



## Profile of the Month-Nathan Custer

Nathan is one of our leaders at Aqua Treat. Certified as a Waste Water Treatment Operator, he oversees our daily discharges. In addition to those responsibilities, he can often be seen in any far corner of the plant: treating water in the tank farm, working the ICP in the lab, and generally helping out wherever someone needs a hand.

With a bachelor of science degree, Nathan has a penchant for chemistry and detail, traits essential to assuring Aqua Treat's continued regulatory compliance.

Nathan is a father, husband, and former eagle scout who has been a friend to all of the Aqua Treat family for 10 years. We are so glad to have him on this talented team.

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.



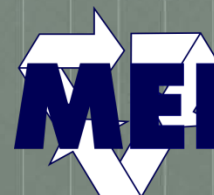
## CSX MOCC

MEI railroad technicians were in North Carolina earlier this month to train on the CSX Mobile Coordination Center (MOCC). A 53 foot trailer designed to coordinate on large derailments, the MOCC is a command center equipped with a generator, satellite, Wi-Fi, printers, phones, 16 work stations, 2 conference rooms, and all the tools needed to coordinate teams at a large scale. The unit takes two hours to mobilize and approximately four to set up. The MOCC is only deployed on major derailments.

The recent training included representatives from major contractors who will be entrusted with operating the MOCC for 12 hours a day in 2 shifts on major events. It is a privilege to operate this state of the art equipment.

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## HAPPENINGS

### SAFETY AWARENESS REPORTING

What separates Marion from the rest of the industry? Quality of service, highly trained personnel, professionalism, and, above all, making safety our number one priority.

Herbert William Heinrich's safety triangle states that for every 300 near misses, 29 minor injuries occur, and for every 29 minor injuries, there is 1 major injury. The theory is that by reducing the number of near misses, the likelihood of injury drops as a sheer matter of probability. At MEI, we have taken this lesson to heart.

As we continue to grow and expand into new areas, we constantly have to adapt to an ever changing environment. A small business operated locally does not function the same way as a regional enterprise with branches in multiple states. In addition to our weekly in-house safety briefs, we have adopted a new system called Safety Awareness Reporting. SAR allows an employee to make safety suggestions, document near misses, and note any positive interventions they have witnessed throughout the week.

Not only does SAR help foster a culture of safety amongst our staff, it also helps us recognize trends in areas where potential risks have developed. From this information we can implement corrective actions before an incident occurs. Each week, the safety department selects the best SAR, and the winner is announced during the Monday morning safety brief. Each week, the winner receives a reward.

It is our goal at MEI to be the safest environmental company in the industry. Safety is our highest priority, both for our staff, our families, and our clients. Please join our push to prevent incidents before they occur by participating in the Safety Awareness Reporting campaign. It could save a life.

## SAFETY TIPS – Lifting & Climbing

**Always use both hands** when lifting a heavy or cumbersome object.

**Adopt a proper stance** for lifting: put the strain on your legs, not your back (crouch at your feet, keep your back straight, and don't bend at the waist).

**Test the weight** before you lift something up completely; it might be too late if you realize a few seconds later that it's too heavy or cumbersome for you.

- An easy way to do this is to nudge it with your foot first.

**Consider a back brace** if the work is heavy or you have a sensitive back.

**Move your feet, not your back**, when you want to travel or turn while carrying a heavy load.

**Lift slowly and smoothly.**

**Keep your burden close** to your body; this means less strain on you.

**If your load is too heavy** for you to handle alone, don't be shy—ask for help!

**Ensure ladders are secure and steady** before climbing aboard.

**Never climb on improvised ladders.** Shelves and storage units are poor substitutes. Don't be lazy, and find a proper solid ladder.

**Don't let appearances fool you.** Railings might appear solid and fixed, but they might be improperly secured. Test them first.

**Use safety harnesses** if your job includes heights.

**Eliminate distractions** when working on a roof, scaffold, or other elevated platform. More than ever, stay focused and alert!

**Keep an eye out on the floor** to ensure it's free of obstacles and spills. If it isn't, get cleaning!

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