

Running a safe RRC machine shop are, from left, Machinist Jose Ramirez, Mechanic Machinist John Mandel, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Bill Delloso, Mechanic Machinist Chris Frandberg and Machinist Manuel Macias. Not shown, Machine Shop Leader Fred Wenzel.



### **Safety Accountability Earned RRC Machinists 1,000 Accident-Free Days**

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 22, 2002) "We keep each other accountable," says Mechanic Machinist Chris Frandberg of the Regional Rebuild Center's machine shop.

Frandberg and his four co-workers have just passed their 1,000th day without a lost-time injury. Keeping a watchful eye on each other and enforcing safety rules in the shop is how they accomplished that enviable record.

The 1000th accident-free day was treated as an event by employees at the RRC and was celebrated with cake and ice cream.

Commemorative plaques were presented to the machine shop employees who, in addition to Frandberg, are Machinist Jose Ramirez, Mechanic Machinist John Mandel, Machinist Manuel Macias and Machine Shop Leader Fred Wenzel. Their boss is Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Bill Delloso.

Theirs can be a hazardous trade, Frandberg explains, if machinists don't take safety seriously. The men operate high-speed lathes, mills and grinders – any of which can easily injure a careless worker.



Machinist Jose Ramirez is dressed for safety in short-sleeved coveralls, goggles and safety shoes. His lathe is equipped with a face shield and is properly lit.

#### **'All the precautions we should'**

"We take all the safety precautions we should when we operate our machinery," says Frandberg, who shows the scars on a thumb that once was mangled by a lathe.

John Mandel agrees, noting that the machines have sharp metal cutting edges. "I'm surprised we don't have more injuries."

During a tour of the machine shop, where the concrete floor is spotless and

free of clutter, the men note that each is dressed for safety: goggles for eye protection, safety shoes with steel cap toes and skid-proof soles, short sleeved coveralls to avoid getting caught in the machinery.

No one wears jewelry or gloves that can catch in a machine. The machines, themselves, are properly lighted and those that can throw hot metal shards are equipped with face shields.

"Almost three years without a lost-time accident is an accomplishment for any department," says Milo Victoria, deputy executive officer for Maintenance Administration. "These mechanics are setting the example not just for the RRC, but for the rest of the agency."

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)