



# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

4TH QUARTER, 2004

12/17/04

## Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

## NP2W (National Pollution Prevention Week) 2004

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist x7963

For the third year in a row NASSCO celebrated National Pollution Week from Sept 18<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> with the following events:

### Chollas Creek Cleanup – Saturday, 9/18

NASSCO joined with I-LOVE-A-CLEAN-SAN-DIEGO for the third consecutive year to sponsor and participate in California Coastal Cleanup Day. This year 37 volunteers consisting of NASSCO employees, family, friends and subcontractors cleaned up the Chollas Creek Bed and Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan.

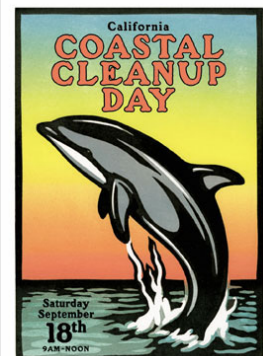


This event was made possible by the NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee (NC4) – Hugo Bermudez, Environmental Engineering Specialist; Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist; Martin Espinoza Jr., Production Supervisor; Ericka Filbert, Logistics Service Coordinator; Rey Guerrero, Supervisor Warehouse & Reclamation; Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator, Vince Palencia, General Supervisor, Daniel Reed, Production Associate; Victor Rincon, Painter; Bryan Ruiz, Production Associate; Ben Smith, Production Associate; Carol Valencia, Production Support Specialist; Marc Vignocchi, Production Associate; and Ken Wright, Photographer.



If you are interested in helping us plan future cleanup events, please contact Chad Haza at (619) 544-8826.

A special thank-you goes to the NASSCO Reclamation Department for properly disposing of all the trash & recyclables and to the Martin Espinoza Family that catered the after cleanup BBQ at Caesar Chavez Park.



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# Maximizing Water Conservation During Rainy Weather

By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager, City of San Diego Water Department

San Diego received record-breaking rainfall during the month of October. With all of that water, it might seem like the need to conserve water no longer exists, but it's actually the best time to make the most of the rain by using water wisely. The City of San Diego Water Department advises San Diegans to reinforce homes or businesses with the appropriate indoor and outdoor water saving fixtures to not only protect their property, but to also maximize water conservation efforts.

"More than half of the water San Diegans use goes towards landscape irrigation," said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego Water Department. "So if there are things we can do to use water wisely outdoors during heavy rains, it will make a huge difference in the amount of water we conserve and add to our local water supply."

Following are just a few tips homeowners and businesses can use to protect their property and make the most of the cold, wet weather with water conservation:

- Direct your rain gutters towards the plants in your landscaped areas.
- Install rain sensors on your sprinkler system to prevent over-watering your lawn with an automatic shut-off for rainy days. You can also manually turn off your system when it rains.
- Cover exposed soil surfaces with a layer of mulch or netting. This will help to retain the water in the soil by reducing the amount of water that is lost through evaporation, prevent erosion, and prevent the invasion of weeds.
- Place buckets and containers outside to collect the rainwater. You can then use this water for indoor plants.
- Create your own customized watering schedule for your sprinkler system by using the free online Landscape Watering Calculator. The system is completely free and easy to use, and provides an accurate schedule for how often and how much you should water according to the seasons and the types of plants in your landscape. Log on to [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) to access it.
- Insulate your water pipes to help speed up the process for getting warm water to your faucets. This means less cold water lost down the drain while you are waiting for the water to heat up.



Control erosion around your home during heavy rains by using wooden deflector barriers, such as plywood, or sandbags to re-channel mudflow safely around structures. Sandbags should be filled half-full with sand or soil and the flaps tied under or pointed in the direction of the water source. Bags should be tightly fitted and each layer staggered, like building a brick wall. Rows should be no more than 3 layers high, unless they form a pyramid or are supported by a building. For additional tips on erosion control, get a copy of "A Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management At The Chaparral/Urban Interface" by logging onto [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov) or calling (619) 235-1984. Or contact your local flood control office for additional tips and information.

## ISO 14001 External Audit Results

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist x7963

The most recent ABS Surveillance Audit of NASSCO Environmental Management System was conducted November 16-19, 2004. During this audit, Georgene Porter of ABS evaluated the following organizations and areas of the yard for conformance with the ISO 14001 Standard:

Environmental Engineering, BP-3, Berth 5-6, Graving Dock, BP2, SIPCO Services, Inc., PCI, US Joiner, Blast, Paint & General Services, T-AKE, Reclamation, T-AKE Tool Room.

