

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 07-21-08)

6,804

Shipments received since opening

55,951

Cubic meters of waste disposed

103, 521

Containers disposed in the underground

Mine rescue teams compete at national competition



Members of the WIPP Blue Mine Rescue Team locate a staged victim during the Field Contest.

WIPP's mine rescue teams stepped onto the national stage last week during the 2008 National Metal/Non-Metal Mine Rescue Contest in Reno, Nev. and came away with several trophies for their achievements.

"I'm very proud of everyone's performance at the competition," said Vernon Daub, CBFO deputy manager, who attended the national event. "It was an honor to be there and witness our teams competing as some of the top mine rescuers in the nation."

The WIPP Blue Mine Rescue Team captured second place in the field contest. The field contest simulates conditions that could be encountered in an underground mine emergency, including gases, fires or mine instability. Teams are evaluated by officials from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration as they move through the simulated mine environment to locate, treat and move staged victims to the surface.

"Blue Team Captain Gary Kessler and his team did an amazing job," added Daub. "They completed a two-hour challenge in an hour and 15 minutes. They knew just what to do. Both the Blue and Silver Teams exhibited tremendous skill and sportsmanship throughout the contest."



Blue Team Members

Ben (Ty) Zimmerly, Jim Pearce, Gary Kessler, David Sjomeling, Heath Fowler, Joe Baca. Not pictured: Joel Howard and Nadine Kuhn.



Silver Team Members

Craig Heine, Curtis Sanders, III, Hank Miller, Mat Ridgway, Doug Pitzer, Kirk Nance. Not pictured: Mike Proctor.



Team USA Members

Clem Quintana (WTS), Robert Baldrige (Intrepid), Nick Lott (Intrepid), Pete Livingstone (Mosaic), David Vaughn (Mosaic), Robert Rhoades (WTS) and Jerry Graham (WTS).



WIPP Silver's first aid team placed fourth in the nation in the first aid contest. Pictured above are Doug Pitzer, Kirk Nance and Craig Heine.

The WIPP Silver Mine Rescue Team's first aid team of Craig Heine, Kirk Nance and Doug Pitzer took fourth place in the first aid contest. This contest tests first aid skills critical in saving lives in an underground emergency.

In the benchman's contest, both teams' benchman placed nationally. The Blue Team's Joe Baca placed second in the nation and the Silver Team's Curtis Sanders, III, placed fifth.



Members of Team USA competing in the International Mine Rescue Competition.

In addition, Team USA placed fourth in the international competition. The team comprised members from WIPP, Intrepid Potash – New Mexico and Mosaic Company. Competing as part of Team USA from WIPP were WTS employees Robert Rhoades, Clem Quintana and Jerry Graham.

Congratulations to all WIPP mine rescue team participants for their dedication to safety and willingness to serve on these teams.



Outstanding benchmen: Joe Baca (above) and Curtis Sanders, III, (below) placed second and fifth in the nation, respectively, in the benchman's contest.



Transportation "road show" travels future route



An RH-72B shipping cask and the TRUPACT-II shipping container were highlighted in a recent transportation road show from Oak Ridge, Tenn. to Birmingham, Ala. The purpose was to familiarize people with WIPP shipping protocols in preparation for the first shipment from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to WIPP.

Two million and counting

WTS and WRES employees reached a two million hour milestone on June 30. That's how many hours were worked without an injury or illness resulting in days away from work.

Since our last days-away from work incident in November 2006, a lot of progress has occurred. Since that time, we have mined and removed more than 135,000 tons of salt from the WIPP mine, disposed of more than 11,400 cubic meters of CH waste, and began disposing RH waste in the repository with more than 63 cubic meters already emplaced.

WIPP's strong safety culture is evident in all participating organizations. WTS-plus-subcontractors have worked 1.4 million hours without a days-away injury. Meanwhile, all WIPP participants, which include WTS, WTS subcontractors, CBFO, CTAC, SNL-Carlsbad and LANL-Carlsbad have worked 1.7 million hours since the last days-away injury.

