



# THE SHIELD

Professional Excavators L.P. Employee Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2009



It is very hard to believe that there is a little over six weeks before the end of both the calendar year and our fiscal year. How time flies!

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, I felt we would get busier in the fall; which has happened, and we have been awarded some fantastic projects over the last month. Even better, there are projects that were put on hold in 2008 that are resurfacing with anticipated start dates early in 2010 (more details to follow)

I am quite pleased that all business units are busy and that next year in shaping up to be a great year.

Both the concrete and paving units will be shutting down for the season this month and I want to congratulate both groups for their efforts and successes over the year. Our clients know we are committed and in a very short period of time we have earned their respect and have had a very positive response from The City of Calgary.

As always, safety is a huge component of our culture at our company and I encourage all of you to participate in open dialogue with your supervisor and our clients, along with our mandatory tool box meetings and PSI's.

As always, should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call.

*Jan Gryckiewicz*

## november birthdays

November 1- Andre Morgan  
November 5- Gord Christensen  
November 7- Grant Champion  
November 10- Randy Smith  
November 15- Mary Kyswaty  
November 17- Bernard Cox  
November 21- Brett LoGullo  
November 23- Craig Hudson  
November 25- Kurt Yakey  
November 29- Michael McDonald



Calgary International Airport  
EllisDon Construction Management

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

## When:

December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

## Where:

Shanks South- 9627 Macleod Trail South

**RSVP BY DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

## Incident report

On November 9, 2010 while excavating at the Remington job (Quarry Park) the excavator accidentally cut through a live 40mm gas line. The result was a lot of noise and no flame. It could have been worse, but thankfully it wasn't.

### HOW DO WE PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING?

The locates were done, but due to the extreme winds of the past few weeks, the marks were destroyed. Therefore we should be more diligent in making more permanent markings, and perhaps renewing the marks more often. All foreman, operators, and supervisors should be more diligent on the locate process.

Thanks

## fyi:

We are in the process of organizing a H1N1 clinic to be held at the office- but have been informed that they vaccines are still not available to 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers (such as the company we are going to be working with- VON). We will keep you all updated when we find out more.

Thanks!

# SAFETY TALK

## WORK SAFETY:

Improving work safety is a topic, and a goal, that should be on everyones mind. According to statistics, every year almost 6000 people are fatally injured at work. More than four million people suffer non fatal injuries, including over one million which cause the employee to miss one or more days of work. What is even worse than bare statistics, is that a great many of these deaths and injuries were due to carelessness and negligence, and could have easily been avoided by paying more attention to safety guidelines. Employers are required to provide a safe workplace, but ultimately, your safety at work is your own responsibility.

### **What is the leading cause of work related deaths?**

Is it motor vehicle crashes and collisions. If you drive for a living, or if your job involves driving on occasion, then you will want to think and drive more safely. If your car or truck is your workplace, then your own safety literally is in your own hands. You are out there on your own and you cannot depend on anyone else to keep you safe.

Gordon Christensen  
Safety Supervisor



## NEW EMPLOYEES

Michael Harick- Estimator  
Bryan Pierard- Estimator  
Derrick Deleau- Labourer  
Patrick Forget- Driver  
Iain Hogg- Driver  
Ankhbayer Bayer- Paving  
Bayer Gombosuren- Paving  
Randall Hacock- Paving  
Jerry Mitchell- Driver



November 13, 2009

Dear Jan:

**RE: THE CITY OF CALGARY DOCUMENT FOR  
PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PRIME  
CONTRACTOR STATUS**

We have reviewed your submission for prequalification and are pleased to advise that The City has added your company as a Prequalified Prime Contractor under the following categories:

- Earthworks- Roads Related
- Asphalt Paving
- Asphalt Road Repairs
- Gravel Lane Reconstruction
- Maintenance Repair of Parking Lots
- Concrete Work (Curb, Gutter, Apron, Sidewalks)
- Pathway Construction
- Landfill Earthworks- Clay liner, clay cap, overland drainage construction

When opportunities become available in the specific categories for which you are prequalified, you will be advised and provided the opportunity to bid.

The letter supercedes all prior approvals, reflecting your sole categories of approval.

