



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 2

By Kacey Christie



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

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are cost effective means of improving 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 pollution.

Benefits include improved employee health, safety, environmental awareness and cost savings via waste minimization.

Air Quality BMP's – Solvent Degreasing

Solvent Degreasing is conducted in many shipyard work areas such as machine, electrical and pipe shops. Degreasing is typically accomplished with a solvent and involves spraying, brushing, flushing, and immersing the parts to be cleaned in a pan or a dip tank. The solvent may also be agitated mechanically to enhance the cleaning action.

Most solvent emissions occur during the removal of parts from degreasing equipment. Air pollutants emitted from degreasing operations include VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) and HAPs (Hazardous Air Pollutants). The following practices reduce this pollution:

- o Keep equipment in good condition. Fix leaks and poorly-fitting covers immediately.
- o Keep covers closed when the degreaser is not in use.
- o Train operators on proper degreasing techniques.
- o Use a steady liquid stream or brush cleaning and do not agitate solvents with air.
- o Rack parts to allow for maximum drainage and do not overload degreasers.
- o Drain cleaned parts completely and remove parts slowly from the degreaser.
- o Do not degrease absorbent materials such as rags and wood products.
- o Perform daily inspections of degreasers for leaks and other potential problems.
- o Keep records of solvent usage, disposal and inspections.

NASSCO currently rents seven reservoir solvent degreasers from Safety Kleen. All of these units have San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Permits (APCD). The APCD conditions listed on these permits are legal requirements that must be followed at all times.

Another way to ensure that all permit conditions are met is to have

Designated Air Coordinators. These people keep daily records of the degreasers at NASSCO. Currently, John Walden is in charge of four Safety Kleen Rentals in the Machine Shop. Carl Whitaker is also responsible for two Safety Kleen Rentals in Rolling Stock and another unit in Tool Repair.



Volunteers install parts of an irrigation system to water new plum trees.

Earth Lab Restoration

By the Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee

About 30 NASSCO employees, their family members and friends spent Saturday, Sept. 16 restoring Earth Lab.

Earth Lab is a large plot of land adjacent to Gompers High School, located near Highway 94 and Euclid Avenue. The land was previously used by the school as a science lab, but has since fallen into disrepair. Volunteers installed parts of an irrigation system, applied new paint to buildings and removed brush and other debris.

This environmental event was different than many of NASSCO's previous clean-up efforts because volunteers actually took part in the installation of an irrigation system. The system will be the primary source of water for the area's newly planted plum trees.

Volunteers celebrated their hard work afterwards in Gompers Park with a BBQ lunch and volleyball tournament.

For information on the next environmental event, please contact Hugo Bermudez at ext. 7780.