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PHOTO: SHANTAY IOSIA



DEO Ted Montoya, right, and Director Dieter Hemsing take pride in the accomplishments of the Material Management team with a specialized cake.

## RC's Material Management Team Marks 2 Milestones

By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Nov. 3, 2004) The Material Management team celebrated two milestones on a single day. October 4 marked the introduction of the M3 system as well as the 500th day with no lost-time injuries.

Dieter Hemsing, director of inventory management, coordinated the celebration with food, drinks and a cake designed for the team.

"Dieter and his team have taken safety personal," says Ted Montoya, deputy executive officer, Material Management. "This is a significant accomplishment considering where we were several years ago."

With about 300 employees allotted throughout the agency and the constant handling of material, injuries become a perpetual risk.

"They have to constantly remember how to lift things safely or how to use box cutters and knives without injuring themselves," says Dieter. "We do our best to make sure the work environment is safe but if people don't think, act or work safely they are going to get injured no matter what you do."

## Impressed with the improvement

Dieter, in his 25 year with Metro, is impressed with the improvement his team has made. Two years ago, he recalls loss-time injuries totaling 600 days, the equivalent to the loss of two people.

To prevent injuries, Dieter has enhanced his safety program to include daily exercises, continuous communication and consistent distribution of information throughout his department.

Employees begin their shift with a three-minute stretching exercise.

"It is extremely important to loosen their joints before they start

especially in the winter when it gets colder," says Dieter. "It also reminds them of why they're doing it. They have a mini safety meeting every morning."

The safety communications program, called Material Safety Matters, is distributed about once a month to Procurement staff through e-mail and information centers in each location. The bulletins use near-misses or on-site observations as an example.

### **M3 System Implemented**

The improved safety of the RRC material management team will soon be accompanied by the efficiency of the recently implemented M3 System.

M3 replaces systems that date back at least two decades – including Vehicle Maintenance System (VMS) and Material Management System (VMS). It automates, streamlines and simplifies much of the work required to manage all kinds of equipment maintenance.

M3 also tracks vehicle maintenance and parts use and inventory. It collects vehicle mileage, use of fuel, lubricating oil and other fluids, and it helps ensure that bus preventive maintenance is performed on time.

"In the long term it will be an effective change," says Hemsing. "Right now we're learning how to walk with it."

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