

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 4, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: M. Bradisse, B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending September 4, 2020

Solid Waste Operations Complex: Contractor management convened a critique after an operator struck a TL-1800 waste container with a forklift (see 8/25/2020 report). During the critique, the forklift operator and spotter clarified that the contact between the forklift and the container occurred during forward movement and turning of the forklift. They further indicated that the crowded arrangement of TL-1800 containers and positioning of the truck within the building were conditions that contributed to the event. Additionally, the discussion revealed that although a spotter was assigned, neither the operator nor the spotter considered spotting necessary during forward movement of the forklift. Attendees also noted good overall response by both the work crew and the facility's emergency response organization to place the facility in a safe and stable condition. Facility subject matter experts have completed their evaluation of the damaged container using the abnormal container management process. They have determined that the structural integrity of TL-1800 has not been compromised by the minor damage from the forklift impact and the container does not require additional surveillance or repairs.

222-S Laboratory: Contractor management is conducting an event investigation related to an unexpected shutdown of facility air handling units (AHU) that occurred while performing work associated with ongoing fire protection system upgrades. The investigation, which is still in progress, has revealed that the AHU shutdowns occurred when an electrician lifted a wire inside a fire alarm panel which provides a signal to the AHU shutdown relays. This is the third case in the last four months of an unexpected ventilation shutdown resulting from errors in the establishment of initial conditions for maintenance at a Tank Farm Operations Contract (TOC) managed facility. TOC management is consolidating the causal analyses for the three events under a single analysis lead. This action should result in the identification of related or common causes for the events, if any exist.

Hanford Site: Hanford site has transitioned to phase 2 of their COVID-19 remobilization plan. This phase allows further incremental expansion of the onsite workforce to approximately two-thirds of the full operation staffing and the resumption of some higher risk profile work activities.

The resident inspectors observed activities related to two limited drills. One was conducted for Tank Farm personnel and the other for Central Waste Complex personnel. These were the first evaluated drill activities for both organizations since initiation of the COVID-19 partial stop work orders in March. Each group made effective use of COVID-19 controls. However, this effort also introduced drill execution and evaluation challenges. The resident inspectors note that the recent transition to phase 2 and related resumption of higher-hazard work activities increases the importance of maintaining emergency management capabilities. This will require site contractors to establish an ability to conduct full-up drills and exercises as well as limited exercises using COVID-19 controls.