



Conestoga

• CONNECTION •

WINTER 2016
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Arkalon Hosts Countywide Emergency Drill



“We’re all in this together” was the underlying theme of an emergency drill conducted on Oct. 8 at Arkalon Ethanol. It involved the ethanol plant, Seward County Fire Department, Southwest Medical Center, Liberal’s EMS team and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)—all coming together to practice providing the best services in the event of an emergency.

“We are required to do quarterly drills,” says Brittany Clark, Arkalon Ethanol EH&S manager and coordinator of the drill. “I’m a member of the LEPC, and I always tell them when we are doing a drill so they know it’s just practice ... not a real emergency.”

This time, the LEPC suggested making it a county-wide drill. Brittany worked with Greg Standard, Seward County Emergency Management

director, to create a simulated incident and emergency response.

SIMULATED INCIDENT SCENARIO

- Arkalon employees loading ethanol into a rail car
- Loading arm bumps side of the rail car
- Grounding failure sparks a flash fire

In a normal operation, there’s an SOP (standard operating procedure) for loading/unloading a rail car or tanker truck. This involves using a loadout flare to control the

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EMS, firefighters and police officers help load victims for transport to the local hospital in the simulated accident. Arkalon employee Luis Rios is on the stretcher, while Michael Conley, Cindy Hagemeyer, Phillip Grano and Javier Campos await treatment.



Forecasting a Bright 2017



BY TOM WILLIS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Before we look ahead, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your efforts in 2016. I'm very pleased with our Total Process Reliability (TPR) program and the consistent performance in our plants. I also want to commend our accounting, logistics and marketing groups for the herculean effort they put in with the C&W joint venture.

There are plenty of uncertainties ahead with the new administration in the White House. But with uncertainty and volatility comes opportunity, and I think team Conestoga is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the opportunities as they come to us.

On the positive side, we have cheaper grain than we've had for a long time, as well as robust demand for our product—both domestically and internationally. We also continue to look for ways to push the envelope, grow the company and increase value for our team and our investors. In fact, we have identified one opportunity for expansion. We'll let you know more as that unfolds.

From all of us on the executive team, we wish you a safe and prosperous 2017. 🌱

Arkalon Hosts Countywide Emergency Drill

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flammable atmosphere of the operation and ensure that the railcar or truck is grounded. That way, if there's a spark, the system pulls the static charge into the ground—instead of allowing it to ignite the tank car.

When this grounding procedure failed in the simulated incident, all of the teams went into action. The simulation included the following activities:

- Five workers sustained different serious injuries.
- Fire department arrived on-site and sprayed water on the rail car.
- Victims transported to hospital via ambulance.
- A simulated "life watch" operation arranged for a burn victim to be transported via helicopter to a burn unit in Wichita.
- The LEPD and hospital wanted to challenge themselves, so they simulated a car accident occurring simultaneously—bringing all accident victims into the emergency room at the same time.

Arkalon's incident commander was Eswin Leon, shift lead, who worked closely with the fire department and EMS to coordinate the drill. This included a multitude of details, such as where to stage the victims, how to get them out, directing truck traffic and more.

"We have been blessed to not have the fire department out here very often," said Brittany. "So it was really helpful to practice. We identified a couple of areas that need improvement, but overall, it went very well."

When the drill was complete, Arkalon hosted a lunch for



Brittany Clark, Arkalon EH&S manager and coordinator of the drill.

employees and all of the emergency responders. It was a great opportunity for the fire department and the emergency management team to get better acquainted with Arkalon's facilities.

"The more we get them familiar with us and us familiar with them, the better any potential emergencies will be handled," explained Brittany. "Knock on wood ... I really hope they only ever come for drills."

Arkalon employees and Seward County emergency teams all expressed interest in doing more drills. Brittany says future drills might include a confined space rescue or a spill. Either way, Arkalon would call on the fire department and EMS to come out in those situations.

The October drill actually ended up being a federally recognized drill for the local emergency teams. So Arkalon's participation helped all of these entities meet their federal requirements. 🌱



Firefighters do their initial assessment of Arkalon employee Cindy Hagemeier, who was a burn victim in the drill.

Employee Spotlights

Our production managers do great work keeping everything moving at all Conestoga locations.

