



## Going The Extra Mile

In late March, several severe thunderstorms and tornadoes ripped through the Piedmont of North Carolina. On that Sunday afternoon, a HEPACO crew returning from an emergency response project were traveling south on Interstate 85 near Spencer, North Carolina. The winds were increasing and getting stronger each minute. Many motorists were pulling to the side of the interstate to seek safety. A tornado appeared in the sky over Spencer.

Mr. Bob Baxter and Mr. Dwayne Womble, both of our Charlotte office, parked their response vehicles on the side of the interstate and noticed that a large group of people were trying to get

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

up a hill to a safe place. Bob and Dwayne left their vehicles to help many of the older and infirm people as well as the children to a place of safety. These gentlemen put themselves in harm's way in order to help those in need.

This is only one example of the people who comprise the HEPACO Team and their willingness to step in and do what is necessary during a crisis or emergency situation. We are very proud of the actions of these two gentlemen and want to recognize them for their courage and determination to help in a time of need.

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HEPACO personnel overpacking damaged containers.

## HEPACO Wins Performance Quality Awards

We are fortunate to have many key client partners. Each year, one of those key clients, CSX Transportation, recognizes its top performers, both on an individual and total company basis, for service in the prior year. HEPACO is proud to be a part of the team that CSX Transportation relies upon to assist them with their needs. We have some good news to share from this year's recent Appreciation Dinner.

HEPACO was awarded the Performance Quality Award in the Large National Contractor category. We set a goal to win this award each year and are proud of the recent track record.



From left: Ron Horton, Jr. (HEPACO), Jim Briski, and Ken Moore

HEPACO has earned this prestigious recognition several times in the past, with wins coming in 2003, 2006, 2007, and most recently for 2009. The people who comprise the HEPACO Team have done some outstanding work and have helped HEPACO become the winner of this award in four of the past seven years.

Speaking of the people who comprise the team, each of the CSX Transportation managers bestows an individual award for excellent performance in his or her area each year. We are proud to recognize the following individual awards:

- Mr. Harry Hopes bestowed his individual award to Mr. Chris Burch, Project Manager of HEPACO's Greenville, SC office.
- Mr. Jim Briski bestowed his individual award to Mr. Ken Moore, Branch Manager of HEPACO's Knoxville, TN office.
- Mr. Mike Austin bestowed his individual award as a "team" award to HEPACO's Fredericksburg, VA office. Mr. Taylor McCann, Project Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

CSXT also recognized Mr. Jon Francisco, Branch Manager of HEPACO's Richmond, Virginia office with a special award commemorating his assistance in foiling an environmental crime involving illegal dumping on CSX property. Thanks to Jon and others, the criminals were apprehended and prosecuted for their actions. ▲



Harry Hopes (left) and Chris Burch



Mike Austin (left) and Taylor McCann

## NC State Ports Authority PETN Spill

Also known as pentaerythritol tetranitrate, colorless PETN crystals are the primary ingredient in detonating cords used for industrial explosions. The compound also is used in military devices and blasting caps, as well as in heart medications. A commercial shipment of PETN came into Morehead City, North Carolina, from Spain, and a private contractor brought it into the port. Eight containers of the explosive compound were punctured by a forklift as they were being unloaded, prompting closure of the port and U.S. Highway 70 (which includes the Morehead City-Beaufort high-rise bridge) and voluntary evacuation of residents within a half mile of the port.

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## HEALTH &amp; SAFETY CORNER

## Ten Things to Protect Ten Fingers

Just because we have ten of them doesn't mean that we have any spares.  
Here are ten ways we can take good care of all of them:

- 1) **Stay away from pinch points.** The key to this is learning to recognize pinch points.
- 2) **Expect bad things to happen** like finger bumps with wrenches, hand tools, etc.
- 3) **Keep tools in good condition.** Good tools are less likely to slip and cause those mechanic's knuckles.
- 4) **Avoid working on moving parts or energized equipment.** Always use proper lock-out/tag-out procedures.
- 5) **Always use proper machine guards.** Replace them after servicing, keep them in good condition and properly placed and secured.
- 6) **Automatically starting equipment poses a special threat.** Eliminate the possibility of automatic starting when servicing. Be aware of warning signals.
- 7) **Always de-energize equipment** when flash or blast hazards are a possibility around electrical sources. When necessary, consult an expert to help with hazard assessment.
- 8) **Closing doors** can be easily overlooked as a hazard source, but a finger in the door of the family car is a painful experience.
- 9) **Avoid touching hot surfaces.** Remember, hot glass looks just like cool glass. Be aware of your surroundings.
- 10) **Gloves are PPE.** They are not an option on many tasks. If your job requires proper use of gloves, wear them. Remember to choose the gloves (as well as any PPE) to match the hazard.

