



Profile of Month – Chris Gunnells

Chris came to Marion four years ago with a diverse background in mechanical, construction, and factory work. He acclimated quickly to Marion's unique environmental business and was well-liked by both crew and staff.

It takes a few years to know whether a man will make the leap from crew member to environmental expert. There is a mountain of information to absorb, training and certifications to attain, and a rigorous safety culture demanded of all.

Chris has made the leap. He is a listener and a leader, humbly accepting the direction of our seasoned veterans, while offering sage advice to our newer talents.

His future is bright at Marion, and Marion's future is more secure because of future leaders like Chris.

Marion Environmental Inc. is one of the leading providers of environmental consulting, remediation, and emergency response in the southeast. Our goal is to provide cost effective solutions to environmental problems. Making *our* standard, industry standard.

Diethyl Ether Response and Disposal

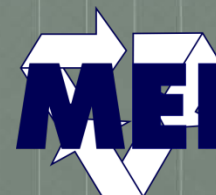
Everyone working in our industry is familiar with the potential for diethyl ether to form explosive crystals over time. We have all been warned not to open cans of ether for fear of setting off those crystals with a subsequent ignition of the flammable ether. It's a tense scenario, and regulators are hesitant to transport diethyl ether because of the very real threat of an explosion. That's exactly what was on the mind of the safety officer at a historical medical university when he discovered a can of ether in one of their research laboratories. It was too dangerous to handle on his own, so he called MEI.

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Diethyl Ether Response and Disposal

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Ether containers of unknown origin are typically dealt with in two ways: over-packing by a high profile high-hazard team, or having the bomb squad conduct an on-site detonation. Given the downtown location and the nearly constant occupation of the research building, these higher profile methods were less than ideal. The Safety Officer sought another way.

MEI offered a newer, safer, more discreet solution, utilizing a polymer typically employed for petroleum spills. MEI proposed using a powdered plastic that chemically bonds to hydrocarbons, resulting in an inert byproduct not dissimilar to solid rubber. The Safety Officer approved the plan, and MEI quickly mobilized. The team worked after business hours, minimizing exposure and maintaining discretion. Secluded in a basement research laboratory, the team safely opened the container and solidified the ether within. No explosions, no high profile mess. MEI was in and out of the building in a matter of hours, while rendering the ether solid and non-flammable.

The end result of MEI's unique approach to this emergency was a low profile, discreet response and, ultimately, disposal of a non-hazardous waste. This was truly a one of a kind response...MEI style!

Upcoming Event

July 17-20, 2016 MEI is sending representatives to the TSHC Annual Conference in Nashville, TN

Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), offering an agenda of knowledge and expertise that can be used for the promotion, increased awareness, and implementation of safety and health practices in the workplace.

MEI TRAINING

Recently Marion Environmental was invited to help instruct at the CSX Safety Train. The Safety Train is a working locomotive with training cars that travels the CSX system and is used to teach first responders how to respond to an incident on the railroad. MEI was there to help teach the hands-on tank car portion of the class, which involved using capping kits like the (C) kit and midland kit. MEI also helped with the live drill. The drill was a derailment scenario with haz-mat tank cars involved. The first responders respond to the scenario, do damage assessment, recon, and try to stop the leaks. MEI had technicians involved, along with EMA directors, Chattanooga City Fire, Chattanooga Haz-mat, Hamilton County Fire, Hamilton County Haz-mat, and other local volunteer departments.



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