

# Pantex NEWS

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

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## ***B&W Pantex Achieves Outstanding Safety Record***

B&W Pantex once again achieved a level of safe performance that ranks the company among the “safety leaders” in the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) complex for the fiscal year ending September 30. Since arriving at Pantex Plant in February 2001, B&W Pantex has improved the Total Recordable Case Rate by 87 percent and the Lost Time Case Rate (also known as Day Away Case Rate) by 93 percent.

Thomas D’Agostino, NNSA Administrator, said, “We are proud of the safety record Pantex has established while increasing production at the plant this year. At NNSA, we take our commitment to ensuring the safety of our workers, our worksites and the communities that host us very seriously. Our people are our greatest asset within the nuclear security enterprise, and we strive each day to ensure that we operate in a way that employs industry best practices and safety standards while performing our vital role in the protection of our nation’s security.”

Pantex Plant is the nation’s only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility devoted to the maintenance and stewardship of the United States’ nuclear deterrent. B&W Pantex, the contractor for the site, has made safe performance a primary focus. As a result, the plant’s safety performance has improved while weapons production has increased.

“We build safety into all of the work that we do through Integrated Safety Management, but employee involvement is key to the plant’s success. Our employees are actively engaged in assuring their safety and that of their co-workers. As a result our safety statistics have shown dramatic improvements,” said Greg Meyer, B&W Pantex President and General Manager.

B&W Pantex’s Safety and Health program is based on the Department of Energy’s Integrated Safety Management (ISM) model and is enhanced with other programs to encourage employee engagement and hazard mitigation. Union and management personnel work in partnership to ensure that these safety programs are successfully implemented.

As a result of the plant’s safety performance and culture, B&W Pantex is applying for “Star” status in the Department of Energy’s Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). An employee-driven committee has been working for more than a year to increase employee knowledge about safe performance and VPP. The committee recently completed its effort to assemble and submit a very comprehensive VPP application, and believes that the VPP flag will soon fly over the Pantex Plant.

Additionally, B&W Pantex, in conjunction with the NNSA’s Pantex Site Office, deployed the Pantex High Reliability Operation (HRO) framework. “Pantex is establishing itself as a center of excellence in HRO,” said Steve Erhart, Manager, PXS0, “but to remain an HRO, you must be constantly looking for potential problems

# The logo features the word "Pantex" in a large, bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. A white orbital ring with a small grey sphere at its center orbits the letter "P". To the right of "Pantex", the word "NEWS" is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

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and continuously improving your processes. You cannot afford to rest on your laurels or be completely satisfied with your performance.”

HRO is designed to minimize the potential for a high consequence, systems accident. All B&W Pantex and PXSO senior managers and department managers attended HRO training during the 2009 fiscal year, which ended September 30. Section managers and first line supervisors will attend HRO training during the current fiscal year.

HRO has attracted great attention throughout the NNSA and other industry that have the potential for high consequence events. B&W Pantex developed a workbook and provided support to other NNSA sites desiring to improve the reliability of their operations.

Fulfilling a request from employees, B&W Pantex conducted a Health and Wellness Pilot program in partnership with Amarillo's BSA Hospital. The program is designed to improve employee health. Pantex volunteers showed “significant” health improvements through a program of nutrition and fitness. B&W Pantex is now working to establish the total program as a part of the benefits program.

B&W Pantex works diligently to ensure employee safety and operational reliability, but the site's improvement in construction safety is worthy of mention as well. Many subcontractors perform construction work at Pantex. B&W Pantex maintains strict safety performance requirements for these subcontractors. Because of this, the site achieved 2,332 days without a lost time case and 1,024 days without a recordable injury. More than 140 projects were completed with zero lost time and recordable cases for employees, construction trades and subcontractors.

During FY09, B&W Pantex received twelve awards from the National Safety Council for outstanding safety performance while working safely and incurring no lost time injuries. The company accrued more than four million hours without a lost time injury.

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B&W Pantex manages and operates the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. B&W Pantex recently was named one of America's safest companies by Occupational Hazards magazine and has received four awards from the National Safety Council.