Ben Bach, Arkalon Ethanol Production Manager

- **Hometown:** Liberal, Kansas.
- **College:** Went to Fort Hays State, and is currently taking classes through Fort Hays toward a degree in organizational leadership.
- **At Arkalon:** Hired as an operator in June 2008. Promoted to lead operator, then operations manager and now production manager.
- **Impressions of Arkalon:** "I value the working relationships I have with people throughout Conestoga."
- **Current home:** Hugoton, Kansas.
- **Family:** Married to Crystal for 3½ years. Has a son, Caysen, age 1½; and a stepson, Ayden, age 10.
- **Spare time:** Enjoys hanging out with his kids.



Dino Lapp, Bonanza BioEnergy Production Manager

- **Hometown:** Grew up outside of Keystone, Nebraska, just below Lake McConaughy.
- **Before Bonanza:** Worked for 19½ years at a commercial printing company in Lincoln, Nebraska, until the company was bought out and plant closed. Was involved in the plant startup of E Energy Adams (50 MGPY ETOH plant), working there for 8 years before taking a job with Flint Hills Resources during construction of a biodiesel plant in Beatrice, Nebraska.
- **At Bonanza:** Hired as a production manager in December 2015.
- **Impressions of Bonanza:** "I enjoy the people I work with and the always-changing technology and advancements in the industry."
- **Current home:** Howell, Kansas.
- **Family:** Married to Angie for four months. Has one son who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- **Spare time:** Enjoys hunting and camping.



Calvin Sharp, Diamond Ethanol Production Manager

- **Hometown:** Muleshoe, Texas.
- **Training:** Four years training in auto mechanics and one-year training in diesel mechanics.
- **Before Diamond:** Started out in ethanol as an operator in 2000 for High Plains Ethanol. High Plains sold out to Abengoa Bioenergy Corp., where he continued as an operator until 2011.
- **At Diamond:** Hired in 2013 as a shift lead, then promoted to production manager.
- **Impressions of Diamond Ethanol:** "I like my new role as production manager and being able to learn the business side of ethanol, and creating new and improved SOPs to help the process be more efficient."
- **Current home:** Levelland, Texas.
- **Relationships:** Girlfriend, Jennifer, together 4½ years; and her son, Deven, age 10.
- **Spare time:** Enjoys automotive work and house remodels.



ARKALON GEARS UP FOR 1-BILLION-GALLON CELEBRATION

The countdown is on! Arkalon Ethanol in Liberal will hit the 1-billion-gallon mark sometime in February. Watch for details about a big celebration including a meal for employees and board members.

1 billion gallons of ethanol is enough to...

- Fill 111,111 tanker trucks with 9,000 gallons of ethanol.
- Fill 50 million SUVs with 20 gallons of ethanol.
- Travel 26 billion miles—equal to 1,045,268 times around the equator—in an economy car that gets 26 MPG.

DETAILS INSIDE:
**ARKALON ETHANOL WILL SOON PASS
THE 1-BILLION-GALLON MARK!**

Full Speed Ahead for Pellet Mill

Though Diamond Nutrition only began operation in August, it already has a loyal following. The 30,000-square-foot pellet mill facility attached to the Diamond Ethanol plant in Levelland, Texas, uses an innovative manufacturing process to extrude dried distillers grains (DDG) from the ethanol plant into range cubes and calf pellets.

According to Donovan Smith, Diamond Nutrition’s manufacturing manager, some customers stop by the pellet mill and load the cake hoppers on their pickups. Others request bulk deliveries to their ranches. And he’s even getting orders from far outside the local area.

“One company in Arizona ordered eight semi loads of bags—that’s 192 tons of bags,” said Donovan.

Presley Solutions, a company owned by Matt Presley, chief

technology officer for Conestoga Energy, designed the electrical and automation package for Diamond Nutrition. “Everything is working exactly as we put it together,” says Donovan.

Diamond Nutrition has eight full-time employees, and also gets help from the ethanol plant employees for bagging feed. Once the cold weather sets in, and ranchers need more feed, Donovan expects the plant will ship close to 50 tons per day. “And it will only grow from there.”



The Diamond Nutrition pellet mill extrudes dried distillers grains (DDG) from the ethanol plant into range cubes and calf pellets.

A 25-DAY* SNAPSHOT OF DIAMOND NUTRITION FEED SHIPMENTS

549	TONS BULK RANGE CUBES
2,720	50-LB. BAGS
25	1-TON TOTES

* FOR PERIOD ENDING NOV. 21

