

Project Title: **Employee Volunteer Emergency Response Team**

Full Scale Implementation OR Pilot Scale/Study

1. Description of the project: What is the issue and how did you fix it?

Due to the rural location of the metalcasting facility, local emergency response services were limited, or entirely unable to respond to potential emergency or environmental incidents. Timely response to spill events or confined space rescue is critical to mitigate potential impacts on environmental health and safety, as well as ensuring the facility's responsibility as a good neighbor to the community.

An employee volunteer Emergency Response Team (ERT) was created to ensure local available response for potential incidents. It was quickly recognized that the Team would benefit from a cadre of employees with different backgrounds. For this reason members were encouraged from all foundry disciplines, departments, and job description.

Ultimately, a team of approximately 40 employee volunteers were trained in hazardous materials response, incident command, confined space rescue, severe weather evacuation and incipient stage firefighting (please note that the facility also maintains a team medical first responders which operate independently but work closely with the ERT.)

2. Environmental Benefits: Conservation of raw materials or energy, reduction or elimination of emissions, wastes, toxics, water discharges, etc.

Following implementation of the ERT, any spills of oil, etc. are now immediately evaluated by qualified personnel and mitigated to prevent or reduce any release to the environment as applicable. This capability, along with emergency awareness training provided to all employees, has ensured that incidents are mitigated before they grow to issues of greater concern.

3. Other Benefits: Productivity, health and safety, employee morale, etc.

The employee-staffed Team has become an additional voice for the promotion of positive health and safety practices at the facility. Employee members, many of which also volunteer in local ambulance and fire departments, appreciate the

training and potential career growth. All members are empowered as incident commanders whom make the final decision on how best to respond during any incident response.

4. Cost Savings: Capital cost, operating cost, ROI or other pertinent cost information.

Maintaining an onsite capability to size up and respond to emergency incidents provides cost savings as compared to relying upon third party contractors with higher cost fee schedules for equipment and hourly service fees. Potential additional costs due to response not being provided in a timely manner has been eliminated.

5. Applicability to other foundries and additional Comments

This approach can be used at any organization regardless of size or location.

6. Applicable Environmental Categories and Foundry Processes. Select all that apply.

Environmental Categories

- Carbon (GHG) Emissions Measurement and Reduction
- Air Quality Water Use and Discharge Waste Management
- Beneficial Use Stormwater Material and Resource Conservation
- Community Engagement

Foundry Process(es) Impacted

- Melt Pour Mold Core sand system/reclaim
- Shakeout Heat Treat Quench Finishing Shipping
- Maintenance Pattern Shop Casting Design
- Management Systems and Metrics
- Other, explain:

7. Add photos to enhance your application, if applicable.