

WHY WOULD WE SPEND THE MONEY?#

Recently, we performed a shutdown in Oklahoma. Our responsibility was to provide each one of our workers with a personal H2S monitor. The meters we have our people wear are 4-Part meters measuring O2, LEL, CO2 and H2S. Because of the amount of people, we found the sixty +, 4 part meters that we have in the company would not be enough. A decision was going to have to be made. We could rent approx. thirty (30) H2S meters at about \$6.00/each/day per person or we could buy thirty (30) H2S meters at about \$300.00/each. If we rented the four part meter, the price would be about \$18.75/each/day/person. Our billing price each day for these meters is \$8.50/each. The math just doesn't compute. Most companies would have rented the \$6.00/day meter and felt good about it. After all, they had satisfied the requirements of the client. **I couldn't do that!** Meeting the minimum requirements left people with less protection than what I thought was needed. We had just seen a massive explosion in Texas City that killed 15 people and injured 100. **Could a LEL personal monitor have alerted someone to action before this happened?** I don't know and we will probably never know.

Now I know we have people out there who are willing to take a chance. These are the thrill seekers and companies that measure everything by the bottom line. They are a little cheaper to use than Base Line Data, Inc. The thrill seekers abuse their safety instruments and find that they don't work as often as they should. Some never even turn their meters on. These instruments must be handled with care, calibrated religiously and checked on a periodic frequency. I for one want these instruments to work when there is a danger.

Rather than just look at the profit margin, we at Base Line Data, Inc. thought about the person, his family and the impact that his or her demise might have on society. We bought thirty (30) new four part personal monitors at \$500.00/each to safeguard our people. *We couldn't do anything less!*

I WALK WITH GIANTS!#

There's no greater person than a true "Baseliner." He or she is always there to explain or coach another person through a complex problem. Things that they have learned are shared with anyone needing the knowledge. If there is a family or kid in need, they reach into their own pockets to help. Good advice is given when requested. Christmas time brings out the best in them as they are always helping some needful family. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to associate with such fine people. I know that we still have a long way to go to be as good as I know that we can be, but we're working on it everyday. We cannot miss a step in our quest. We need more training, more growth and more original thought. All of this can only be accomplished through effort and sweat. I will eventually "go away" and it's a good feeling to know that I have left the concept and moral direction to these people. **I Truly Believe That I Walk With Giants!**



WHAT AM I SUPPOSE TO DO WITH THIS THING?

Given a tool, an electronic instrument or a computer, we find some people asking this question. When they sit in a classroom, you never hear them ask questions and many times you can find them dozing off. The purpose of training is to develop people where they can function on their own. Jobs come up and when you ask, who has the confidence to do this work, only a few hands come up. Disregard the fact, that they have been through two or three training courses on these tools. Experience is best learned in the field, but many training routines can be replicated in a training scenario. If you have discomfort, we will send a more seasoned pro with you. But sooner or later you will have to stand up, break your fear and step up and be counted. All we ask is that when you are chosen to go through training, you focus in on what you need to learn and ask the questions you are unsure about. Participation will bring knowledge. **Remember that the next job that needs to be performed might be yours!**

A CLOSE CALL!

On the first week of April 2005 there was a close call that should make us all think. A thirty (30) inch diameter pipe had been sitting in a set of roller pipe jacks for about two days. There were two ninety degree (90°) elbows welded to the thirty inch looking in opposite directions. The pipe jacks were sitting on cross-ties spreading the load out over a large surface area. An eighteen inch was sitting right next to it and there was about twenty-four inches between the two. The eighteen inch needed to be ultrasonically examined. The first half of the eighteen inch was examined from the side away from the thirty (30) inch. The second half of the weld had to be examined from between the two pipes. There was some work activity on the eighteen inch. Our Ultrasonic Shearwave Technician finished the first half and crawled between the two pipes. As he was performing his examination, he heard someone holler. He shifted his body sideways just in time to see the thirty inch roll out of the rollers. It hit him somewhere on the back and knocked him underneath the eighteen inch pipe. Another worker was hit in the knee area and folded up over the thirty inch that had fallen. Our employee was taken to the infirmary and examined for broken bones and bruising. A back rub was administered and he returned to work. I called him the next morning and found him to be okay.

