



ESSD UPDATE

Engineering and Safety Services Division, WASO

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4 OCTOBER 1992

INTRODUCING... THE NEW AND IMPROVED HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR NPS

- Shawn Norton, WASO Hazardous Waste Program Manager

HAZARDOUS WASTE! The thought of it conjures up distinct images for all of us. Images of people in encapsulated safety suits and air purifying respirators, moving 55 gallon drums of oozing toxic wastes from an abandoned building or field placarded with warning signs. Beyond this common image, what does hazardous waste mean to the National Park Service? How much of this stuff is out there and how should it be managed? As many park staff have painfully observed, these are questions that need answers, fast!

Introducing ... the NPS Hazardous Waste Management Program, the answer to all your environmental problems (well, not really). Just what is this new program, and is there any money in it? Actually, the program has been around for a while. The first year of full funding was in FY 91. What is new is the establishment of a full time NPS staff who will provide technical assistance to the parks. Six new employees will implement the program Servicewide. Four employees, Shawn Norton (Program Manager), Cynthia Perera, Fred Sturnolio, and one employee not yet selected, will work in the Washington Offices. Two employees, Steven Hunt and Shawn Mulligan, will work from the Denver Office of Operations Engineering.

The title NPS "Hazardous Waste Program" is somewhat of a misnomer, because we deal with much more than hazardous waste management. The program really consists of three major areas of environmental concern. Specifically, these are:

1. the storage of petroleum fuel in Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), and the subsequent assessment and cleanup when they leak,
2. the storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes, which are used in maintenance and resource management and the assessment and cleanup of properties when these hazardous substances are spilled or improperly disposed, and
3. the implementation of a comprehensive waste recycling and waste minimization program for NPS.

As you can see, "hazardous waste " takes on a much broader definition as it applies to NPS. It implies a need for strong communication between our maintenance staff, resource managers, scientists, safety specialists, and WASO. It is very likely that all of these individuals will work on waste management issues in the months and years to come. Our challenge will be to bring the disciplines together to solve tough environmental problems.

The need for a comprehensive hazardous waste program within NPS is obvious. The Inspector General's Office is auditing both the UST program, and in the "True" hazardous waste program. Questions regarding compliance with federal environmental regulations, the use of program funding, and our ability to manage environmental data is being tested as we speak. Additionally, as park visitation increases, the need to solve solid waste problems will intensify. Our challenge will be to answer these questions before they become forest fires, not brush fires.

We intend to begin the process of further defining and solving the Service's hazardous waste problems immediately. Ideas to test as this job unfolds will (SEE HAZARDOUS WASTES, Page 2, Column 2)



SAFE - T - LINE:

- Jim McCarthy, Safety Engineer, Branch of Safety and Loss Control, WASO

Can you name the third most frequently cited OSHA violation last year? It's the new OSHA standard on lockout/tagout (29 CFR 1910.147). It applies to servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment when unexpected start up, or release of stored energy could cause injury to employees. All energy sources, such as electrical power, water under pressure and thermal energy are within the scope of the standard. Does your park comply? Here are the basic requirements.

The standard requires establishing an "energy control program." This program includes documented procedures, employee training and periodic inspection of the procedures. You must list for each machine or piece of equipment: who to contact before servicing or maintenance, how to isolate and lock out the energy source, how to dissipate stored energy and the procedures to follow when restoring the machine or equipment to normal operation. The preferred method for isolating energy is to use a lockout device and padlock. Common lockout types are hasps for energy isolating devices with lockout provision; lockouts for circuit breakers, fuses, wall switches, and valves; and electrical plug lockouts. The lockout should identify the employee by name or picture. Many lockouts do not have this feature, so add a tagout to be in compliance.

The Department is preparing procedures for inclusion in the 485 DM, Safety and Health Handbook. NPS procedures that conform to OSHA requirements and Departmental guidelines will then become part of NPS-50. Contact your park safety officer for assistance or additional details.

(FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE, Page 1)

include increased training at the park level, significantly increased technical help for the parks and, of course, more money.

Another important idea is the use of various NPS newsletters to get information out to the parks. You can expect to see a regular hazardous waste feature column from this issue on. We want your ideas, experience, and help to make the feature useful. Become a contributing journalist, or just let us know what is happening in the parks.

ENERGY ISSUES

JOHN DURAN ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

John Duran, the Servicewide Energy Coordinator, has accepted the superintendancy of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. John began his new responsibilities on October 18.

Until the Energy Coordinator position is filled permanently, Gary Thompson of the WASO Maintenance Branch will act in the position. Congratulations to John, and watch this space in future issues for more information on the energy program.

KIP HAGEN TAKES DETAIL TO DOI

Kip Hagen, NPS Chief of Maintenance, is spending 60 days in a detail to the Department of Interior's Hazardous Wastes Office. Beth Fischer is Acting Chief of Maintenance until he returns on November 21.



- Rick Shireman, WASO
Training Coordinator

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

In Fiscal Year 1993 the Albright Employee Development Center will host a new program expanding the "Facility Manager Development Program" into a multi-disciplinary course for employees in Maintenance, Ranger Activities, Interpretation. The program is open to supervisors or program managers who work in Interpretation, Maintenance, or Ranger Activities. The first "Leadership and Management Skills Program" will run from January 5 to February 5, 1993. As with the Facility Manager Development Program, participants will participate in four week details at park areas following the classroom sessions. There will also be some opportunities for details with private sector organizations involved in park and environmental operations.

