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SEPTEMBER 2024

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WELL-ROUNDED RESPONSE

From remediation and abatement services to industrial cleanup and hydroexcavation, Environmental Solutions has it covered.

By Giles Lambertson

ON THE COVER

Whether human-caused or natural, disaster means business for Environmental Services. And though they never hope for catastrophe, the company is ready to respond when it does happen. (Photo by Matthew Hinton)



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Industry Trends: The value of bucket trucks and trenching



Tim Dobbins
EDITOR

Don't Wait Until Winter

There isn't much time before winter conditions settle in, so now's your chance to plan and prepare

September is one of my favorite months of the year. It's also one of the busiest. It seems no matter how much work I do throughout the spring and summer, fall sneaks up on me with winter closely ensuing.

The final loads of firewood need to be split, hauled and stacked, the chimney needs a cleaning before the wood stove fires up, the rototiller, lawnmowers and weed trimmers need to be winterized, and at the same time the snowblowers come out of summer hibernation. As a simple homeowner, it can seem like a lot, but it pales in comparison to the seasonal preparations many of you face.

As the designated National Preparedness Month, September is the perfect time to look ahead and make sure your team, equipment and business plans are ready for what's coming next. Blizzards, ice storms and heavy snow can wreak havoc on communities in certain areas of the country, and even though we are still in the midst of hurricane season, it's in your best interest to think ahead and prepare for the seasonal shift.

Even for companies stationed in the south, it pays to prepare as you never know where severe winter weather will hit. For example, this month's profile subject is Environmental Solutions, a business offering a suite of services that fit the recovery sector. Headquartered in Louisiana with multiple locations also in Texas, they found themselves in a position to help a winter-battered Houston some years ago. An atypical weather event for that area.

They didn't get in that position by chance. The company was ready and prepared to serve well before the cold weather set in. Here's how you can do the same.

PRE-SEASON PLANNING

Conduct thorough reviews of existing emergency plans, ensuring they address winter-specific scenarios like power outages, blocked roads and extreme cold. Update communication protocols, evacuation procedures and resource allocation strategies.

Ensure a well-stocked inventory of winter gear, including heavy-duty winter clothing, shovels, ice melt, snow tires or even tire chains for vehicles, and generators as

well as options for backup and portable heat sources.

Schedule maintenance and winterization of all equipment, including trucks, generators and specialized tools for snow and ice removal. In certain areas that experience extreme freezing conditions like we often see here in northern Wisconsin, equipment like generators may require oil with a lower viscosity, so make sure those are set for the upcoming conditions.

It's also wise to establish clear protocols for safe travel during winter storms, including designated routes, communication during travel and bad weather contingency plans. Train crews on winter safety protocols, including safe driving techniques on icy roads, avoiding hypothermia and frostbite, and working safely in hazardous winter conditions. Equip crews with essential first-aid skills and winter survival knowledge to handle emergencies during deployment.


COMMUNICATE

You may notice this topic recurring in this column, and that's because it's a crucial part of running a business. Prepare clear communication strategies to keep clients informed about response times, service limitations and safety protocols during winter emergencies.

Along with that, make sure communication protocols in house among crews are clear and reliable and that communication channels are established with local emergency management agencies, utility companies and other relief organizations for coordinated response during disasters.

PARTNER UP

Partner with local businesses like tow truck companies, snow removal services and building material suppliers to ensure a smooth flow of resources during winter events. Building relationships with other contractors is not only a good way to help your company tackle a project effectively, it can be a big help in establishing new business down the road.

Thanks for reading this month's issue, and as always, please contact me with any questions or ideas! 

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How to Ensure Safe Vacuum Truck Operation

Proper training and safety precautions are critical for vacuum truck operation

By Ronnie Freeman

AN AREA THAT CAN BE EASILY FORGOTTEN OR OVERLOOKED IS OVERHEAD CLEARANCE WITH POWER LINES.



In the disaster relief industry, there are obviously many hazards within the daily work that put employees at risk. Whether it's working in a trench, a confined space, handling chemicals or driving an excavator there are always dangers present.

Contractors regularly encounter the potential dangers of driving and operating vacuum trucks. These powerful vehicles help us do many things and make our jobs easier, but they offer some serious hazards as well.

