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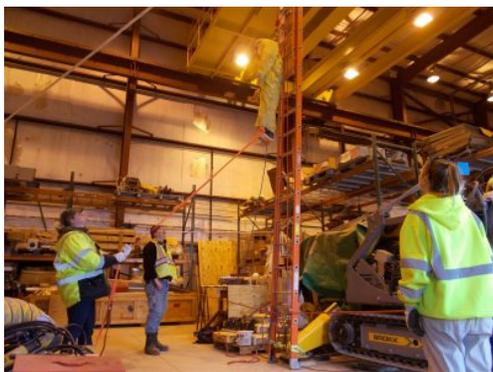


WVDP employees answer the call onsite and offsite

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Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – Employees at the West Valley Demonstration Project continue to ‘answer the call’ 24/7 when emergencies arise onsite and in surrounding communities. Cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley has 16 employees who volunteer at several local fire departments and some of those hold officer-level positions.



Steve Wedvik, Environmental Services, conducted confined space training for employees that simulated a 40-foot water tank rescue. Wedvik is also the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company Fire Chief.

“Volunteers help balance the needs for responding to emergency medical needs, especially in rural areas,” CHBWV Emergency Preparedness Manager and volunteer firefighter Kevin Murray said. “In the event of any emergency, you have volunteer professionals who are trained and ready to provide lifesaving interventions.”

Employee volunteer firefighters also assist with in-house, hands-on safety training using their knowledge and expertise from years of community service. If you ask any of them why they do it, the answer is simple: “To protect, serve and give back.” Among these volunteers, there’s a sense of pride knowing that their time is being devoted to something greater than themselves – the safety and well-being of a community.

“We understand the importance and benefit of having trained emergency responders working at West Valley,” Bryan Bower, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy, said. “We appreciate their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workers and communities.”

Ashford Town Supervisor Charlie Davis commended the commitment of these brave men and women.

“The men and women who volunteer their time to help others is an added benefit for our town and surrounding communities. These professional volunteers play a vital role in providing prehospital care quickly in emergency situations.”

In emergency medical situations where minutes saved can mean the difference between life and death, it’s an advantage to have several onsite employees that can be called upon to help.

“This was clearly demonstrated last summer when employees, who are also Emergency Medical Technicians, provided life-saving care to an onsite visitor, Ken Whitham, vice president of CHBWV Safety, Quality, Health and Security said. “If it wasn’t for their knowledge, training and past experience, this medical emergency could have had a different outcome.”

“The site and community are fortunate to have these individuals to help when the need arises,” Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager said. “It provides an extra level of safety and care for anyone in need of emergency or medical assistance.”