The pipe weighed between 3500 lbs. to 4000 lbs. He had been under the thirty inch a few days before per-

forming a similar ultrasonic examination. Thank God it didn't fall then. He was lucky, we were lucky and we need to immediately address this situation. Anytime anything is suspended, we must take an extra look at it. Working under a load is never an acceptable option. Our lives so often depend on someone else doing everything right. In this case everything looked fine with the exception that the elbows should have been supported to keep them from rolling. One of the roller assemblies was knocked loose from its attachment. This is indicative of a strong force being applied against it in a lateral motion. This pipe had been sitting there for two days. Anyone would have thought it was stable. I believe that one of the elbows might have rolled and the pipe walked out of the four (4) inch rollers supporting it. The force that was put against the side of the roller caused it to fail. These rollers only provided about 90 degrees or less of support around the thirty inch pipe. It should have been at least 120 degrees. Now I am only surmising what happened. I could be totally wrong. No one seems to have the answers. Although, I don't blame anyone for this close call, it reiterates why we must take whatever time is necessary to assess all potential unsafe conditions. The best protection for you and the rest of the workforce is to assess every job before attempting to do it. Please, if you don't like a situation, don't perform the task. **We will find a safe alternative!**

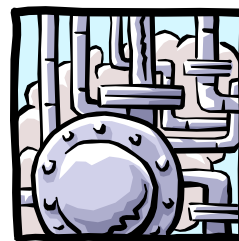
ANOTHER CWI EXAMINATION CONDUCTED AT BASE LINE DATA, INC!

April 16th, 2005, another Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) examination was conducted at our facility in Portland, TX. There were 22 candidates taking the examination. Morris Weeks was the AWS proctor for the hands-on section and Jessica Pyles assisted in the Fundamental and Code section of the test. The examination consist of three tests in which each lasted two hours. A passing grade of 72% is required on all three test for CWI certification.

May 21st, 2005, there will another test at the same facility. Those students sitting for this examination are currently going through the preparation at Base Line Data, Inc. for this test.

Over the last several years, we have seen an increase in our clients demanding National certification for welding inspection. We are even seeing seasoned API-510 inspectors request this training.

We would like to congratulate all who have taken the exam and wish them all the best in passing!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TURN-AROUND!

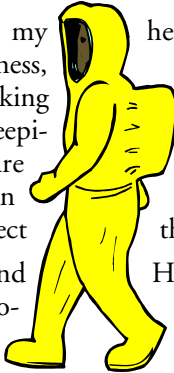
We have just finished another successful turnaround. Even though it wasn't as large as the one in Oklahoma, it was successful because we didn't injure anyone. Since 1987, we have provided inspection services to Citgo, formerly Champion. Our safety record has always been an excellent one. We have won several Safety Awards from Citgo that we are very proud of. They hang in the entrance of our office to remind us that with a dedicated workforce, **"all safety accidents can be prevented"**. The measurement of a quality company can always be compared by its safety attitude toward its people. **We will train, equip and reinforce our people with the best tools and knowledge available!**

BENZENE!

Benzene is a colorless liquid with a sweet odor. It evaporates into the air very quickly and dissolves slightly in water. It is highly flammable and is formed from both natural processes and human activities.

Benzene is widely used in the United States; it ranks in the top 20 chemicals for production volume. Some industries use benzene to make other chemicals which are used to make plastics, resins and nylon and synthetic fibers. Benzene is also used to make some types of rubbers, lubricants, dyes, detergents, drugs and pesticides. Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires. Benzene is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline and cigarette smoke.

How can benzene affect my health? Breathing very high levels of benzene can result in death, while high levels can cause drowsiness, dizziness, rapid heart rate, headaches, tremors, confusion and unconsciousness. Eating or drinking of the stomach, dizziness, sleepiness, convulsions, rapid heart rate and death. The major effect of benzene from long-term exposure (365 days or longer) is on the blood. Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in red blood cells leading to anemia. It can also cause excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system, increasing the chance of infection.



The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that benzene is a known human carcinogen. Long-term exposure to high levels of benzene in the air can cause leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs.

The EPA has set the maximum permissible level of benzene in drinking water at 0.005 milligrams per liter (0.005 mg/L). The EPM requires that spills or accidental releases into the environment of 10 pounds or more of benzene be reported to EPA.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a permissible exposure limit of 1 part of benzene per million parts of air (1 ppm) in the workplace during an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

We recently sent four "Baseliners" in for a urine analysis because of the possibility of being exposed to Benzene. The underlying cause of this exposure can be traced back to not quarantining or barricading the area off effectively. All four would not have chanced exposure, if this would have happened. Please notify management when you think that you have been exposed. **We value your health!**

The results from all four came back and the results were that they hadn't picked up any Benzene from the release.

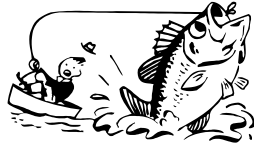
I DON'T PLAN ON THIS HAPPENING AGAIN!