Thank you for your interest in working with The City of Calgary.

Sincerely,

Donna Chaytors, C.P.P, C.P.M.  
Senior Buyer  
Supply Management  
Finance & Supply

## MACHINE MAINTENANCE

**You're a heavy metal operator, not a mechanic,** right? Your job's in the driver's seat, not under the hood, so why think about general maintenance? Because when your machine's working, so are you. Practising great operator skills reduces repair costs and downtime, saving the company coin. It's good job security. Also, as Eugene Dugan (see page 29 for Eugene's profile), a Finning heavy construction applications specialist points out, "When you're working for a small contractor, operators are often responsible for the works: checking fuel, oil, lubrication and basic maintenance." To learn how to keep equipment in top-notch condition, making your job easier and safer, consider Dugan's tips from the trenches.

**Walk the talk.** "Every shift should start with a walkaround to inspect your machinery," says Dugan, who drives that message home during operator training courses. "Make it a daily habit." Check the air filter indicators, as well as all levels: fuel, hydraulic, coolant, transmission oil and engine oil. Check all gauges and look for leaks. Inspect your tire or undercarriage condition for wear or potential problems. Not sure what to look for? Grab the maintenance manual for a summary of what to check and when. Also, check out the new maintenance videos at [www.cat.com/maintenance-and-support](http://www.cat.com/maintenance-and-support).

**Keep it clean.** You don't have to wash your dozer daily. But there's one area where cleanliness counts: the undercarriage. Dugan advises shovelling out mud buildup, especially in winter. "Many operators don't realize the mud freezes, stopping the roller from turning. That creates flat spots very quickly." Don't forget to clean batteries occasionally too. Dirt on terminals conducts electricity, draining the battery even when it's not in use.

**Under tension?** The undercarriage is the most expensive consumable part of heavy equipment, so any way operators can extend its life counts. **Top tip:** Check the track tension. It has to be just right – too tight or too loose both cause premature wear. Dugan advises operators to eyeball track tension on their daily walkaround, and measure it once a week. The undercarriage makes up about 50 per cent of the cost of machine ownership, so it's time well spent.

Information retrieved from Tracks and Treads- Fall 2009 Issue

# toolbox topic

## TOPIC: Near Misses

A “near miss” can be defined as an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage- but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage. Although human error is commonly an initiating event, a faulty process or system invariably permits or compounds the harm, and is the focus of improvement.

### WHAT ARE NEAR MISSES?

- Near misses are just as serious as an accident
- They are not funny; they can be deadly
- Near misses are warnings that someone or something may not be performing the job correctly

### RELY ON YOUR EMPLOYEES

- Encourage employees to report all near misses
- Encourage employees to talk about near misses on a daily basis
- Allow the employee who reported the near miss to investigate the situation and help determine the corrective action

### TAKE ACTION

- Encourage open communication
- Be sure to take immediate action to correct conditions that contributed to the near miss
- Always provide feedback to both the employee who reported the near miss and the entire workforce
- Provide an anonymous “drop box” to ensure all near misses are reported
- Post all near misses so that all employees can be aware of them



**PROFESSIONAL  
EXCAVATORS L.P.**

Since 1975



## recently awarded:

- Movac Vacuum Projects (Midwest Design and Construction)
- Mount Royal University Contractors Parking Lot (PCL)
  - Parking Lot Expansion
- Centennial Arenas (CANA)
  - Site Services
- Superior Investments
  - Storm Sewer Rehab
- Spyhill Storage Facility (CANA)
- Crossiron Mills E Wing Theatre (Ledcor)
  - Earthwork and SOG
- Shaganappi Chev Olds Expansion (Devitt and Forand)
  - Excavation and Site Services

Our MISSION at Professional Excavators L.P. is to lead Calgary's construction industry by:

- Providing core services such as excavation, concrete flatworks, asphalt paving, demolition, water and sewer installation, infrastructure, and site management
- Backing these services with our strength of experience, cooperation, supervision, and project scheduling
- Delivering these services with excellence that is rooted in our corporate values of safety, self-reliance, and honesty
- Celebrating our long-term commitment to this community and all our stakeholders, including our employees, clients and suppliers, by operating with integrity and honour