Therefore, it is a must to prioritize safety when you are operating vacuum trucks.

A typical vacuum truck can weigh over 30,000 pounds, which presents obvious dangers. Imagine the kind of damage it would cause should it strike another vehicle or run off the road at full speed. The operators of these vehicles must be properly trained and authorized to operate them. But there are many other precautions and best practices to be aware of and followed.



PREPARATION PRACTICES

At the top of the list of best practices is proper training for all operators in the equipment operation, all safety protocols, proper maintenance and emergency procedures. Next on the list is wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment, which can range from a hard hat, safety glasses, hearing protection, steel-toe shoes and the right type of gloves to ensure operator protection.

It is the operator's responsibility to conduct pre-operation inspections to check the condition of the hoses, tanks, valves, alarms, lights and any other equipment the operator will be using. If there are any issues or damages, ensuring they are repaired properly before using the equipment is a must. Do not take the risk of using damaged equipment.

WHEN ON SITE

An area that can be easily forgotten or overlooked is overhead clearance with

power lines. Be sure to maintain plenty of clearance with a minimum of 10 feet unless you've made proper arrangements with the local power company to have the line's power cut off.

Your work area will need to be clear and clean for good footing. You do not want to try to operate on an incline, slippery ground or any unstable surface. Working close to trenches can create an unsafe

Safe operation often means working together with team members for better control of large machine components.



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PRO TIP

GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

Move beyond textbook knowledge and incorporate hands-on training exercises that simulate real-world job site scenarios.

working surface so be aware of this hazard.

Also, working near and sometimes in the middle of the roadway creates an altogether different type of hazard if roadways are in a condition suitable to be open to the public. Unfortunately, today's drivers tend to be distracted so it is vital to make sure you are highly visible. Always wear your high visibility apparel and have the proper cones set up to protect yourself and your crew from oncoming traffic.

PREPARE FOR ANYTHING

Operators will need to be familiar with emergency shutdown procedures as well as knowing where the fire extinguisher and first-aid kits are located on the truck. If there is an emergency, stop working and follow the proper procedures for shutting down the vacuum truck.

Part of operating a vehicle of this magnitude involves driving the vehicle on all types of roadways. The operator needs to always have a second operator to help with backing up and parking due to the large scale of the vacuum truck. When backing up and parking in tight areas, always use a spotter to ensure you are safely getting where you want to go. The importance of having a

second operator present extends to all operations of the vacuum truck.

Another reminder while operating your vacuum truck is to leave the cellphone out of the equation. Cellphones are a major distraction and the damage caused by a collision involving a vacuum truck can be enormous, costly and even deadly. No phone call or text is worth that risk, so just don't do it.

Lastly, operating the pressure washer has its own set of dangers so the operators should also be properly trained in its use. The operator must be familiar with the safety precautions, which include making sure to never direct the spray towards yourself or anyone else. This may sound obvious, but too many operators have been seriously injured in pressure washer incidents. Always release any residual pressure in the system by turning off the water supply and operating the trigger before disconnecting any hose or accessory.

Operating a vacuum truck can be a safe experience if the operators are following safety procedures. It's a responsibility never to be taken lightly and must be shared by both operators and any employees that might be working in the area during operation. **D**

»» Proper PPE goes right along with adequate training when operating vacuum trucks. The operator controlling this Guzzler truck is well suited in both areas.



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NET SURFING

Sharing The Best Disaster Related Content

We're always on the lookout for relevant and interesting disaster recovery content. In our e-newsletters, we regularly share and highlight news stories and social media posts that we are reading and watching, **like this coverage of flooding throughout parts of Tennessee and Illinois causing major damage to property and vehicles.**

W *When I'm aware of my mental health, I can be a more useful, functional member of society."*

– From: *Breaking the Mental Health Stigma*
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STAYING BUSY

Finding consistent work in an inconsistent industry

Expanding your offerings is a great way to keep money coming into the business even when there is no immediate disaster to respond to.

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SUBCONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIPS

Protect your business with healthy partnerships

Let's face it, subcontractors are a huge part of recovery. They play a crucial role in getting the job done, but there are some legal pitfalls to be aware of.