So when you walk around the WIPP facilities, remember; "Safety doesn't happen by accident!" Team work and a true interest in safety by everyone makes us successful. Let's continue this effort and renew our commitment to safety on a daily basis, both at work and at home! It's a goal we can ALL live with! Onward to 3 Million!

Submitted by Curtis Wynne (WTS)

National Night Out

The Carlsbad Community Anti-Drug/Gang Coalition, along with state and local law enforcement agencies and Devon Energy, is sponsoring local efforts for the 2008 National Night Out.

The event is scheduled for August 5 and may include block parties, neighborhood watch presentations, graffiti cleanup or other activities aimed at making neighborhoods safer. A one-mile fun run, co-sponsored by the Cavern City Runners, is also planned for 7:00 p.m. at the Eddy County Courthouse.

WTS is an active participant on the coalition. For more information on how to get involved, see the attached [flyer](#).

**In memoriam:
Christy Box**



The WIPP family extends its condolences to the family and friends of Christy Box. She was employed by S.M. Stoller at the WIPP Records Archive in the Information Technology Department. She is survived by her husband Radell and four children: Brittany, Cora, Mason and Cady.

**In memoriam:
Kevin Hughes**



Our friend and co-worker of more than 18 years, Kevin Hughes, has passed away after a long battle with cancer. He worked for WTS in the Retrieval, Characterization and Transportation Department. He is survived by his son Shaun, daughter-in-law Jennifer, and his grandchildren, Ethan and Haley.

WIPP competes in Security Protection Officer Training Competition

For the first time in the history of WIPP, a team was fielded for the annual DOE Security Protection Officer Training Competition (SPOTC). Four Security Walls, LLC employees were selected to compete. WIPP team members were Sgt. Charlie Granger and Security Protection Officers Luis Ramirez, Naaman Martinez and Joseph Munoz.



[Clayton Ardoin, Naaman Martinez, Charlie Granger, Luis Ramirez, Joseph Munoz.](#)

Team members prepared for two weeks prior to the SPOTC, held June 2-5 at the DOE Central Training Academy in Albuquerque, N.M. Included in the competition were numerous situations from rescuing a downed officer, recovery of special nuclear material containers and recovery of classified material.

WIPP was one of 13 DOE teams to compete at the SPOTC. At the end of the competition, Martinez placed first and Munoz placed third in separate individual events. Munoz also placed fifth overall in the individual category.

"I am very proud of our team and the way they conducted themselves at the event," said Clayton Ardoin, WIPP Protective Force Training Director. "I heard nothing but positive comments about our guys and their performance from other DOE Teams."

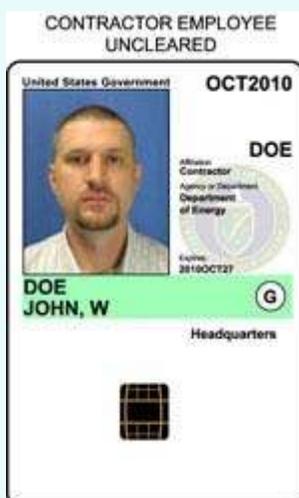
The team is already planning to compete next year.

United Way donation



WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif presents United Way of South Eddy County Executive Director Laurie Roche with a donation in support of the United Way's local efforts. The gift is in addition to money raised by WTS employees.

Samples:



All WIPP employees to get new badges

Your identification badge for access to WIPP facilities is about to change. In line with federal facilities across the nation, WIPP security contractor Security Walls is implementing Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), which was signed by President Bush in 2004.

The new policy, which affects all federal and contractor personnel, requires a new standardized badging process. Its purpose is to enhance security, reduce identity fraud and protect personal privacy by establishing a mandatory, government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of identification issued by the Federal government.

The badges currently in use will be replaced with one of two new badges:

- ⌘ HSPD-12 Standard Badge – Issued to all federal employees, contractor employees with a Q or L clearance and contractor employees with a favorable background and FBI fingerprint check. This badge will be valid at all DOE facilities.
- ⌘ Local Site Specific Only (LSSO) Badge – Issued to all other employees. This badge will only be valid at WIPP facilities.