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We often get phone calls or emails from people who were assisted by our people while they were having car trouble in a rain storm or needed help with changing a tire. We are glad to help.

There are other articles in this issue that highlight some exemplary service from our people, offices, and the Company as a whole. Our business calls for a lot of personal sacrifice in order to meet the needs of our clients and meet deadlines on plant shutdowns or respond to emergency situations.

I want the people who comprise the HEPACO Team to know how much they are appreciated and how proud I am to be associated with them.

I want our client partners to know that when you call upon HEPACO, we will go the extra mile to help you overcome your obstacles and exceed your expectations. ▲

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Ronald L. Horton, Sr.  
President & CEO

## Ashpond Bathymetric Survey and Vibracore Sampling

Every so often, a project comes along that requires us to think outside of the box to find new and ingenious solutions to the challenges faced as well as utilize the unique education and technical capabilities of our personnel. Such is the case with this recent project that involved original scientific research, identification and procurement of appropriate instrumentation, data reduction, and technical subcontractor management.

HEPACO was contracted to perform a bathymetric survey of the south branch of the Elizabeth River around the Dominion Power Chesapeake Energy Center (CEC) followed by managing and supporting a vibracore sampling event. The objective of the study was to identify areas of groundwater discharge from the CEC ashpond into the Elizabeth River and then collect samples to demonstrate the natural attenuation of arsenic from the ashpond groundwater via co-precipitation with iron oxyhydroxide minerals at redox transition zones in the shallow river sediments.

To perform the bathymetric survey, HEPACO had to identify and procure a piece of marine survey equipment capable of collecting precise sounding and location data, as well as a software package capable of reducing the data into a format usable by both ArcGIS and MODFLOW modeling software. HEPACO's Project Manager, Mr. Patrick Lesley (Chesapeake office), has a B.A. in Geology and an M.S. in Earth and Atmospheric Science and has conducted extensive research into the impact of coal-fired power plants on ash pond effluent receiving waters. He is also an expert in ultra-trace metal sampling and analysis.

Once the marine survey equipment arrived by air from Texas, the survey was completed by HEPACO personnel using internal boat and support services. The capabilities of the boat operator and the selected instrument and software package allowed the survey phase to be completed ahead of schedule.

After the survey data reduction, Patrick coordinated and supported a marine vibracore sampling event. This effort involved arranging the training of the vibracore operator, on-water support of the vibracoring operations, and the supply and management of field equipment for sample processing operations. HEPACO support was instrumental in achieving project completion within the project schedule in spite of operational delays caused by severe inclement weather. ▲

Management means helping people to get the best out of themselves, not organizing things.

-Lauren Appley

# PETN Spill

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HEPACO was called in by the NC Ports Authority to assist with the response. First responder hazmat and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units from the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station contained and overpacked eight damaged containers and applied stabilizing water to the spill area. Led by Mr. Colin Falato, our personnel submitted incident action plans and site safety plans to the Coast Guard, and were given authorization by Unified Command

You rock!

-Commander, Sector North Carolina

(NC Ports Authority, Coast Guard, and local fire department) to begin cleanup

operations. The team overpacked an additional five containers from the original shipment, decontaminated two Conex intermodal containers, decontaminated and collected contaminated dunnage, and stabilized the spill area.

NC Ports Authority crews then discovered another damaged container which was believed to be leaking product. HEPACO responded and the spill was quickly stabilized and during recon, eight additional damaged containers were discovered. Unified Command requested that HEPACO bring in additional personnel to handle the incident and to maintain 24 hour per day stand-by operations until all the containers had been



HEPACO crews opening a container while safety officers observe.



HEPACO crews preparing a damaged container for overpacking.

inspected and offloaded. Our overnight crews assisted with the offloading of the remaining intermodal containers (approximately 1,080 containers of PETN) and identified and repalleted numerous crimped containers; identified and immediately overpacked 20 damaged containers; and identified and prepped for overpacking an additional 27 damaged containers. HEPACO's day crews finalized decontamination of the original spill area; overpacked the remaining 27 damaged containers; collected, stored, and secured all remaining contaminated debris (six drums total); and performed a final clean of all areas prior to receiving visual inspection and approval from Unified Command. The port was reopened, as was U.S. Highway 70.

NC Ports Authority, Coast Guard, North Carolina Emergency Management, local Emergency Management, and fire department personnel were incredibly pleased with the safety, professionalism and effectiveness of all HEPACO personnel that were involved in operations.

Prior to our final demobilization, the Commander of Sector North Carolina said to Colin, with regards to HEPACO as a whole, "You rock!" ▲

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Colin Falato (left) and Don Linville, HEPACO's Corporate Director of Health & Safety, at the awards ceremony in Morehead City, where the town's Mayor gave a Certificate of Appreciation to everyone who responded to the PETN spill.





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