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WELL- ROUNDED RESPONSE

FROM REMEDIATION AND ABATEMENT SERVICES TO INDUSTRIAL CLEANUP AND HYDROEXCAVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS HAS IT COVERED

By Giles Lambertson | Photos by Matthew Hinton

« Austin Proctor, business development and operations manager

Environmental Solutions could bill itself as a restoration company, because its services mostly do not involve new construction. Primarily, the company engages in deconstruction, reclamation, decontamination, abatement, and debris and waste removal.

In short, the company addresses situations that, though dissimilar, all have in common the need for fixing or restoring. “We do our best to stick with what we are good at and we are good at a lot of different things,” says Austin Proctor, the company’s business development and operations manager.

The company’s services lend themselves to helping communities and industries recover from disasters, natural or human-made. “We don’t get hurricanes every day, but when we do there’s a large recovery effort. Same with floods and storm surges. We do not do much with snowstorms, but we had a bad ice storm years ago in Texas,” Proctor recalls.

ASSORTED SERVICES

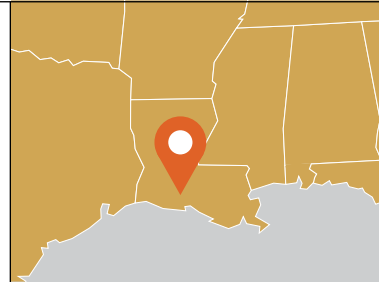
When Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana in 2021, Environmental Solutions was

called to work on an industrial facility near New Orleans. Water inside the facility had risen to the 3-foot level, destroying furnishings and sheetrock in a machine shop, business offices and common areas — spawning the growth of mold.

“We removed the water-damaged material and prepared for a big mold remediation project. When we started removing the mold-impacted material, we detected asbestos in the walls as well,” says the operations manager. “We had a pretty large operation there for six or seven months.”

The company also is called upon after storms have downed lines. “We are seeing an increasing need for the hydroexcavation trucks. Our crews simply are given maps where holes need to be dug for installation of new utility poles.”

Thus, clients for the company’s services range from utility companies to power companies that experience transformer malfunctions resulting in contaminated soil to oil and gas industry firms needing ground or water remediation interventions, as well as to state or federal agencies looking for help with recovery.



ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LLC
(DIVISION OF PIPELINE SERVICES LLC)

Sulphur and Liberia, Louisiana

YEARS IN BUSINESS:
8

EMPLOYEES:
40

SERVICES:
Disaster recovery, industrial cleanup, decommissioning, and waste and debris removal, abatement of asbestos, lead and mold, demolition of facilities with hazardous materials, and reclamation-decontamination service

SERVICE AREA:
All Gulf Coast states other than Florida and more than a dozen other states

WEBSITE:
pipelinesolutionsllc.com

« One of the tanker trucks the company heavily relies on, this one is equipped with a Star Mfg tank.





Along with tankers and hydroexcavation trucks, the company has an arsenal of other machinery including this CASE tracked skid-steer. The versatility of a skid-steer with quick attach options makes for a one-machine-does-all type asset.

UNWANTED BUSINESS

No one wishes for disaster — not even companies like Environmental Solutions that profit from offering recovery services after a big blow or a river overflows its banks. “Hurricanes can keep you busy, but we don’t want them,” Proctor says. “They can produce profits for a company, but they produce a whole lot more hardship for a community.”

So, when Environmental Solutions gets a call from a company that has been battered by a storm or floodwaters, or a state agency that’s eyeing a public environmental disaster, Proctor is receptive, but not exultant. “We don’t get hurricanes every day, but when we do, the company can make a lot of money. Even so, the focal point of all that we do is to get things up and running again. The No. 1 objective is the recovery of normalcy in everyone’s life.”

One factor that helps the company keep its perspective during disaster work is that the lives of its employees are just as impacted as the people whose properties experienced disrup-

tion. “Sometimes a company from up north that wasn’t reached by a Gulf storm comes in and makes a killing. But our company, being local, has been impacted by the storm, too. It’s a lot more personal.”

He says that as a Louisiana native and as the son of a man who also had a career in environmental work in and around the state, Proctor unintentionally gravitated toward the work after earning a degree in another discipline at a college in state. Five years ago, he signed on with Environmental Solutions.

