breach in the quarry wall developed. This breach produced a continuous 10-foot high water spout, which was aptly named the "rooster tail". In June, the second attempt was initiated. This attempt consisted of pumping low mobility grout at a pressure of 500 pounds per square inch on 50-foot centers using three rigs to try to plug the subsurface voids and openings. As in the initial attempt, the water flow was too forceful and the grout

began to enter the quarry as fast as it could be pumped. Recognizing the magnitude of the problem, the second attempt was terminated.

During the failed second attempt the plant utilized barges fitted with large diesel pumps to maintain the water level in the quarry. Pumping at rates of 25,000 to 30,000 gallons per minute, the water volume stabilized at about 700 million gallons in the quarry. As the water level was maintained, a new strategy to stop the incoming ground water was considered. This strategy employed the application of hot bituminous grouting (asphalt roofing). In this approach, mobile asphalt at a temperature of 450°F would be pumped into the ground and interact with the cold ground water to form a solid bituminous curtain sufficient to terminate the ground water flow. This third attempt was initiated in August and was considerably more complex than the previous attempt. In particular, over 1000-tons of hot bitumen was planned to be pumped over a 72-hour period through four 8-inch injection holes. Given the volume of bitumen and the absence of large vats to heat the bitumen, the hot asphalt would have to be trucked to the site from plant over 2.5 hours a way. Given the absence of any other viable alternatives, the program was started on the morning of August 24th. Within six hours, the effects of the grouting were observed as the "rooster tail" disappeared. As the program continued, the hot asphalt started to recirculate to the surface indicating the remaining voids had been filled. Finally, on the evening of August 25th, over 40 hours into the program, the final hole was pressurized indicating successful completion of the grouting. Within two months after completion of the grouting program, water levels within the quarry were lowered and operations of the plant were on-going.

Since August 2002, litigation has developed between the quarry, the railroad, and the geotechnical consultants. Currently, AME is representing the railroad to document the hydrogeologic conditions at the site and how the operations of the quarry promoted the development of the railroad sinkhole and ultimately, produced the flooding the quarry. The trial between the various parties is scheduled to occur this year in St. Louis.

Quotes from Grace Willis' Desk

"It is inevitable that some defeat will enter even the most victorious life. The human spirit is never finished when it is defeated - it is finished when it surrenders."
- Ben Stein

"The problems of the world cannot be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men [and women] who can dream of things that never were." - John F. Kennedy

"If you can dream it, you can do it. Always remember this whole thing was started by a mouse." - Walt Disney

Humor

Fast Food Comes to Africa:

