

Best-In-Class Thoughts

*"For safety is not a gadget but a
state of mind."*

— Eleanor Everet

*"The door to safety swings on
the hinges of common sense."*

— Author Unknown



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Note from Tom Eason

Safety is the primary focus to every task approached. In the diving community, an industry that allows no margin for error when it comes to safety, we at Eason Diving and Marine Contractors (EDMC) live this value every day.

The EDMC team provides commercial diving services to energy, marine, rail and government clients throughout the southeastern United States. As an inland provider of commercial diving services, we are primarily regulated by OSHA's Commercial Diving Operations regulations (29 CFR 1910 Subpart T); however, as a responsible diving contractor, we adhere to the more stringent safety practices found in the Association of Diving Contractors International Consensus Standards. Our higher standard for safety has served us well over the past 34 years and we are very proud of the safety achievements that our company has seen through the years.

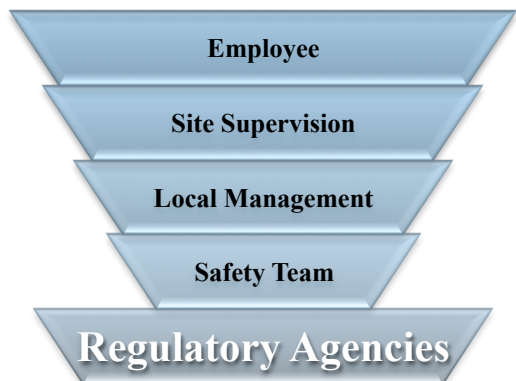
As we approach the 5-month milestone since joining the MER Family of Companies, we are pleased to have aligned ourselves with an organization with similarly high safety values and are excited to see the future success we are certain to enjoy together.

Regulatory Agencies (Hierarchy of Employee Safety continued)

In August's Safety Brief, we discussed the fourth level of safety responsibility in The Hierarchy of Employee Safety: Safety Team. In the final installment of this series, we will explain the fifth level of the hierarchy: Regulatory Agencies

When employees identify hazardous job conditions, and they work through the local chain of command and then the Safety Team to resolve the issue, only to have the hazardous condition remain unresolved, it's the employees' right to contact the applicable regulatory agency (for this article, OSHA) to help find a solution to the hazardous work condition. If you come to this stage in the Hierarchy, it's important to understand some key aspects of contacting OSHA.

First, be aware of OSHA's limitations: OSHA standards do not cover every hazard, and many current standards are limited in their protection. For example, there are no federal standards regulating workplace temperatures; therefore, contacting OSHA about this hazard (or any similarly under-regulated hazards) may not be enough to trigger an inspection or solve the problem at hand.



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Did you know? Commercial Diving Safety

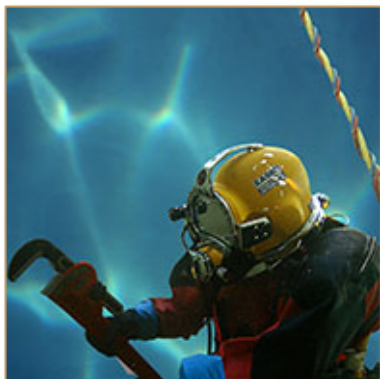
An average of six to thirteen diving fatalities occur each year, which corresponds to a risk of between 28 to 50 deaths per thousand workers over a working lifetime of 45 years.

www.osha.gov

Commercial divers consist of a diverse group of individuals involved in a wide range of activities ranging from inspection, maintenance and repair of underwater tanks and pipes to salvage operations.

Today's professional divers are exposed not only to the possibility of drowning but also to a variety of occupational safety and health hazards such as respiratory and circulatory risks, hypothermia, low visibility, and physical injury from the operation of heavy equipment under water. All employees who dive as part of their job assignment, whether classified as commercial divers or not, are exposed to underwater hazards. The type of dive, the length of dive, the frequency of dive, and the type of operation increase the already high risk of this strenuous work.

Diver safety depends upon the quality of training and supervision, appropriate and reliable equipment, effective rescue resources, and proper work practices. Common commercial diving hazards include inadequate staffing levels and improper division of responsibilities during diving operations in addition to hazards the associated with the actual work, such as underwater cutting and welding, materials handling and other types of work utilizing hand and power tools.



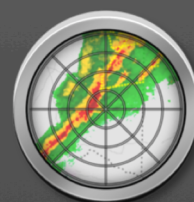
Key Engineering Controls and Work Practices

- Ensure each diver has necessary experience and training to perform the assigned task.
- Provide divers and tenders with a briefing on the tasks, safety procedures, unusual hazards or environmental conditions, and modifications made to standard operating procedures. If divers will enter potentially contaminated waters, SOPs should address the potential chemical contaminants.
- Tend divers continuously while they are in the water.
- When divers are in the water, ensure that a standby diver is available when required.
- Establish and maintain two-way voice communications between diver and diver support throughout the dive.
- Primary breathing gas supplies shall support divers for the duration of the planned dive including the time it takes for decompression.
- Divers shall carry a reserve breathing gas supply while diving with a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) instead of surface supplied air.
- Supplied respirable air must contain less than: 20 ppm Carbon Monoxide, 1000 ppm Carbon Dioxide, 5 mg/m³ oil mist, and must not have a noxious or pronounced odor.
- Station a diver at the underwater point of entry when diving is conducted in enclosed or physically confining spaces.
- Terminate the dive when the diver requests it, if the diver fails to respond correctly, or when the diver begins to use reserve breathing gas.
- Use certified air tanks, sources of dive-breathing air, and approved body suits.
- Ensure that any airline systems used provide uncontaminated air (e.g., keep system away from sources of generator or engine exhaust).
- Ensure dive boats & onshore locations display the diver-down flag when divers are in the water.
- Ensure that all divers and their equipment are decontaminated (fresh water shower/rinse at minimum) upon completion of dive operations.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hurricane/diver.html>

There's an App for that!

Radar Express
NOAA Weather



Radar Express gives you instant access to a high-resolution animated weather radar and all the local weather information you need provided by the NOAA NWS. It's clear, simple, and fast-loading. App includes: HD animated doppler weather radar, temperature, weather conditions, alerts and more!

Fitness Challenge

The Push Up Test

The Push-Up Test measures muscular strength and endurance, a combination that effectively reflects your fitness level.

Goal: Do as many push ups as you can in one minute

Execution: Men will assume a traditional push-up position and females can use the modified push-up position (on knees). When the push ups start, so does the clock! Press yourself up with arms fully extended and lower yourself back until your chest is three inches from the floor (but do not touch your body to the floor). Repeat as many times as you can in one minute. You may rest only in the "up" position if necessary.

Men (full push-up)

Age:	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
E	> 54	> 44	> 39	> 34	> 29
G	45-54	35-44	30-39	25-34	20-29
A	35-44	24-34	20-29	15-24	10-19
P	20-34	15-24	12-19	8-14	5-9
-P	< 20	< 15	< 12	< 8	< 5

Women (modified push-up)

Age:	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
E	> 48	> 39	> 34	> 29	> 19
G	34-48	25-39	20-34	15-29	5-19
A	17-33	12-24	8-19	6-14	3-4
P	6-16	4-11	3-7	2-5	1-2
-P	< 6	< 4	< 3	< 2	< 1

E = Excellent; G = Good; A = Average;
P = Poor; -P = Very Poor

www.sparkpeople.com/resource/fitness_articles.asp?id=1113

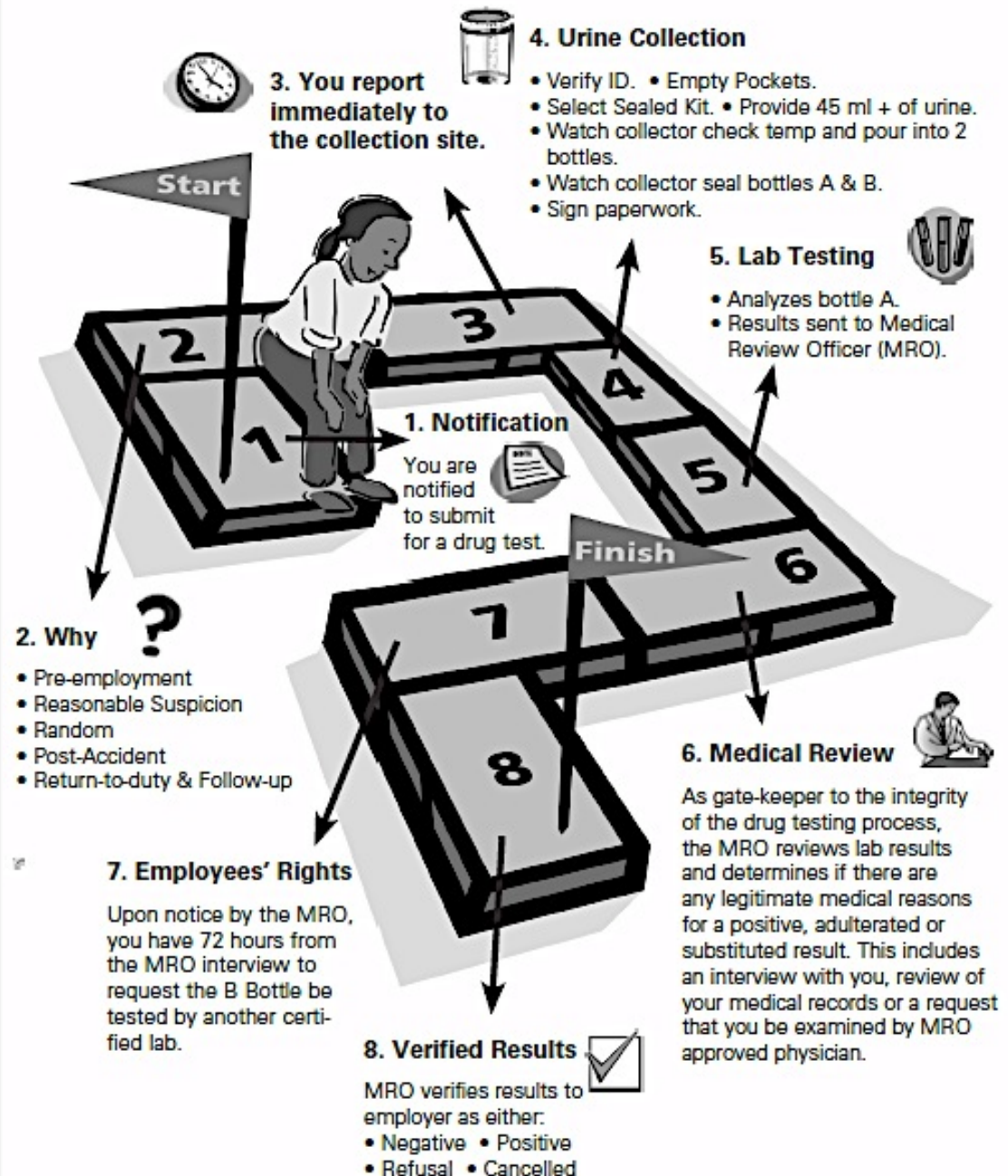
Drug Test FAQs

What's Reasonable Suspicion?

Reasonable suspicion means that one or more trained observers reasonably believes or suspects that an employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Employers cannot require testing based on a hunch or guess alone; suspicion must be based on observations concerning appearance, behavior, speech and smell that are usually associated with drug or alcohol use.

How does the Drug Testing process work?

The picture below outlines the US DOT Drug & Alcohol Policy and Compliance.



<http://www.dot.gov/odapc>



Values

Professionalism

Integrity

Mutual Respect

Discipline

Since MER's acquisition of Eason Diving & Marine Contractors, Inc., there have been several opportunities to team our resources to the benefit of our clients. Perhaps the most significant to date was MER and Eason teaming to complete a three-week power plant project located on the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta. Heavy rain and high water flow deposited large amounts of sediment into the forebays of the cooling water intakes, which greatly limited the level of power generation. This has become a routine problem at this and other similar facilities solved by diver directed sediment dredging within their intake structures.

To remove this sediment, the Eason Diving team used hydraulic submersible dredge pumps to remove large quantities of sand from the cooling tower intakes. In addition to standard safety precautions used during diving operations, the six-inch suction hose coming off the submersible pump contained a "diver friendly" suction bell attachment with several side openings around the perimeter to prevent a full seal in the event the pump makes contact with the diver. Although topside personnel stationed at the pump controls operated the pump, the diver used tethered voice communications to give commands throughout the entire process.

The pump's discharge hose ran onto shore and pushed the water sediment mixture through a series of two MER-provided vacuum boxes and then into geo-textile bags for later removal. The heaviest pieces of sediment dropped into the first box with lighter sediment going into the second box. Finally, the finer sand filled up the permeable geotextile bags allowing the filtered water to run onto the ground diverted to an onsite storm drain.

Planning and communication are vital to safety during projects such as these, which was enhanced by utilizing the combined MER/Eason team. In the end, the work was completed safely, on time, and under budget. Great job team!

Regulatory Agencies (cont. from page 1)

Second, familiarize yourself with OSHA's ranking system when it comes to complaints: OSHA ranks complaints according to the severity of hazards and the number of workers potentially exposed. The number one priority for inspections are situations categorized as "imminent danger," in which workers face an immediate risk of death or serious physical harm. The second-ranked priority is incidents involving fatalities or "catastrophes," which is defined by OSHA as an accident involving death or that requires hospitalization of three or more workers. The third priority is employee complaints and referrals.

Finally, recognize that not every complaint will trigger an in-person inspection; sometimes the follow up to a complaint by OSHA may be a telephone call, a fax or a letter asking the company to respond within five (5) days, identifying in writing any problems found and noting corrective actions taken or planned. Also, it is important to note that all employees who file a complaint with OSHA are protected under the Whistleblower's Protection Program.

Though it can be an effective way to address hazardous conditions that have not been resolved through the first four levels of the hierarchy, it's clearly not the most efficient option and when it comes to workplace safety, efficiency is critical to keeping our employees safe.



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Safety Brief

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