

Primary Media Contacts: Lindsey MonBarren
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
(803) 952-8053
lindsey.monbarren@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile labs enhance training for SRNS employees at SRS

AIKEN, S.C., – (June 6, 2023) – Environmental Management Operations (EMO) employees of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the managing and operating contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), recently acquired mobile training laboratories to assist their continuous training efforts and to strengthen their Conduct of Operations (ConOps) and Human Performance Improvement (HPI) toolboxes.

The laboratories, called HuPerT labs, are designed to exercise accurate three-way communications and willingness of the participant to initiate a timeout when necessary. Three-way communications are one of the HPI tools used frequently in SRS nuclear facilities.

“Human performance is the product of behaviors and personal discipline used to carry out specific tasks accurately and safely,” said SRNS Senior ConOps Technical Advisor Douglas Brill. “HPI identifies specific ways to combat potential errors that can happen due to people being human. Some of these available tools reinforced by HuPerT labs include self-checking, phonetic alphabet, three-way communications, and taking timeouts among others. The mobile labs represent another investment in our workforce going forward.”

The recently acquired HuPerT labs are smaller, mobile versions of the HuPerT cabinet units that are used in the Site’s Training Facility. The suitcase-sized mobile laboratories allow facilities to directly incorporate training to shift personnel in facilities, saving time and resources.

The laboratory is a consistent measuring tool to drive HPI. It consists of an elaborate display console with multiple lights, switches, and indicators. The equipment has six designed programs that allow errors and faults to be inserted to test the accuracy of the participants’ three-way communications and their willingness to exercise a timeout. Teams of two personnel must operate the console accurately using a procedure within time constraints provided by the facilitator. If errors occur, the console generates an electronic explosion sound to indicate an error was made. If the team successfully operates the equipment using accurate three-way communications, a congratulatory sound is received.



H Canyon Facility Operators Billy Wilkes and Phillip Alexander use the recently acquired HuPerT labs to exercise their use of three-way communications.

“In EMO, we believe that you can never stop learning and practicing the skills that will help us stay safe and succeed,” SRNS Senior Vice President for EMO Janice Lawson said. “The HuPerT trainers will become an integral part of our Continuing Training program as SRNS continues our commitment to operational excellence.”

Training time spent with the HuPerT labs will supplement continuing training improvements being made across EMO facilities.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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THREE WAY COMMUNICATION

First, a message’s sender clearly states their message to the receiver. Next, the receiver acknowledges the communication by repeating the message to the sender. Finally, the sender acknowledges the receiver’s reply and confirms that the message is properly understood.