To be badged, new employees will be required to present two forms of identification documents, one of which must include a photo. Also, no one person can be the sole official who requests, authorizes and issues a badge.

Security is establishing a badging office in the small conference room in the Guard and Security Building at the site. Once operational, the re-badging effort will begin with those receiving the HSPD-12 Standard Badge and then continue with personnel receiving an LSSO badge.

WIPP employees will be contacted by e-mail when the re-badging is to begin.

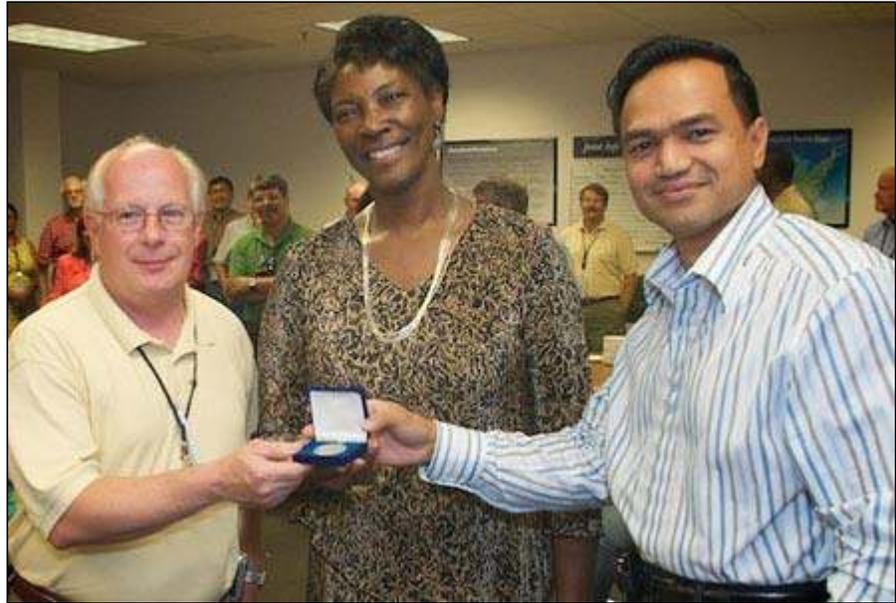
Submitted by Charlie Marrs (Security Walls)



WIPP outreach in the nation's capital

Representatives from WIPP were in Washington, D.C. on July 7-12 for the League of United Latin American Citizens National Convention. At a WIPP exhibit, people from across the country learned about WIPP and its cleanup mission.

A job well done



CBFO Manager Dave Moody and WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif present a medallion to Gloria Johnson for a job well done. Johnson, who served as WTS General Counsel for over 13 years, has taken on a new role as Washington River Protection Solutions' (WRPS) new General Counsel. WRPS received the contract to direct the remediation of DOE's radioactive and hazardous underground waste tanks located at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington.

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

LANL employee to help further education

Carlsbad area college students with an interest in engineering may soon have more options. Tim Hayes of Los Alamos National Laboratory's local office will be working with New Mexico State University-Carlsbad (NMSU-C) with what is the hopeful beginning of a pre-engineering curriculum.

NMSU-C recently submitted a grant application requesting funds to help expand three new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degree programs. If the grant is received, NMSU-C is looking to develop a pre-engineering program that will allow students to spend their first four semesters at the local branch, after which they will transfer to the main campus in Las Cruces to complete their degree.



The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](mailto:TRUTeamWorks)

This fall, Hayes will be teaching NMSU-C's first online, introductory physics class. Hayes first contacted NMSU-C expressing his interest in developing the course and hopeful to develop the STEM program, the college hired him.

Many LANL employees have taught at NMSU-C, so this is not the first request to aid in continuing education that LANL has approved. For example, the training that Hayes received from NMSU-C used an example syllabus from previous instructor, Cliff Stroud, local LANL office leader.

Hayes has completed almost all of the preparation for his introductory physics course and looks to be well-prepared by the start of the fall semester.

"I feel fortunate to be helping NMSU-C in expanding educational opportunities for the local community," said Hayes. "I am especially pleased to know this class may help with the development of a pre-engineering program.