Recently, Base Line Data, Inc. missed out on two jobs, one being a vacuum box job and the other a magnetic flux leakage job. On the vacuum box job we have about seventy-five vacuum boxes sitting in our tool trailer waiting to be used and on the other job, we had two magnetic flux units that were being used. **The clients couldn't wait for us to have the people or the units available!** Starting immediately, we will train additional personnel to be able to operate our vacuum box units. These people will demonstrate hands-on skill and test to prove that they have the ability to perform this task. We have mock up tanks at our facility to prove-up their capability. We are currently in the process of buying another mag-

netic flux leakage unit. The intent is to buy the new MFE 2412 Mark II Tank Floor Scanning System. With three units, we should be able to handle any double or triple MFE jobs that come up in a day. We currently have about seven operators, but we will train another seven to be able to handle peak work. All operators are apprenticed behind a seasoned professional and then tested.

Base Line Data, Inc. prides itself on being able to handle any job that comes its way. **I don't plan on this happening again!**

3RD ANNUAL BASE LINE DATA, INC. SHOOTOUT



It's almost that time again. This year's fishing tournament will take place June 25, 2005. The style of the tournament will be similar to last year's shootout. There will be Food and Prizes at the weigh-in. If you have questions concerning the event, contact Chris Beardsley @ (361)774-7195, or via e-mail cbeardsley@bldata.com. Once details are finalized, they will be posted in the newsletter and additional information will be sent out with direct deposit slips. We hope that this year is as successful as last.

RTFI Course!#

We haven't scheduled it yet, but within the next couple of months, we will be having another Radiographic Film Interpretation Course (RTFI). The first one this year went very well.

Ron Van Arsdale from Itac taught the first one and will also be teaching the second one.

If you are interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400.

IF IT WASN'T SO SERIOUS, IT WOULD BE FUNNY!

We all send people to the Safety Council for training and testing. These are the people that go through training to be issued safety badges to enter most plants. Recently, I was chosen to take a random drug test. As I walked between the two story structure and the Medical lab, I saw a worker installing roof flashing on a porch area. The wind was gusting about ten to fifteen miles an hour between the buildings as this work was going on. One of the workers was doing a balancing act on an eight (8) to ten (10) foot step ladder. The ladder had no tie off rope and no one was holding it for the person doing the work. There were two people there. The person was about five to six feet off of the ground with a drill in one hand and the other holding a piece of sheet metal. It didn't look safe and I cautioned the person to be careful.



Now we all make mistakes and no one is perfect, but you would think that at the Safety Council people would try to be better. Falls are the number one killer of people. One slip could be a broken leg or the loss of life.

A newspaper article, if this person was injured could read, "worker is seriously injured in a fall outside the classroom while 100 people are in the classroom going through a fall prevention course." Not the type of publicity that I would want!

IT'S NICE TO HEAR GREAT THINGS ABOUT THE TEAM!

Below is a letter we received from an inspector that worked for us on a recent turnaround. It is nice to hear pleasant things about the team. These should always be shared. I consider this a very "quality person" upon observing his work ethics. I can tell you guys thank you, but I believe it coming from your co-workers means a lot more.

J.W.,

Having just completed the Ardmore T/A staffed by BLD, I've got a few things to share with you and compliment both BLD and your employees that were working the T/A. With this being the first time to work for BLD I had very little knowledge of your company, its employees and your dedication to training. As you well know, a company can only be successful through its employees, as they represent the company on a daily basis. Having been in this industry for more than 30 years I've seen first hand the value and benefits of well educated and highly trained people. This gives them the opportunity to perform at a high level and be successful in many job tasks. I would appreciate it if you would pass the word to everyone involved in the Ardmore T/A that I enjoyed working with them and that their performance was excellent and very much appreciated. I'm looking forward for an opportunity to assist BLD in the future.

Thanks,
Charles Young

P.S.—The April issue of the Baseline provided some interesting reading. Happy 20th anniversary and Keep on Training.

Why Can't They Control Their Own Personnel?

We encourage our people to write what they feel. Below is an article written by Henry Flores who just finished a turn-around in Oklahoma. It stresses the point that we must practice what we preach. Each one of us is an example of the company that we work for.

Everybody knows the old saying, lead by example. Well, here is one example that nobody should follow:

I was working a turnaround in Ardmore, Ok. on the night shift. One night I was chasing a line through the pipe rack taking thickness readings. I was moving at a steady pace with my harness on and keeping to the 100% tie-off rule- I looked off to another part of the pipe rack and saw an operator walking across the rack from one section of the unit to another - Not only was he not tied off, but was not wearing a harness. About a week went by and I was doing some PT's on some welds on a scaffold and I noticed the same person on a scissor lift, approximately 30' high- and again not wearing a harness. I moved over to another section of the unit for more PT testing, and again saw this person (this time on a JLG lift). He was in the basket looking at the controls trying to get the JLG to work -again without a harness- After a couple of minutes he got out of the basket and went to the ground controls where he finally realized that the machine was off. He turned it on and went back to the basket to study the controls again. After a while he noticed the foot pedal and proceeded to operate the equipment without a harness.