Still, not all disasters worked on by the company blow into Louisiana from the Gulf. When a health worker discovers asbestos exposure in a tract of homes in Indianapolis or in a large commercial building in Little Rock, Environmental Solutions is apt to be bidding for the work of abating it. It’s licensed to remove asbestos in a dozen states running clear north to Chicago.

“We are an aggressive company,” the 34-year-old business development manager says. “We’re pretty aggressive in finding work. If someone calls for

help from a state where we aren't licensed to work, we're going to get a license in that state."

DISPOSAL DIFFICULTIES

When dangerous material is involved, the question becomes where to dispose of it. The answer varies. "Each facility may have a preferred waste program requiring waste to go to a certain disposal place. The client will dictate that. Other times, you get comparative quotes on disposal. Sometimes, reusable material is involved — concrete that can be crushed and reused, for instance. So, the material in the waste stream ends up in a place deemed appropriate by law or at a place based on price."

All of this deconstruction and removal requires quite an assortment of equipment, so Environmental Solutions has a full complement of machinery. More than a dozen hydroexcavation trucks are on call — and one air vac truck for special use — plus four vac trucks, various sizes of hydraulic earthmoving equipment (excavators, skid-steers), dump trucks and 18-wheel flatbeds to haul the heavy machinery.

Because company employees must take special precautions when working around concentrations of mold, asbestos or lead, 16-foot trailers carry crews' personal protective equipment and hand tools.

Then there's a trailer-mounted, factory-built multishower decontamination unit. "It's a unique piece of equipment that keeps our employees safe from cross-contamination when they're on the site. It's very impressive," Proctor says.

Because the company offers such a diverse lineup of services, employees become generalists in their skill sets. Everyone is cross-trained, the operations manager says — and trained well.

PREPPING THE TEAM

"There's a giant effort on our part to have employees properly trained. We concentrate a lot on training. You can get yourself in a bad bind otherwise. We spend lots of money on training, safety and PPE. Every morning before each workday, we have a documented safety meeting in which we discuss hazards that might be encountered that day."

Besides preparing its 30 or so fieldworkers for a safe workday, the ongoing commitment to safe and effective work procedures "gives our clients peace of mind," Proctor says. "They come to know we are not just throwing anyone out there. They're trained to do the job."

The reward of such policies, besides every employee going home at the end of the workday, is work being well done and clients feeling well-satisfied. "Our guys do a great job.

W THERE'S A GIANT EFFORT ON OUR PART TO HAVE EMPLOYEES PROPERLY TRAINED. WE CONCENTRATE A LOT ON TRAINING. YOU CAN GET YOURSELF IN A BAD BIND OTHERWISE. WE SPEND LOTS OF MONEY ON TRAINING, SAFETY AND PPE."

— Austin Proctor

» SMALL ROLE, BIG PICTURE

When floodwaters invade a commercial structure and implant the seeds of mold in the walls and floors, how important is the role of frontline cleanup and restoration crews? Austin Proctor tends to take the view that every component of the recovery process is critical.

Proctor is the business development and operations manager of Environmental Solutions LLC, which is a division of Pipeline Services LLC. Pipeline Services is in the oil and gas industry and Proctor tends to talk in terms of that industry.

"There are times in our industry when a person might have a small role in the production of oil and gas, but what he does definitely is important. He might clean the inside of holding tanks — a relatively small role in the industry — but he is part of the supply chain of

American oil and his job definitely is important.

"This is true in disaster recovery work, too. Our employees look at what is in front of them every day and they go to work," Proctor says the workers become aware that their work is appreciated, when community organizations set up cooking tents and deliver pallets of water to ensure the workers are hydrated.

The business manager says the company is "proud of our guys." He says the company is proud of its work as well, and is growing ever more proficient in that work as it learns from the lessons each disaster offers the company. "We're trying to build on those lessons. We want our employees to grow their skills as they help create recovery in communities and we want their employment with Environmental Services to be their last job."



» Rig checks during downtime are vital for success in the field. Here, Austin Proctor hooks up and inspects hoses and fitting on one of the company's tankers.

They really do. They back up the things we're telling the clients. Confidence in our crews has grown to a point that almost 100% of the time, if we can win a job, the project owner becomes a repeat-client."