Your park training officer has applications for this program. The application process will be similar to the Facility Manager Development Program. The pilot session of "Leadership and Management Skills Program" will have an equal mix of participants from maintenance, interpretation, and ranger activities.

The curriculum and training exercises will cover the information presented in the "Facility Manager Development Program." However, the participants will come from a mix of backgrounds rather than just maintenance. This will allow for interaction of ideas from various viewpoints, and will reinforce the idea that good park management must be shared equally among the disciplines. Those employees who intended to apply for the "Facility Manager Development Program" should submit their applications for this program instead.

Representatives from past FMDP classes, the Servicewide Maintenance Training Coordinator, Albright staff, and representatives from Interpretation, Ranger Activities, Administration,

and Resource Management developed the course agenda and curriculum. The Engineering and Safety Services, Ranger Activities and Interpretation Divisions are funding the pilot session of this program. If successful, the program may expand to include other disciplines as funding becomes available.

MAINTENANCE WORKER SKILLS TRAINING FUND OPENS

Applications are now being accepted for the Maintenance Worker Skills Training Fund (MWSTF). This fund provides local opportunities for training in all the maintenance worker skill fields. Any maintenance employee currently performing hands-on maintenance tasks is eligible to apply for the fund. Requests for training may not be for managerial instruction or for mandatory training. The training may be accomplished through Vo-Tech instruction, correspondence courses, "Apprenticeship" details to nearby parks or commercial establishments, or purchase and study of manuals, packaged training (slide-tape or video-tape programs), etc. Funding for this year's MWSTF has been significantly increased. Applications may be submitted for general maintenance skills training and for historic preservation training.

This year special funding is available through the NPS Historic Architecture Program to strengthen maintenance workers' hands-on skills to provide better maintenance for historic and prehistoric structures and cultural landscapes in the parks. Employees who intend to submit training proposals involving historic preservation should also investigate scholarships covering tuition to certain courses offered through the Cultural Resources Training Initiative. More information on these scholarships may be obtained through the Servicewide Maintenance Training Coordinator Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040. You may obtain application forms for the Maintenance Worker Skills Training Fund from your park Training Officer.



MM PROGRAM CORNER

- Dave Hartman, Acting
Maintenance Management
Program Manager

SOFTWARE UPDATE

During fiscal year 92, WASO Maintenance Management (MM) staff and contract programmers have been working diligently to correct the calculation errors in the MM Program software. When the program change from crew days to person days was made within the activity summary screen, the source of inaccurate planning costs became apparent.

Each program functioned correctly by itself. However, when planning costs were compared report by report, the resource costs varied. The data was analyzed as it passed through the various output programs. It was determined that these differences depend on the method of storing calendar data.

From this analysis it was decided to delay the release of the software. The current system uses stored rounded crew days to calculate costs. The changes in Version 2.3 converted the crew days to person days in the activity summary screen and the activity listing report.

The WASO MM program staff realizes that the field has been looking forward to this update of the MM program. However, the credibility of the program would be sacrificed if planning costs are not accurate and consistent throughout the program. With additional time and effort, MM will be a more effective as a planning and budgeting tool.

Parks should go ahead with the MM End-of-Year Processing, both Set-up and Close-out with the existing software (Version 2.2A). Release date for Version 2.3 will now be delayed until sometime around the middle of Fiscal year 93. The new software will be designed to automatically convert all 2.2A data sets to the 2.3 file structures.

CALENDAR

Safety for Line Managers, November 16 - 20, 1992, For more information Contact: Dale Thompson (602) 638-2691 or Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040

Maintenance Worker Skills Training Fund, Albright Employee Development Center, Grand Canyon, AZ, Announcement opened October 5, 1992, Contact: Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040

Association of National Park Maintenance Employees 3rd Annual Conference, Spokane, WA, November 1 - November 4, 1992, Contact: Jack Roberts, (303) 586-3565

Rocky Mountain Region Chiefs of Maintenance Workshop, November 16 - 20, 1992, Contact: Terry Gess, (303) 969-2623

Managerial Update for Chiefs of Maintenance and Facility Managers, ANNOUNCEMENT NOW OPEN Albright Employee Development Center, Grand Canyon, AZ, December 1 -11, 1992, Contact: Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040

Leadership and Management Skills Program, (Replaces the Facility Manager Development Program), ANNOUNCEMENT NOW OPEN Albright Employee Development Center, Grand Canyon, AZ, January 5 - February 5, 1993, Contact: Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040

Hazardous Waste Management Course, February 22 - 26, Sante Fe, NM, Announcement opens this Fall, Contact: Shawn Norton (202) 343-7040

Maintenance: The First Line Manager, (Double Session, 50 participants), Albright Employee Development Center, Grand Canyon, AZ, March 1-19, 1993, Contact: Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040

Maintenance: The First Line Manager, (East Coast Session), Mather Employee Development Center, Harpers Ferry, WV, August 2 - 21, 1993, Contact: Rick Shireman (202) 343-7040