I decided that this man had no regard for his own safety or the safety of others.

All refineries preach safety to their contractors. Why can't they control their own personnel?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Joey Dominique, Jesse Rios and Ronald Rios just completed testing for their API-UT certification in Houston., TX
- Larry Yell just finished another training session on ASME Section VIII, Division II calculations held in Houston, TX.
- Juan Hernandez just finished teaching another Innov-X training session for our new employees and office staff.
- That we are increasing our Ultrasonic Shear wave Technician staff to a level of ten before the end of the year.
- Lee Marsh and J.W. Ralls just completed a class over MT, PT, UT and RT held at the AWS Convention in Dallas, TX.

QUOTATIONS

- #
To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by only one bee.
-- Unknown
- When ideas fail, words come in very handy.
-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German author, statesman, and scientist (1749-1832)
- Those who fight fire with fire burn their houses down twice as fast.
-- Vietnamese proverb
- The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
-- Unknown
- It is more honorable to repair a wrong than to persist in it.
-- Thomas Jefferson, inventor, architect, and third U.S. president (1743-1826)

Base Line Data, Inc. will be celebrating their **20th Anniversary** in May 2005. The middle of July we will have an Open House inviting all our clients, family, & friends to help in the celebration of our success. There will be door prizes, food, and activities for the kids. We will also display our existing equipment and introduce the new services we offer. Once the date is finalized, it will be posted in the newsletter. We're hoping that you all will be able to attend.

Portrait of an Employee

I have known this young man for about five years or more. He has worked for Base Line Data, Inc. about the same amount of time. I have watched him grow from a boy into an up and coming young man. He has not always been perfect, but who is at eighteen. He has taken over the responsibility for his own growth. He can sketch, perform AutoCAD, UltraPipe, Operate Camera Systems, Innov-X, MT, PT and UT thickness measurements. I see him making the metamorphosis. I am proud to see the change. He left me involuntarily for a short time, but he is back now with a new vigor. He has a girlfriend and maybe that's what made a difference. Everything has its own season. He is preparing himself to take the API-570 Piping Inspection examination in the near future. We will push him in that direction. We have a nick-name for him. We call him "Big-Un" AKA, Clay Ford. He has been a loyal employee and we thank him for all his hard work. We look forward to many more years of continued excellence.

HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT!

If you find yourself singing this old country-western song maybe you're not getting enough rest. The body is like an engine. You wouldn't think about running it continuous for seven or eight days without shutting it down and making sure it is properly maintained. Your body is the same way. It must be nourished and allowed to rest. A person that is burning it at both ends will find that they are more apt to overlook some important detail, miss some safety concern or have problems thinking clearly when they need to focus in on a complex issue. I have seen people grow angry over a minor infraction and make everyone around them walk on egg shells. Most of this is caused by sleep deprivation or not getting enough rest. Take advantage of your time off and rest. Long hours have a tendency to leave you not alert and prone to injuring yourself or others. **We must protect the workforce and ourselves by taking time to rest!**

LET THEM WALK THEIR OWN ROAD!

No two people will ever walk the same road. They may be similar, but never exactly the same. You can take the easy road or the road strewn with obstacles and less traveled. It's your choice. The easy road never leaves you fully developed. The difficult road will test you the entire way. It will force you to deal with life's issues. It will prepare you to face the adversities you will come in contact with. I believe as a parent, we want our children to take the easy path, but we are wrong. This is a normal thing, but what we fail to realize is that we must teach them to deal with everyday challenges. We will eventually go away and won't be there to shore them up when needed. They must learn to deal with these issues themselves. **Let them walk their own road and let us guide them along the way!**



A BIG ROUND OF THANKS TO A GREAT GROUP OF GUYS!

We have just finished a turnaround in Oklahoma and we had a great group of guys. They were responsive to the client's needs and conducted themselves very professionally. They worked long hours and they assisted others when the occasion arose. They took the safety initiative to protect each other and they all were knowledgeable in their craft. I want to personally thank Fred Cimo, Todd Edwards, Kenneth Adams, Juan Hernandez, Frank Hogg, Troy Richard, Charles Young, Jacky Ray Weisinger, Rey Fabela, Scott Savoie, Todd Gulliot, Tim Miller, Eric Sanders, Ben Hernandez, Frank Trevino, Mario Garcia, Michael Green, Danny Zarsky, Moo Adkins, Sammy Morales, Henry Flores, Rudy Pena, Josh Lopez, Becky Gaydos, Chris Chavez, Robert Quinones, Gary Delaney, Joe B. Griffin, Gary W. Bond, John Ralls II, Charles Green, James Golden, Jimmy Lee Gonzales, Billy Boudreaux, Mike Humphrey, Jesse Rios, Marcus Guerrero, Ronald Rios and Guy Nichols. Even though we had a close call, we were able to work the turnaround without injury. **Guys, thanks for doing a great job!**