He adds that his goal is to make a friend of each client. "We take a lot of pride in our business relationships and in the service our customers get. We are in it for the long haul with our customers."

Sometimes environmental work is indistinguishable from ordinary heavy machinery work. For example, demolition of industrial structures, such as warehouses or factories. The company takes on such work whether or not hazardous materials are involved.

"We have clients with older assets just sitting there," Proctor explains. "We put our guys to work demolishing the facility and the scrap value of the assets produces a check that goes into the client's pocket. In other scenarios, a client may have an asset that does contain potential hazardous material, say, asbestos. If we can remove the potential hazard before a storm arises to suddenly make it a public hazard, in our eyes it's best to do it." ▣

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NOT ALL DISASTER WORK

"The market discipline of environmental work is so broad," Proctor says. "It means so many different things. Wetlands. Erosion control. Air standards. Soil contamination. We do a lot of different things."

» Operating hydroexcavation trucks like this is a necessary skill at Environmental Solutions. Dwayne Guillory is well versed at the controls whether its routine work or during the chaos of storm recovery.





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By Stormy Shafer

Staffing for Emergency Cleanup

Tips for mobilizing quickly for disaster recovery work

When hiring for specific jobs, remember that public interaction is often part of cleanup. People that are professional and articulate will best represent your company.

One of the most daunting tasks for contractors on short-term or even extended deployments to disaster zones is the ability to rapidly staff up on short notice. Though we can see some natural disasters such as landfalling hurricanes coming, others like volcano eruptions, earthquakes and their attendant tsunamis and human-caused accidents can and usually do happen with little to no prior notice.

Those are frequently the disasters that cause the most disruption and require the fastest response. Because disaster cleanup and recovery work is so varied in nature and location, it's impossible to keep enough permanent staff to respond on a timely basis to

these types of massive mobilizations. What's a contractor to do, without overstaffing that could spell financial ruin?

Fortunately, those whose job it is to make sure disaster cleanup and recovery goes smoothly have put together some guidelines to make it easier for contractors to prepare adequately and respond quickly when needed. The Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers offers the following advice:

KNOW THE FACTS

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act requires FEMA to contract with businesses located in the affected area when feasible and prac-



ticable. This not only helps shore up local economies sure to be negatively impacted by the disaster, but it also spells much shorter wait times for actual work to begin, as labor is supplied close to the cleanup site, requiring less travel.

State and local government agencies control a large proportion of disaster response activities, so many related contracting opportunities will come through these offices.

At the time of a disaster, responsible agencies may initially rely upon contracts already in place to ensure a safe, timely response; but there will be some bidding and negotiations for longer-term recovery contracts.

Potential contractors must be registered in the appropriate federal, state and/or local databases to be eligible for contract awards. In other words, if they don't know you exist, they can't hire you. If you're serious about winning disaster recovery business, register today as the process can take a while. (See August's Business Builder column for the easiest way to do so.)

BUILDING CREWS

One of the top challenges for disaster recovery contractors is hiring enough field workers to do the actual labor of clearing debris, pumping out buildings, etc., needed to start the affected communities on a road back to normalcy. Short of overstaffing on an everyday basis, which is hardly sound fiscal management, there are a few ways to scale up your crews in a hurry, as needed.

TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES

One of those tactics is establishing ongoing relationships with temporary work agencies. Nearly all major staffing firms have at least some experience supplying disaster relief workers, while others have come to specialize in this field. One of these, PeopleReady, even developed its own mobile app, JobStack, to make the process faster and easier.

You don't want to wait until you need staff immediately to get in touch. By that time, these agencies have jumped through all the hiring hoops for you: posting jobs,

sorting through an endless pile of applications, interviewing four people for every one you hire, setting up drug screens, paying taxes, procuring worker's comp insurance. Let them do the heavy lifting so all you have to do is train the temp workers and get them to the work site.


These organizations tend to spring up in areas that frequently get hit with large-scale severe weather events, so it's not a bad idea to reach out to those in any area of the country where you feel your firm might operate in an emergency. Establish a relationship with a liaison, find out the firm's strong points, and reach out a few times a year. You just want to say hi, learn of any policy or process changes, and remind them that at some point, you may become a big customer.