Ms. Porter spent time in all areas evaluating Hazardous Waste Drum compliance. She found evidence that the drums were in compliance throughout the yard and was therefore able to close out an Open Corrective Action from previous audits.

There was just one minor finding during this 3.5 day audit

for "Environmental Communication" of such issues as NASSCO's Environmental Policy, Environmental Objectives and Targets, Spill reporting and the location Emergency Evacuation Muster locations On-Board T-AKE.

*Thank you all for your continued support of our Environmental Management System.*



## Put a Soybean in your Tank

By Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist x8764

A little more than 100 years ago, Rudolph Diesel introduced his "pressurized ignited heat engine" at the Exhibition Fair of Paris. And today, while most of us are familiar with the engine that bears his name, many of us are not aware of the environmentally-friendly method this pioneer employed to power his engine. Diesel's first engine was not powered by the petroleum-based fuel we call diesel today, but rather, by fuel made from peanut oil.

Biodiesel is fuel made from animal or vegetable oil which



has undergone a simple chemical processes known as transesterification. In this process, methanol and a catalyst (lye) are added to the vegetable oil, creating biodiesel fuel and glycerol, a beneficial byproduct that can be made into commercial products like cosmetics.

In the United States, most biodiesel is made from soybeans or recycled cooking oil. Besides being manufactured from a renewable resource, biodiesel has other advantages for the Environment. Biodiesel does not contain sulfur, and emissions generated from this fuel are significantly lower in particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and unburned hydrocarbons. Biodiesel is far less toxic than its petroleum-based cousin, and is biodegradable. And because biodiesel is a better lubricant than conventional diesel, engines using this fuel may actually last longer.

Biodiesel can be used in most diesel engines with little or no modification. In some vehicles, seals and hoses containing natural rubber will need to be replaced with synthetic equivalents. Also, since biodiesel has a detergent-like action, it has been known to release buildup when used in older engines, a problem which is easily solved with frequent filter changes during the first few months of biodiesel use.

By and large, the major disadvantage of biodiesel has been price and availability. However, since the cost of petroleum has been rising, the price gap between bio-

diesel and conventional diesel has been narrowing. Additionally, because the use of biodiesel would reduce America's dependence on foreign oil while providing jobs to Americans, the US Senate recently included a biodiesel tax incentive in the American JOBS Creation Act of 2004. It is anticipated that as consumers are able to obtain the benefits of biodiesel at a competitive price, the demand for the product will increase, along with its availability.

Want to learn more?

Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center  
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/altfuel/biodiesel.html>

National Biodiesel Board  
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/altfuel/biodiesel.html>

Ready to buy? Biodiesel and other alternative fuels are available locally at:

Regional Transportation Center, 4001 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, Ca. 92105, <http://www.rtc4afv.com>



## EMS Awareness

Two of NASSCO's **Environmental Objectives and Targets** that apply to ALL NASSCO employees, customers, and sub-contractors are:

100% Recycling accomplished through our Color-Coded Skip Tubs (Blue Skip Tubs - Wood, Cardboard, Paper; Red Skip Tubs - Scrap Metals, White Skip Tubs - General Trash)

The NASSCO Energy Saving Program that contains the following elements.

- Leak Tag Program
- Turn Off the Lights
- Equipment Shutdown
- Desktop Computers

# The 2003-2004 NASSCO Environmental Star Awards

## Manuel Garces - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee

"I would like to nominate Mr. Garces for his outstanding work as our HazMat Coordinator. With this man working for our department, I think we will never find or be fined for an open container. Every time we have an audit, Mr. Garces is the only one that is not stressed out. Saying this, I don't think there has to be an audit for him to have everything in order. It is an everyday thing for Garces." (not pictured)

## James Zelazny - NASSCO Environmental Star Employee



"Personal commitment is not more exemplified by any other employee in the Assembly Department than James Zelazny (Zeek). He has taken on the recycling programs like no other. He can regularly be found digging in the trash to pull out recyclables and has consistently been the one supervisor to make the recycling programs as much a part of new employee indoctrination as time charging. In addition to beverage cans, bottles, shop towels, pad eyes and fitting aids he has also saved the company countless dollars as he recovers tools under used PPE and equipment that he finds in the trash."

## Flux Core Welding Wire Reel Recycling Project - NASSCO Environmental Star Team Award

"The Flux Core Welding Wire Reel Recycling project of the Reclamation & SOC 3 Departments is an excellent example of two departments that teamed-up to recycle a material, whose critics said was impossible to recycle. Both departments simultaneously developed the idea of recycling these reels in order to reduce the volume of trash going to landfills, however, it was not until they teamed up and developed a process that his idea came to fruition.