PIRATING OF EMPLOYEES

A very common way other companies improve their ranks of top notch employees is to pirate them away from the competition. Over the years, we have noticed this trend and its not getting any better. Even though, we think its great that our ex-employees are able to acquire higher wages, we find it not suited to our belief in fair business practices. Base Line Data, Inc. spends hundreds of thousands of dollars training and developing our people to be the best. We believe it is what all good companies should be doing. It's easy to tell a "Baseliner" from the competition. Our invoicing rates are many times lower than the competition, so there is only so much you can pay the employee and still be profitable. We place the best employee on the job for our clients and occasionally he is seduced away by the offer of a few bucks. The next thing you know, he is working for the competition or the people that he was inspecting. Some clients claim that they have a policy against this, but the truth is they don't. Most don't care who a person works for as long as they think they have the best. I measure the "best person" by certain factors and one is being loyal to **"who took them to the dance."** A person who jumps ship for a few dollars more and disregards the company who has invested huge amounts of time and money in them doesn't fit my idea of being the best. The best employee is one that is technically capable or trainable, dependable, honest and has a sense of fairness about them. He or she is not pretentious and is always willing to train lesser people. They realize that they are a part of a team and it is never just about themselves.

Over the years, I have lost about fifty Base Line Data trained people to the competition. Most of the time I have even lost the jobs that they were performing at the facility they were working at. Even though this has had millions of dollars worth of impact on our company, I am not bitter. There always seemed to be a quality client just around the corner that hired us and made up for this impact. We will not change our "modus operandi". Like Walter Rossler years ago, we will still continue to train our people to be the best. Wouldn't it be a better world if everyone spent some of their profits on training their workforce.

It has just been conveyed to me that Valero Refinery in Corpus Christi, TX is implementing a new rule. A switch from one company to another at their facility will disallow that individual from working in their facility for at least six (6) months. There will be no guarantee after this period of time that they will be allowed to work even then. I want to applaud Valero for helping eliminate a souring, counter-productive problem in the industry.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

What do we have planned for the future? We are starting to look into the R/D Tech Automated Ultrasonic Shear-wave examination crawler for reactors, drums and pressure vessels. Somewhere around May 9th, 2005, we will be conducting another Magnetic Particle course. We have completed some informal Innox-X (PMI), Metorex Carbon Analysis (PMI), Ferritescope, Remote Video Camera, Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and hardness testing training. We still have on the books, First Aid training, AED (Heart Defibrillator), UltraPipe, UT Shearwave and Excavation Competency training. None of this includes the structured scheduled CWI, API-510, API-570 and API-653 Preparatory courses for National Certification. All of these courses can be found on our WebPages www.bldata.com. We have recently bought six new trailers to better stage our equipment. We will have an API-653 Tank Inspection, Mobil Welder Performance, Specialty Remote Video Camera, NACE Coating Inspection, New Automated Specialty Ultrasonic, MT and De-magnetization and Turnaround trailers. These trailers will eliminate some of the mobilization time required to get equipment moving to the job site. Most of these trailers will be equipped with air-conditioned office areas to complete the reports in the field.

We will continue to look down the road to determine the needs of our clients. With the recent working of two turn-arounds at the same time, it was noted that we did not have enough Shearwave, Corrosion Mapping, B-Scan and Innox-X technicians. We have over seventy-five skilled people working extended hours and find ourselves short in the above manpower. The equipment is available, but we need people to operate it. We are working hard to eliminate this in the future. At times it has been difficult to just open up a can on the shelf and pull out another highly qualified Base Line Data, Inc. Inspector. Better pre-planning tends to eliminate these unplanned delays.

DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

He has been around since the beginning of time. He can “stir” with the best of them. His age may give you some clue, but he’s not as old as you think. Life has just been hard on him. Sure he remembers when the first Ultrasonic Thickness meter came out and he still has the hammer he used to determine the thickness of material. Ping, ping, yep that’s about 3/16” of an inch thick! Dye penetrant was being performed with diesel and flour and magnetic particle testing was something that you read about in the Buck Roger’s comic books. He remembers when “vessel entry” was popping the top off of a Jacks beer bottle. He found a flaw once when his hand accidentally slipped into a crack on a pressure vessel. He can do any type of inspection, just ask him. As to date, he has achieved the largest certification in Liquid Penetrant known to man. He almost didn’t have enough wall to hang it on. Some call him Pops, but I don’t think that’s a reflection of his age, but rather when he was practicing his “vessel entry” technique.