SHORT OF OVERSTAFFING ON AN EVERYDAY BASIS, WHICH IS HARDLY SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT, THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO SCALE UP YOUR CREWS IN A HURRY, AS NEEDED.



STATE JOB ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

When a disaster leaves workers unemployed for an extended period, some states can provide temporary assistance until the local economy has recovered. Many accomplish this through a department of unemployment and economic development.

 A team of recruits filling a debris truck following a tropical storm.

YOU WANT TO DEVELOP SOURCES BOTH NEARBY AND FROM FARTHER AWAY AREAS THAT AREN'T LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED BY YOUR AREA'S DISASTER. THAT WAY, YOU SPREAD OUT THE DEMAND ACROSS A LARGER POTENTIAL WORKFORCE POOL, AND SHOULD HAVE BETTER LUCK FINDING THE PEOPLE YOU NEED.



These departments may also administer federal disaster recovery programs, including National Emergency Grants that can provide temporary work for displaced workers; and the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program, which can provide assistance to workers not covered by standard state assistance. These are great places to contact in your search for skilled, experienced cleanup and recovery workers.

ASK FEMA'S HELP

FEMA and state-level emergency management agencies maintain their own ongoing contact lists of people interested in disaster recovery work. They will be motivated to help you locate temporary employees to aid in cleanup because everyone has the same goal in these situations: To get back to normal life as soon as possible. So make the effort to develop and maintain a good rapport with those you might need to work with under some pretty stressful conditions.

WORKFORCE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

States that suffer frequent natural disasters are likely to have one of these, offering National Dislocated Worker Grants that fund temporary recovery workers affected by major dislocations.

Disaster relief employment can be in the form of temporary jobs to address struc-

tural and humanitarian needs of residents of an area that has suffered a federally declared emergency or major disaster. These jobs are restricted to projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims and projects that involve demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation and reconstruction of damaged structures and facilities.

Individuals who qualify for disaster relief employment are those temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster, dislocated workers and individuals who are long-term unemployed.

WORK YOUR NETWORK

Before you ever need emergency staffing, take the time to consult your peers, both locally and across the country, to find out where they source temporary disaster relief workers. You want to develop sources both nearby and from farther away areas that aren't likely to be impacted by your area's disaster. That way, you spread out the demand across a larger potential workforce pool, and should have better luck finding the people you need. One great tool for this purpose is to reach out through your LinkedIn profile to colleagues in other areas who don't view you as a competitor. They won't mind sharing their staffing hacks with you. **D**



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DEWATERING

By Craig Mandli



ABSORBENT

■ SATELLITE UNIVERSAL PORTABLE SPILL KIT

The **Universal Portable Spill Kit** from **Satellite** is a versatile and essential kit for fast action in case of spills in different settings. This kit is lightweight, easy to carry and ready to use for immediate cleanup. It contains absorbent pads and containment socks that can handle various liquids, such as oil- or water-based fluids, coolants and non-aggressive solvents. User safety is ensured by personal protective gloves and a 7-gallon, fire-resistant disposal bag. The components are color-coded for easy identification and use, and the kit's portability makes it suitable for workplaces, warehouses, factories

and vehicles. By quickly absorbing and containing spills, this kit complies with safety standards, reducing damage to property and protecting the environment. It means being ready for unforeseen spills, saving time and preventing potential risks. **800-883-1123; www.satelliteindustries.com**

DEWATERING EQUIPMENT



■ BAG CORP. DEWATERING SUPER SACK

Ideal to filter, wash or collect product, the **DeWATERING Super Sack** from **BAG Corp.** facilitates filtration of a fluid mixture, allowing the solid materials to be retained as the liquid drains. Made with porous polypropylene fabric with warp and weft tensile strengths greater than those of conventional 8-ounce polypropylene, it is a tough container with a wide variety of uses. Applications include clarifying water or other liquids, dewatering sludge, cake filtration, biotreatment projects, product washing and product collecting. It works in postdisaster environments to aid in cleanup associated with debris where water is involved, such as flooding and hurricanes. Multiple sizes and designs are available.

