

Securing Our Future One Mission At A Time CBARR Safety: The Cornerstone of Sustainability

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How CBARR Secures On-Site Operations

Site locations may change and destruction technologies may evolve, but there is one thing that always remains the same: safety. ECBC adheres to and incorporates toxic chemical agent safety standards issued by the Department of the Army, as well as regulations set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Following these guidelines not only keeps employees safe during field operations, but provides a framework to problem solve responsibly.

Many CBARR field operations include the remediation or demilitarization of chemical agent so there's always an element of danger to account for and manage. ECBC's Safety and Health Office (SHO) oversees the daily operations and provides the foundation for safe operations. Safety principles are woven into everything from site design, agent handling, laboratory monitoring, personnel protective equipment, decontamination and disposal, storage and shipping, and pre-operational training. Integrating core policies into everyday actions helps ingrain safety into routine actions, and over time, it has simply become a part of CBARR's culture..

Safety is Everybody's Responsibility

Safety is everybody's responsibility, not just the responsibility of the safety representative or the project manager. When going out to a site, CBARR makes sure that everything is compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) and Army regulations, which can be split into two categories: chemical agent safety regulations and general industry regulations. These policies are documented in detailed standing operating procedures (SOPs) that all personnel follow for a given mission, in conjunction with a Health and Safety Plan, and an Emergency Response Plan. But in order to execute successfully, site challenges must be identified and addressed in customized scopes of work that oftentimes integrate with the mission of other organizations, whether it is ECBC's partners or customers.

Safety is the Common Denominator



CBARR has always been able to adapt and get done what needs to be done.



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Approach Daily Safety from A Fresh Perspective

One of the main challenges is keeping safety fresh, especially on long-term field site projects where daily operations can become repetitive. Whether approaching it from a human emotion or a changing regulatory requirements perspective, CBARR and the Safety and Health Office are constantly trying to approach daily safety from a fresh perspective. Asking questions is one of the best ways to do that. SHO safety and health managers actively seek feedback from the technical operators and scientists on-site, and try to pick a different topic each day to focus on, in order to co-develop safety solutions. Personnel are typically on multi-week rotations, and after a while, safety becomes part of culture that is sustained through effective communications among the ranks.

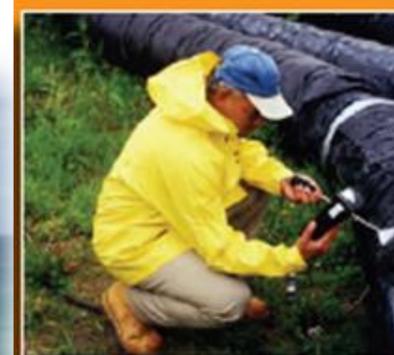


CBARR'S International Field Operations

CBARR's international field operations mission has expanded over the past four years, especially in Australia. Working with other countries to integrate two sets of safety requirements can be challenging and complex, but from a safety perspective, it's about bringing the best of both practices together for an even safer and more secure environment. The most recent example has been the consolidation of multi-agency strengths to complete the historic mission to destroy 600 metric tons of Syria's declared chemical agent stockpile aboard the MV Cape Ray—something that had never been done before. But it was ECBC's ability to provide integrated chemical and biological solutions that made the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System (FDHS) functional and safe to operate.



"We are the chemical agent experts, and we bring that expertise to the table, but the FDHS was so much more than just that."



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