On a serious note and believe me, its hard to be serious about this guy. These are the types of guys that you want on your job. He is great for moral. He is always willing to take a new guy and train him in the proper ways of inspection. He has such a smooth, calming way of getting them to listen. “Lookie heer you numbskull this is an ASTM A234 WPB elbow and don’t you forget it”. I want to dedicate this article to Ron LeBlanc. He is a great guy and I hope we all appreciate him. **Thanks for the help!**

Stepping up to the Plate!

In the last couple of weeks, I have seen several people start to take their growth into their own hands. One is Clay Ford and the other is Justin Voelkel. Clay has taken over some pipeline work that Marcus Guerrero has been doing, has been working on his UltraPipe skills and performed a couple of video camera jobs using our VIT Fibercam 400 camera.

Justin has performed several outside jobs by himself and has supervised a group of people. He has put the training that he received with the Innov-X to work.

Both need to be commended on taking the initiative to do more. None of it has been missed! I need people that want to grow. I have been asked, “when does a boy become a man?” It happens when he becomes accountable for his actions, works on improving himself everyday and starts to put away childish things. Both of them are starting to make the turn. **Thanks!**

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?

I’m trying very hard to understand what colleges or universities people have attended that explained the “do’s and don’ts” of business. Agreements are made for certain lengths of time, pricing is negotiated and everyone agrees. A Purchase Order is issued and the work commences. Pretty simple process. All you have to do is work the agreement. Now the changes start, but never with consideration for compensation. We want you to provide special personal monitors, special safety lanyards, additional training, case managers for injured people, background checks, and by the way we need you to make all of these meetings that weren’t discussed at the time of negotiating. We want you to totally indemnify us from liability on any injury that we cause your people. After all, it has to be your fault being as your people were on the jobsite when this happened. We want you to send your people here for vessel entry training and no, the training you give your people is not adequate, even though its worked for the last eighteen years without injury. Does it end? Never!

Now we are not trying to run your business. That would create a co-employment issue. After all you’re an independent contractor even though we are going to direct your people, do their evaluations and chose who works at our facility. “Remember safety is our Number #1 Priority!” What? You disagree with this? How dare you! You should feel privileged to work here! There’s ten companies out there that are just waiting to take your job. **Now, you know you are an independent contractor and you are responsible for running your own company! Sure!**

NOTABLE QUOTES!

If you think education is expensive, you ought to try ignorance!

Never express yourself more clearly than you think!

Great thoughts reduced to practice become great acts!

Thought once awakened does not again slumber!

Thought takes man out of servitude, into freedom!

IS THERE A BETTER WAY?

Do you miss those days before 9/11 when entering a plant or facility was so much easier? Are we more safe with these new guidelines? A recent survey and round up of illegal immigrants at a large Navy base in California netted hundreds of undocumented workers. Surveys have shown that our airports are no safer than they were prior to 9/11. Illegals are getting into and working in some of the most sensitive areas of our countries nuclear power plants, airports and military installations. We have spent billions of dollars and we still haven't fixed the problem. Last year, we spent one day being badged for a Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan. We worked within six feet of the nuclear reactor. A normal effort at one facility in South Texas consists of the following:

- Identify the worker and the safety requirements needed for the facility that he/she will be working at.
- Make out the necessary paperwork and send it to the Safety Council. Communicate with the employee as to the scheduled times.
- Acquire the person's social security number, driver's license number, driver license's expiration date, current address, date of birth and county or parish that they reside in.
- Submit necessary paperwork to the Safety Council for a background check. Approx. \$55/person cost at Safety Council as compared to an on-line service being performed for Houston facilities and acceptable to those clients at \$18/person. ***In any case you can then wait two to three days for clearance to come back.
- Employee goes through Safety Council training which normally takes eight (8) to sixteen (16) hours depending on whether they have Basic or not. Site Specific cannot be taken for one facility until the background check comes through, so you have to send the employee back through the Safety Council twice.
- You then take a Xerox copy of his/her Safety Council badge (both sides), social security card and driver's license and fill out the necessary badging information. All of this is taken to the plant and you locate your sponsor for his signature.
- Once the badging form is completed with the required signatures, you then take it to another location along with the employee for issuance of a badge.
- The badge is issued in a time frame based on the amount of people needing badging. It could be that day or the next.
- Now that the employee has completed the badging process, he or she can enter the plant providing they have all of the necessary PPE, Safety Council badges and the plant's badges.
- If the person has a break of five (5) to thirty (30) days between jobs, you can start the badging process over.

Most other facilities are performing the same MARSEC program, but the badging only takes about thirty minutes.