888-787-0030; www.bagcorp.com



■ BAM! GROUND PROTECTION MATS

Avoid costly damage to your job sites with **BAM! Ground Protection Mats**. The mats are made from four-season, durable high-vis green HMWPE material with a built-in UV protector to guard against fading and cracking. Three-eighths inches thick and rated at 160,000 pounds with pressure ratings of 373 pounds per square inch, and 53,700 pounds per square foot, they have a temperature rating of minus 103 degrees F to 258 degrees F. The 4-by-8-foot sheets weigh 56 pounds and come with eight large hand holes for easy handling, even with gloves. A dual-sided tread pattern provides safe traction for both equipment and pedestrians. Mats don't absorb moisture and chemicals and can be simply hosed off. **262-877-4700; www.bamgroundpro.com**

■ PARK PROCESS GRITCAT

The **GritCat** from **Park Process** is a dewatering container designed to process waste streams containing gritty, sandy solids or any type of nondeformable solids. Its filter media is permanently installed over porous support panels in the container and is reusable and cleanable. A variety of types of filter media are available, including stainless steel wire mesh, polyester woven material, nylon mesh and polypropylene monofilament. The product is simple to operate and maintain, according to the maker. Units are built as roll-off containers, self-dumping hoppers or front loaders. **855-511-7275; www.parkprocess.com**



■ DEWATERING/BYPASS PUMP

■ MYERS SETH PUMP DV-6

The **DV-6** from **Myers Seth Pump** is a 6-inch vacuum assisted, double diaphragm pump. It is a 70 cfm oil-less vacuum pump driven off the engine, which is then connected to a vacuum box on the back of the pump. Inside the vacuum box is a float arm assembly like on a vacuum-assisted centrifugal pump. It creates a constant 130 cfm and over 27 inches Hg while only burning 9 to 10 gallons of fuel per day, with the capability of running over a week continuously. It can be used on much larger and deeper wellpoint systems and multiple sock drain lines manifolded into one pump. **904-389-6114; www.msp-pumps.com**



■ VACUUM PUMP

■ PRESVAC SYSTEMS PV750

The **Presvac Systems PV750** rotary vane pump is designed for continuous full-vacuum operation in extreme conditions. It offers 400 cfm at free air, 350 cfm at 15 inches Hg, a maximum vacuum of 27 inches Hg and maximum pressure of 35 psi. Dual fans and twin ballast ports are designed to efficiently cool the pump. The solid housing with deep cooling ribs allows greater heat transfer from the vacuum chamber. Aluminum fans and shrouding work like a heat exchanger. Multiple manifold and drive options are available for truck, trailer or stationary applications. **800-387-7763; www.presvac.com**



■ VACUUM TRUCKS/TRAILERS

■ GUZZLER CL

The **CL (Classic)** industrial vacuum loader from **Guzzler** is designed to recover, contain and carry solids, dry bulk powders, liquids, slurries and thick sludge from hard-to-reach areas. The truck offers upgraded operator ergonomics; improved air routing, filtration and maintenance; a longer body for improved material separation; an enlarged baghouse; and cyclone clean-out access doors for easier access. Its modular design allows for a wide selection of off-loading configurations, including a rear door-mounted sludge pump for unloading sludges from the debris body, an XCR system with a swing-out cyclone that allows material discharge into collection vessels while vacuuming, and a high-rail system (available in three configurations) with a loading boom, hydraulic creep drive and rear-mounted operator chair. Options include a telescoping boom, vane pressure off-load system (high pressure, low airflow) for liquids and slurries, and a full-opening rear door for improved dumping. **800-627-3171; www.guzzler.com**





■ IMPERIAL INDUSTRIES' FREIGHTLINER 108SD

Imperial Industries' Freightliner 108SD includes a fully remote-controlled vacuum system. It comes with a 4,200-gallon painted aluminum tank with a National Vacuum Equipment Challenger 4310 blower (940 cfm). Functionality includes full control of the tank's PTO and pneumatic valves, providing the ability to switch between vacuum, neutral and pressure modes without leaving a

septic tank access point. The bottom third of the tank is double-plated, and the tank is painted black with a diamond plate chip guard, full-flanged and dished heads for baffles, a hot shift PTO, one 4-inch vacuum inlet with lever valve, one 6-inch discharge with piston valve with a handle, three 5-inch sight glasses on the rear tank head, full-length aluminum hose trays, a SeeLevel indicator, a 24-by-24-by-24-inch aluminum toolbox, U.S. Department of Transportation LED light package, two rear LED work lights and an adjustable stainless steel rear bumper. **800-558-2945; www.imperialind.com**



