



# 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.

## Good Planets Are Hard To Find

By Sarah Hawkins, Production Associate



As once quoted in Time Magazine, "Don't blow it – good planets are hard to find." That insight on our environment seems a good way to remind everyone that September 17 through 23 is National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W).

NP2W is a week-long environmental awareness program that originated in California in 1992 and is now nationwide. This year's slogan is "Take the Next Step." It focuses on the disposal, treatment, and recycling of pollutants. It also looks at how to prevent pollution. Many steps will be taken to spread awareness of NP2W at NASSCO, including daily environmental awareness bulletins focusing on keeping the shipyard clean and extra training for subcontractors on pollution prevention techniques.

NASSCO also has numerous community events scheduled to promote interest in the environment. September 15 is California Coastal Cleanup Day, where many NASSCO employees will come together to clean up the shores surrounding Chollas Creek. For more information on volunteering at the cleanup, call the Environmental Engineering Department at (619) 544-7506.



## Oxidizer Efficiency Improved

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist



*APCD Inspector Ian Morris sets up NASSCO's Prime Line #2 Oxidizer for a source test.*

On July 18, the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) source tested Prime Line #2 in SOC 1's steel production line.

Early test results indicated an increase in the efficiency of the thermal oxidizer to burn off VOC's (volatile organic compounds) in the preconstruction primer applied during the machine's painting cycle.

However, the efficiency of the Prime Line #2 oxidizer had dropped to just 96.3 percent last year. The APCD has set a minimum efficiency requirement for this unit at 95 percent. If an APCD source test result fell below 95 percent, then the line would have to be shut-down until we were able to prove via subsequent testing that our efficiency was above the 95 percent again.

Not wanting to risk having a negative source test, the Maintenance Department called in a thermal oxidizer manufacturing facility in Germany to oversee a complete overhaul of the system to prevent further efficiency degradation.

The Maintenance Department also called on welders from the Pipe Shop, Repair and On Block to perform welding inside the oxidizer. It was a difficult task inside very tight quarters, but their efforts paid off for NASSCO as preliminary test results from the APCD indicate that the efficiency of this oxidizer is close to 99 percent.