How many hours are involved in this process? Who pays for it? Are we safer? What is the cost of this effort?

Priceless!

#

#

Why Prevent Accidents?

ACCIDENT PREVENTION: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU



Why is it so important to prevent accidents? Do you view accident prevention as simply a way to avoid getting hurt? Do you work safely just because you want to? Perhaps you view accident prevention as a way of keeping your company happy or your supervisor off your back. Maybe you just do it because you have been told to.

Of course there are many reasons that a company wants its employees to work safely. But every one must have a more important reason to work safely than just because the company say to. They must have a personal reason. Your reason may be your family. What would they do if you were to get hurt. How about your hobbies? Would you still be able to enjoy them with a serious disability?

What you do for a living is nothing more than a means towards a goal that you have set for yourself. That goal may be the education of your children. You may plan to buy a home or a car. Maybe you want to get married after you have saved up enough money. Maybe your goal for now is just to make it to Friday night and going out on the town. Whatever your goals may be, they all generally tie back in some way to what you do for a living. And what you do for a living could be seriously derailed by an accident. All your goals can go up in smoke if you are injured and disabled.

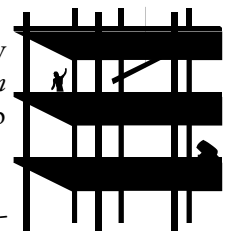
A safety program is designed to help you reach your goals. It is not there just to make your work harder, or slower, or to meet some governmental guidelines. Safety and accident prevention programs are designed to PROTECT YOU so that you may reach your personal goals. When an unsafe act is pointed out to you, it is done so to help you by eliminating obstacles or job hindrances AND to insure that you get home all in one piece.

Every time you approach a project, every time you pick up a tool, every time you start a piece of equipment or machinery, think SAFETY. Look for what can go wrong and eliminate that possibility BEFORE your goals come to an abrupt end.

SAFETY AND SCAFFOLDS

It is safe to assume that just about everybody has heard of a scaffolding accident or two. In many of those cases, faulty design and inadequate construction of the scaffolding was involved but, *in most cases*, scaffold accidents are caused by poor maintenance and improper use. To help keep your scaffolds safe, follow these simple procedures:

1. Inspect the scaffolds daily before using them; check the guard rails, connectors, fastening, footing, tie-ins and bracing.
2. Keep platforms closely boarded, fenced, and securely fastened.
3. Don't stockpile materials on the scaffolds; remove all materials and tools at the end of the day.
4. Never overload scaffolds. Place the materials being used over ledger and bearer points to minimize platform loading.
5. Don't work on scaffolds during storms or high winds and clear all ice and snow from the platforms before using them.
6. Protect the scaffolds: don't bump or strike against the scaffolds with vehicles or materials and control hoisted material from the ground with taglines.
7. Keep the platforms and area around the scaffold cleared of debris and unneeded equipment, material and other hazards that will cause a worker to trip or fall.



Wdlqlqj #**CERTIFIED WELDING INSPECTION COURSE**

The next course begins May 23rd, 2005 Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The location is Base Line Data, Inc., 206 Lang Rd., Portland, TX. The exam date is July 23rd, 2005 @ the same location. If you are interested or know of anyone interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez at (361) 643-3400. **All AWS applications are due six weeks before the exam.** All preparatory courses will be conducted in the evenings and start 8 to 10 weeks prior to the examination date.

More CWI Tests Held at Base Line Data in 2005

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>APPLICATION DEADLINE</u>
July 23, 2005	June 11, 2005
December 17, 2005	November 5, 2005

2005 API-510 TEST

Applications are due 6 to 8 weeks before the exam. The next API-510 exam will be **June 1, 2005**. A daytime course will be taught by O.T. Lewis May 9th to May 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The API Application Deadline for the June exam is March 29th, 2005.** The nighttime course will be taught April 4, 2005-May 30th, 2005 from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

2005 API-570 TEST

Applications are due 6 to 8 weeks before the exam. The next API-570 exam will be **June 1, 2005**. A daytime course will be taught by O.T. Lewis May 23rd to May 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The API Application Deadline for the June exam is March 29th, 2005.** The nighttime course will be taught April 4, 2005-May 30th, 2005 from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

BERWANGER ULTRAPIPE COURSE

Another Berwanger UltraPipe course will be conducted in the second quarter of 2005. This will be an entry Level UltraPipe course. The course will last three days from 08:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. The instructor will be Joe Schomette from Berwanger.

EXCAVATION COMPETENCY PERSON TRAINING

Base Line Data, Inc. will be scheduling another "Excavation Competency Person" Course in the near future. Please contact Juan Hernandez or J.W. Ralls, if you are interested in attending.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING SKILLS COURSE

Within the next couple of months an "Improve Your Writing Skills" Course will be held in Corpus Christi, TX. This course is designed to make your writing more effective. If you are interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400.

