



# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

## Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

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

General Dynamics 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.

## Air Quality Corner – Part 1

By Kacey Christie

Shipyards processes and equipment produce air emissions that can affect the environment. NASSCO is committed to evaluating our operations to identify Pollution Prevention opportunities.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are cost effective means to improve air quality. BMP's are typically defined as low cost, low technology, common sense measures that result in improved housekeeping, increased self-inspections and the prevention of air pollution. Benefits include improved employee health, safety, environmental awareness and cost savings via waste minimization.

### Air Quality BMP's – Solvent Wipe Cleaning

Solvent wiping is an integral part of surface preparation prior to various shipyard operations such as painting, adhesive bonding and welding. Solvent wiping is a process that uses solvents to remove contaminants from part surfaces. An operator accomplishes cleaning by wiping the contaminated surface with a solvent-dampened rag. Solvent wiping is a labor intensive task that has a potential for emissions of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) and HAPs (Hazardous Air Pollutants). The following are guidelines for preventing pollution from solvent wipe operations.

### Use Proper Wipe Cleaning Techniques

- Dampen, do not saturate the rag with solvent and clean a small area at a time.
- Use plungers and squeeze bottles to transfer solvent to a rag.
- Don't use spray bottles for high VOC or Flammable Solvents – Fire Hazard!!!
- Never conduct solvent wiping in areas of Hot Work, as most solvents are flammable.
- Don't transfer solvent from drums or large containers directly onto rags.
- Don't pour solvent directly onto the part.
- Provide covered containers at or near the work area.
- Dispose of dirty rags in a closed container immediately upon completion of wiping.
- Wear proper PPE

### Reduce the Types & Quantities of Solvents

NASSCO uses a single solvent for all wipe and paint-equipment cleaning operations in the shipyard. This reduces pollution and saves money by:

1. Reducing the amount of solvent we purchase.
2. Reducing the solvent we must pay to dispose of as a hazardous waste.

### Keep Accurate Records of Solvent Wiping

Mike Ayres in the Blast, Paint & General Services Department keeps daily records of all solvent used by NASSCO employees. Subcontractors and customers in the shipyard report their daily solvent usage directly to Environmental Engineering on a monthly basis.



Volunteers clean up Chollas Creek at the 16th Annual Operation Clean Sweep.

## Operation Clean Sweep '06

By the Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee

Saturday, June 3rd, 2006. The day started early. At 8 a.m., volunteers were already combing the creek bed of Chollas Creek for the 16th annual Operation Clean Sweep hosted by the Port Tenants Association. Each year, the event brings together Navy and civilian divers with the goal of retrieving trash from San Diego Bay.

Volunteers from NASSCO, employees and subcontractors alike joined with Pacific Ship Repair and Fabrication and other neighborhood volunteers to remove over 50 car tires, 10 shopping carts, five mattresses and even a lawnmower from the creek bed. By noon, there was no evidence of trash along Chollas Creek, an incredible task. This couldn't have been accomplished without the dedication and teamwork of everyone involved.

The next cleanup of Chollas Creek will take place during National Pollution Prevention Week on September 16. Help keep our waterfront clean by signing up. Call Chad Haza ext. 8826. Each volunteer receives a NASSCO T-Shirt and a certificate.