The process consists of the Reclamation Dept. delivering green dumpsters to areas in Assembly where the new flux core welding wire reels are issued. When Assembly welders need additional welding wire, they dispose of their empty reels in the conveniently located dumpsters. Reclamation, in turn, sells these plastic cores to a recycler that pays \$20.00 per ton for these reels. Additionally, there is a cost savings associated with the cost avoidance of landfill disposal fees, not to mention the benefit to the Environment of conservation of natural resources and less trash to the landfill."



# The 2003-2004 NASSCO Environmental Star Awards

## Blast, Paint and General Services - NASSCO Environmental Star Department Award

"This department has the responsibility of dealing with the largest quantity of hazardous materials. In addition, they must meet the environmental compliance rules and daily record keeping requirements of the APCD (Air Pollution Control District). In the last year, this department passed four out of four unannounced surprise APCD inspections without a single violation."



## Hazardous Materials Department - NASSCO Environmental Star Department Award



"The HazMat Department has implemented two hazardous waste minimization programs, recycling of rags and spent abrasive. These two programs have an annual savings of over \$200,000. Due to the hard work of the employees who prepare the drums for recycling, NASSCO has been able to increase our recycling effort and get closer to our goal of recycling our hazardous waste."

## Pacific Ship Repair & Fabrication (PacShip) - NASSCO Environmental Star Organization

"Pacific Ship Repair and Fabrication clearly demonstrated their "Commitment to Our Environment" this past June through their support and participation in Operation Clean Sweep. The cleanup of the Chollas Creek wouldn't have been possible without their generous donation of two cranes and crane operating crews for the event."



## NASSCO Repair LHA-LHD Program Team - Special E-Star Award

A special Environmental Star Award was given by the NASSCO Compliance Assurance Committee to the Shipyard Repair Department's LHA-LHD Program Team for their on-going dedication and Commitment to our Environment. (not pictured)

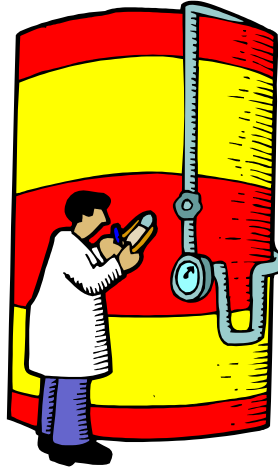
## City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Inspection

By Hugo Bermudez, Environmental Engineering Specialist x7780

Dan Gutierrez of the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater conducted an inspection of NASSCO's facility on Wednesday, November 3, 2004. Mr. Gutierrez main focus is to ensure that NASSCO is in compliance with its Industrial User Discharger permit.

Mr. Gutierrez focused his attention on all treatment systems including the WWTF and oil water separators at the compressor buildings. He began his inspection at the Pipe Shop and asked about the acid cleaning process which has recently been reinstated as of October 16, 2004. Earlier, the acid cleaning process was being outsourced.

Mr. Gutierrez then moved on to the following areas: The portable oil/water separator at Berth VI, compressor buildings 10, 26 & 41, the Floating Drydock, Waste Water Treatment



Facility, HazMat area, Metal Photo Lab and finally the NDT (Nondestructive Testing) Lab concluded the inspection. Mr. Gutierrez did not identify any violations nor had any concerns.

*Thank you all for your assistance and efforts in keeping NASSCO in compliance.*

## Third Quarter APCD Inspection Results

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist x7963

When the San Diego Air Pollution Control District inspector completed his week-long third quarter inspection last November, he found **no violations of NASSCO's or our subcontractor's air permits.**

He inspected the following areas and records:

- Prime Line #1 oxidizer including temperature, paint usage and maintenance records.
- Prime Line #2 oxidizer including temperature and paint usage records.
- The Avenger 3.1 & Avenger 3.3 Plasma Cutters including daily logs and maintenance records.
- USS McClusky potential asbestos removal operations.
- BP2 abrasive blasting & painting operations con-

ducted by NASSCO & SIPCO personnel.

He also reviewed NASSCO's yard wide paint records for the last three months; SIPCO's fuel usage records for the last three months; and NASSCO's NESHAP (National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants) Report for January to June 2004.

**This is the SIXTH consecutive air inspection where the air inspector did not find any violations!**

**Congratulations & Thanks** to everyone that maintain compliance with our air requirements on a daily basis!

A special thanks goes to NASSCO's Air Coordinators: Dennis Bowman, Don Edgington, Mary Herman, Dave Gaccione, Mark Kukuchek, Geno Martinelli, Marc Metzler, Frank Reyes, Dave Samudio, and Carl Whitaker for their daily efforts in support of our Air Quality Program.



