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REGION 6 NEWS

OCTOBER 26
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From Tragedy to Triumph

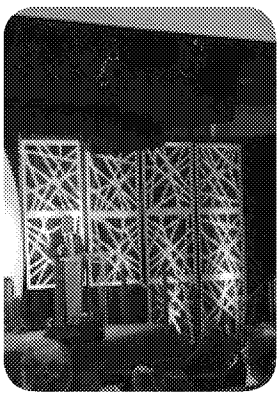
In observation of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Region 6 Special Emphasis Program - Persons with Disabilities hosted two events this month. The first, held on October 18th, was called, "From Tragedy to Triumph." Guest speaker for this event was Vietnam Veteran, Purple Heart recipient Dave Roever. Mr. Roever shared his life's journey, detailing his war experiences and subsequent transition from normalcy to disabled after suffering near fatal injuries while in combat. Mr. Roever's story inspires hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. This observance was attended via Skype by personnel from Regions 2, 4, 5, 8 and Headquarters.

RA Idsal and Persons With Disabilities Program Manager, Shonda Moore, present Mr. Dave Roever with a Certificate of Appreciation.

On October 24th, the program presented, "Breaking Barriers: Removing Stigmas & Stereotypes," and hosted Sergeant Major (SGM) Deia Aubrey of the First Army, Division West, Fort Hood, TX. SGM Aubrey communicated the challenges and successes with managing persons with hidden disabilities and the importance not only of recognizing signs and symptoms, but also learning to see the person, not the disability. Representatives of the Miracle League addressed advocacy and support of persons with disabilities.

L-R: Sergeant Major Deia Aubrey, U.S. Army, Grace Whetstone, Director, Miracle League, Ryan Guadagolo, Coach, Miracle League, Shonda Moore, Program Manager-People With Disabilities.

DRA Speaks at E-Enterprise Meeting



DRA Gray addresses the crowd in Addison.

Our Deputy Regional Administrator, David Gray, welcomed over 300 environmental professionals from States, Tribes, and U.S. EPA, at the EE2018–the E-Enterprise National Meeting on October 23-25, 2018, at the Renaissance Hotel, Addison, TX. This was a premier opportunity for environmental professionals to connect, collaborate, and learn more about the innovative work happening across the environmental protection enterprise. In line with the meeting's theme Shared Stories, Shared Services, Shared Successes, the meeting focused on promoting integrated conversations at the intersection of process improvement, policy modernization, advanced technology, and data management. A new tool, the E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform – an online community and living project inventory for environmental agencies and their employees across the U.S., was introduced and presented via an interactive demo. The tool allows environmental agencies to share information on E-Enterprise projects and other projects focused on making environmental work more efficient.

Regional Counsel Attorney Gives Environmental Law Training

Russell Murdock, EPA, presents to Law Enforcement professionals

On September 25, 2018, EPA Region 6, represented by attorney Russell Murdock, joined with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network (SEEN), the Department of Justice, and the Coastal Bend Council of Governments, to educate local law enforcement and inspectors on the enforcement of environmental laws. The training, which took place in Portland, Texas, was a joint effort between the Coastal Bend Council of Governments, TCEQ, and SEEN. During the training, Russell gave a presentation to local law enforcement professionals outlining the basics of environmental regulation, including the differentiation between civil and criminal enforcement of environmental laws.

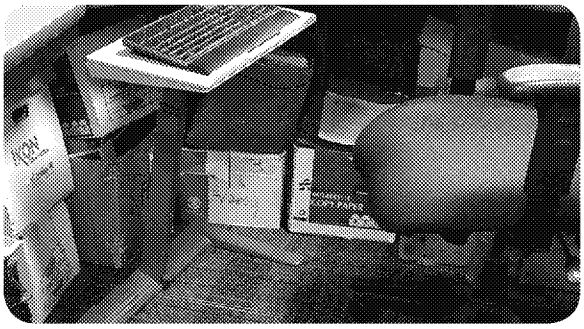
EPA's Lab in Houston Creates New Method

Coolers with samples for chain of custody processing.

The Houston Environmental Laboratory was tasked to assist the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with drinking water sample analysis for Methylene bis-thiocyanate (MBT). On October 3, 2018, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation located in Cherokee County, south of Jacksonville, TX, issued a "Do Not Use" order affecting 1,500 customers, related to a back siphonage event at Arrington Sawmill. The back siphonage into the drinking water system occurred from a tank, without a back flow prevention device, containing a wood preservative utilized in treating wood pallets. MBT is an active ingredient in the wood preservative, and the Lab has developed a Gas Chromatography analysis method for the MBT.

New Building Update

Let's Get Ready to Move! In preparation for our move to the Renaissance Tower, the Relocation Action Team has organized a second cleanout event for files and paper. From October 29th to December 10th, focus on reducing your paper footprint at your workstation or in your office. Each floor will be assigned a specific week to participate, so your Division will notify you when the event is scheduled for your floor. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and clean out your cubicles/offices. The time is NOW. Reduce, Recycle, Relocate!



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