SRR Receives National, State Safety Awards

National Safety Council Recognizes SRR

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) was nationally recognized again this year for its exceptional safety culture and performance. The National Safety Council (NSC) awarded the Savannah River Site (SRS) liquid waste contractor with three prestigious safety awards for safety statistics recorded in 2017, as well as ongoing performance.

SRR earned the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award for achieving a lost workday case incident rate better than 50 percent of the industry average.

NSC also recognized SRR, in addition to the SRR Construction workforce, with Million Work Hours Awards, which is given to organizations that have completed at least one million consecutive work hours without an occupational injury or illness resulting in a day away from work. SRR has completed more than 9 million safe hours since the last such injury, and the SRR Construction workforce has exceeded more than 30 million hours, or 20 years, without a lost day, an ongoing record since 1998 under legacy companies and SRR.

Finally, SRR earned the Industry Leader Award for outstanding achievements; the honor represents the top five percent of the NSC member population that have qualified for the 2018 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award. Winners are selected based on North American Industry Classification System code, lowest total incidence rate, and employee safe work hours.

Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager, said these awards are the tangible evidence of a workforce that values safety as the key part of every operation.

“Safe performance serves as the foundation of Savannah River Remediation’s mission to disposition and stabilize radioactive waste and operationally close waste tanks,” Foster said.

SRR Picks Up 3rd Shining Star Award

For the third consecutive year, SRR won the state of South Carolina’s Palmetto Shining Star Safety Award for exemplary safety performance.

The award, which reflects safety achievements in 2017, recognizes SRR for having injury rates at least 75 percent below the South Carolina average injury rate for similar industries. The calendar year 2017 injury rate for SRR was 0.29 per 100 employees. The state’s average injury rate is 2.0 per 100 employees.

The SRR operations workforce recently exceeded a company record of 9 million hours without a workday lost to an injury. In June, the SRR construction workforce surpassed another record — 30 million hours, or 20 years, and counting — without injury. SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster said he was proud the SRR team puts safety first no matter the task.

“The significance of safety at Savannah River Remediation never changes,” Foster said. “That is why safety is the top value of our company — not just a priority. Winning the Palmetto Shining Star Safety Award again this year demonstrates our continued commitment to safety.”

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation presented certificates at the end of last month to 26 South Carolina-based companies recognizing safety excellence.
SRR Cyber Team Shares Successes at National Cyber Summit

Savannah River Remediation (SRR)’s Cyber Security team recently shared tips to a national audience on how to better communicate cyber user awareness.

SRR was one of the presenters at the 2018 SANS Security Awareness Summit in Charleston, SC, this month. Principal Cyber Security Specialist Steve Lape (pictured) presented on behalf of SRR to share the success the company has seen with its cyber user awareness program. SRR was one of only 13 selected presentations out of 50 that were submitted for the Summit. Other companies that presented included FedEx, Lockheed Martin, CVS Health, and Thomson Reuters.

In his presentation, called “No User Awareness Budget? No Problem,” Lape discussed his team’s success in building a user awareness program from scratch.

“We built the program to promote cyber security awareness not only at work, but also at home,” Lape said. “By promoting awareness, we lower our risk of a potential successful cyber-attack because employees are more alert and knowledgeable.”

With the help of the SRR Public Affairs and Project Communications group, the SRR cyber team uses creative ways to make the user awareness program fun and memorable for employees, according to Lape. The team also puts on monthly lunch and learn sessions open to all employees, with topics ranging from the Internet of Things, to Ransomware, and Artificial Intelligence.

The SANS Security Awareness Summit is not the first time the SRR cyber team has provided cyber user awareness tips outside of SRS. The team has presented at the University of South Carolina Aiken, the Fort Gordon Cyber Command, and the CSRA-Institute of Internal Auditors.

SRR has been recognized by the National Cyber Security Alliance as a champion of Cyber Security Awareness Month for four consecutive years, each year that SRR has applied. SRR’s cyber security awareness training program has also been recognized by the Department of Energy (DOE) as “Best in Class.”

“We share all our user awareness materials not only with DOE Headquarters but with the entire DOE complex,” Lape said.

The 5th annual SANS Security Awareness Summit was a two-day, forum-style event to provide actionable lessons that cyber professionals can apply within an organization, with a focus on specific industry, employee base, and current maturity level. The Summit included expert awareness-focused talks, interactive discussions, networking events, and more.

The SANS Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization. It consists of security practitioners in varied global organizations from corporations to universities, working together to help the entire information security community.

Community Giving

Former SRR Public Affairs Employee Maddie Blair (left) presents a $1,000 check to La Verne Gold, President of the United Way of the Central Savannah River Area. The donation will benefit the United Way Endowment Fund in Gold’s honor as she retires after 40 years of service. The United Way Endowment Fund was inaugurated in 2014 by Gold as an emergency fund to support unplanned programs and initiatives.

The United We Stand, United We Can SRR Employee United Way Campaign began on September 10, 2018, and ends on October 5, 2018. The campaign kicked off with a BBQ fundraiser where senior managers served employees. From left, SRR Project Integration Director Kim Hauer, SRR Project Services and Support Director Sandra Fairchild, and United Way of Aiken County President Sharon Rogers.

EFCOG Recognizes SRR for Training, Contractor Assurance

An organization of DOE contractor employees recently honored SRR for exceptional team performance.

The Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) bestowed the award on Aparajita Ellis (pictured). Ellis is SRR director of contractor assurance. She leads the EFCOG Contractor Assurance Working Group. EFCOG honored her for collaborating on a system to measure the effectiveness of DOE sites’ contractor assurance systems.

Ellis said their work is beneficial to taxpayers, and DOE and its contractors.

“Ultimately, these tools will allow us greater competency to complete our missions safely and efficiently, which leads to more effective use of federal tax dollars,” Ellis said.