## NP2W (National Pollution Prevention Week) 2004

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### **Pollution Prevention Slogan Contest – Monday, 9/20**

All NASSCO Departments were invited to submit a team slogan to promote P2 (Pollution Prevention) throughout the year. The winning slogan, selected by Environmental Engineering was submitted by the Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) Department. Their winning slogan is:

“The Solution to Pollution - A Receptacle, Not A Spectacle.”



### **Customer, Team Member, Supplier, & Subcontractor Training – Wed & Thurs. 9/22– 9/23**

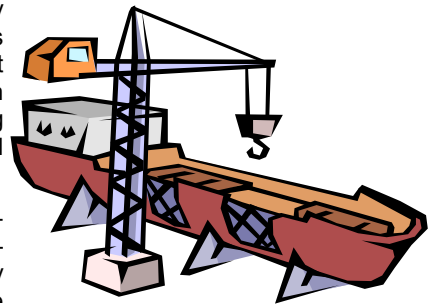
NASSCO's Environmental Engineering Department provided training to key customers, suppliers, and subcontractors on regulatory compliance and P2 in accordance with NASSCO's Environmental Management System. Over 100 organizations received this annual training.

Annual Environmental Performance Reviews (AEPRs) were conducted for these subcontractors and suppliers for the third straight year. This evaluation program provides organizations with a means of measuring their success in meeting NASSCO's Commitment to Our Environment. Organizations that actively pursue P2 were awarded a 10-point bonus on their AEPR.

### **Diesel Crane P2 Technology Information Exchange – Thursday 9/23**

Since NASSCO was the first organization in Southern California to voluntarily install pollution control equipment on large overhead cranes, representatives from the US EPA, Region IX, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Representing - LA, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties), San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach and BP spent the day at NASSCO learning about our pollution control equipment.

We are currently in the process of re-powering cranes 7 & 9. When this project is completed 8 of our 9 crane engines will be equipped with diesel particulate filters that will reduce the amount of diesel particulate emissions. Only crane #8 remains to be retro-fitted and plans are in the works to do this engine as well.



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## NP2W (National Pollution Prevention Week) 2004

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### NASSCO Environmental Star Awards – Friday 9/24

Environmental Engineering, for the third consecutive year, sponsored NASSCO's Environmental Star Awards. In



August, NASSCO employees nominated those individuals, teams, departments and organizations who demonstrate environmental excellence in their processes, attitudes, and actions.

The Compliance Assurance Committee chose the winners in each category and Mr. Vortmann presented those awards during a Pizza Party Luncheon where all nominees were recognized for their "Commitment to Our Environment". Ellen Schulte, Pollution Prevention Specialist from the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division was our special guest at the awards luncheon.

#### NASSCO Employee Nominees

Mike Ayres, Blast, Paint & General Services; Felipe Cuevas, Blast, Paint & General Services; Alfredo Flores, Shipyard Repair; Wally Futala, Shipyard Repair; Manuel Garces, Blast, Paint & General Services; Lee Hernandez, Maintenance; George Katsoufis, On-Block; Richard Kirby, On-Board; Bronwyn Lowe, Shipyard Repair; Carlos Martins, Blast, Paint & General Services; Lonnie Morgan, Shipyard Repair; Dave Power, HazMat; Rigo Rodriguez, Blast, Paint & General Services; Wayne Stevenson, Steel Erection; Karen Wilson, Shipyard Repair; James Zelazny, Steel Assembly – SOC-3.

#### NASSCO Team Nominees

Blast/Paint Pit Kaizen Team, Flux Core Welding Wire Reel Recycling Project Team, Blast & Paint Peak Load Project Team, 2003 NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee, LHA/D Program Team.

#### NASSCO Department Nominees

Blast, Paint & General Services, Hazardous Materials Department, On-Block, Shipyard Repair, Steel Assembly, Transportation, Waterfront Services.

This newsletter is generated by the NASSCO Environmental Engineering staff and is intended for the enjoyment of its readers by providing information on a variety of environmental topics. Information and/or opinions expressed herein reflect the knowledge and opinions of the author and not necessarily the entire Environmental Engineering Department, NASSCO or General Dynamics.

**If you are interested in submitting an article of environmental interest, or would like us to address one of your questions/concerns, please contact us at Environmental Engineering, Mail Stop 22A.**

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