PROPOSED VISUAL TESTING (VT) COURSE PLANNED

Within the next couple of months a "Visual Testing" Course will be held at our 206 Lang Road Facility in Portland, TX. The course will be from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400.

PIPELINE OPERATOR QUALIFICATION (OQ) TESTING

We are currently performing on-line NCCER Pipeline Operator Qualification Testing at our 206 Lang Road Facility in Portland, TX. If you are interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400.

RADIOGRAPHIC FILM INTERPRETATION COURSE (RTFI)

We have just recently bought twelve (12), new, flat, radiographic viewers for another RTFI course. Although we haven't set a firm date, we expect it to happen somewhere in July or August. The last course was an excellent one and if you are interested in this next one, please contact Juan Hernandez or J.W. Ralls @ (361) 643-3400.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

All classes will be held at 206 Lang Road in Portland, TX unless otherwise noted. Please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400, for pricing info. and applications on all classes. **Base Line Data, Inc. applications must be submitted three weeks prior to the start of the classes or examinations. #

Happy Birthday! John Ralls II, Elva Loomis, William Cordoba, Juan Hernandez, Orville Palmer, Russell Hogg, Patty Mikeman, Jesse Rios III, Richard Benoit.

Congratulations to Oscar Benavides for winning a gift card to The Home Depot. Oscar submitted the article about Easter at Valero. Thanks for your submittal.#

DID YOU KNOW?

- *We just finished our first Phase-Array and Time of Flight Diffraction examination on a reactor in Okla. Although we have trained with our Omni-Scan in a laboratory environment, this starts the process of developing a greater comfort level.*
- *Several weeks ago, we completed another Demagnetization job on a 42" weld in Louisiana. Although, we didn't have enough power to maximize the capability of the unit, we were able to remove enough of the residual magnetization so that the weld could be made.*
- *We are setting up six trailers with equipment to be able to respond more quickly to our client's need in vacuum box testing, field, welder performance testing, Magnetic Particle and Demagnetization of welds, Remote Video Camera examinations, Automated Specialty Ultrasonics and Turnaround Inspections.*
- *We are pursuing the purchase of other automated ultrasonic equipment to better serve the needs of our clients. We are looking at the R/D Tech MS 5800.*
- *That we have four (4) Tinker & Razor AP/W spark testing units for performing pipeline coating inspections, tank floor bottom coating inspections, glass-lined vessels inspections and much more. In addition, we have four (4) 80 volt Tinker & Razor Holiday testers for thin coated epoxy and epoxy coatings. We also have other spark testers for inspecting inside nozzle bores.*
- *That we now have four "grounding penetrating radar" technicians along with the equipment for measuring thickness of concrete and location of rebar and post-tension cable. Soon these people will be trained in other capabilities of this tool.*

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?

#

There have been several incidents in the past that has lost company data that couldn't be retrieved. It can happen so quickly and cause so much grief. We have had email files lost because we did not back them up properly. We have had two computers stolen at a tradeshow with data that hasn't been recovered. There were several months of examinations on the computer that had not been printed and sent to the clients. We had a hard drive crash, but were very fortunate to recover the data. Guys, you do this to protect the data you have on your computer. Some of this information cannot be replaced. How long does it take to make a CD or disc of the information you have stored? What is the cost to the company in money and credibility if you don't? With the addition of memory sticks, it doesn't take long to do this. Don't be lazy and think that these things can't happen. They do and it is always a mess to try to clean them up. The fix lies in you doing what you should be doing. Protecting our data!



Within the next couple of weeks, a procedure will come out addressing "Protection of Company Data." **I expect it to be followed!** If you have any questions, contact Jody Cantrell or Greg Gleinig @ (361) 643-3400. **They can help!**

New CWI, API-510 & API-570 Courses Scheduled!

New courses are planned for the general public and the "Baseline" in the near future. There will be a daytime API-510 course started May 9th, 2005, Monday through Friday from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm. There will be a daytime API-570 course started May 23rd, 2005, Monday through Friday from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm. In addition, there will be a nighttime CWI course started on May 23rd, 2005 on Monday and Wednesdays from 05:00 pm to 09:00 pm. If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400.

#

We Want to Hear From YOU!!! Every employee is encouraged to submit information for publication in the newsletter. Each month a \$50 gift certificate to Academy or the Home Depot will be awarded to the participant with the best monthly article. Information can address: safety, recognition, updates, corporate news, labor relations issues, special events, etc. Please submit information to lralls@bldata.com or Fax us @ (361)643-8442.