■ PIK RITE STEEL 3,600-GALLON VACUUM TANK

The **Pik Rite** steel 3,600-gallon vacuum tank is designed for strength and reliability. Its 3-inch internal plumbing keeps the exterior clean and simple. The vacuum pump mount is attached to both frame rails and easily supports pumps from any major manufacturer. It has four sight eyes for the waste compartment. The tank interior is equipped with walk-through baffles and a 20-inch rear manway for easy clean-out. The LED running light kit is installed with a fully molded wiring harness. Operator work lights and a strobe light are

mounted on the top rear lighting bracket. Polished aluminum hose trays and low hose hooks are coated with protective liner. **800-326-9763; www.pikrite.com**



■ TRANSWAY SYSTEMS STAINLESS STEEL BODY SEPTIC/TOILET TRUCK

Cold winters can cause many problems when it comes to portable restrooms, from protecting the restroom itself from freezing damage, to the wear and tear of the vehicle transporting and cleaning the restrooms. **Transway Systems** offers an entirely stainless steel body septic toilet truck, equipped with multiple heated water compartments, a lightweight aluminum folding restroom rack and space to carry tools and equipment. The use of stainless steel in piping, heated valves, fittings, tank shell, tank heads and hose trays ensures longer lifespan while resisting corrosion caused by brine

solutions. Segmented heated water compartments provide ample freshwater for cleaning units as well as corrosive brine. **800-263-4508; www.transwaysystems.com**

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SPOTLIGHT
by Craig Mandli

APP ENABLES CONTRACTORS TO QUICKLY FIND THE RIGHT ATTACHMENT

As a disaster relief contractor, you need to be prepared to help with anything. That means you need to be able to track down the right tool for the job — quickly. Ignite Attachments recently launched a user-friendly digital tool that puts valuable information directly at customers’ fingertips: Fit Finder.

The digital tool allows customers to find the attachments and implements that match compact equipment machine specifications for existing machines with the click of a button. With more than 10,000 data points from across all major compact equipment brands, the Fit Finder is robust and user-friendly.

“Online shopping is a staple of the modern economy,” says Trisha Pearson, business director for Ignite Attachments. “However, making large purchases online, like attachments, can still be nerve-racking for many. When we set out to disrupt a stagnant industry, we knew we’d need to develop a tool that takes the guesswork out of attachment ordering and allows customers to shop with confidence. The Fit Finder provides the convenience of online shopping, available when and where it works best for customers, with a precise fit for peace of mind.”

Purchasing aftermarket attachments for existing compact equipment can be a challenging process, especially for customers looking to buy outside the carrier brand, according to Pearson. Backed by a database of more than 10,000 relevant specs from across all major models and manufacturers, the Fit Finder eliminates the need for tedious side-by-side spec comparisons. Customers simply select the make and model of their existing equipment from the tool’s dropdown menu. In just seconds, customers are served all the Ignite products that match with the specified carrier. From there customers can either check out the details of a product or simply click “add to cart.”


“It’s as easy as that,” Pearson says. “Time is money. The more time we can save customers, the more efficient and hassle-free we can make the buying process, the more our customers benefit. The Fit Finder tool can eliminate hours of research.”

According to Pearson, Ignite Attachments offers tools that are easy to purchase, attach and use. Online ordering and direct shipping allow customers to shop confidently and on their schedule. **888-232-1988; www.igniteattachments.com** **D**

Dewatering Done Right More Important Than Ever

Water removal is often a necessity, especially with an increase of flooding events

By James Careless

 Barricades or blockades like this are a common sight after flooding. From simple sandbags to inflatable dams, water diversion using these techniques can be extremely effective.

IT IS VITAL FOR CONTRACTORS TO DO DEWATERING RIGHT. MESS UP THE PROCESS, AND YOU COULD END UP MAKING DAMAGE TO THE FLOODED AREA WORSE.

Whether it's the hurricane season that is now upon us, springtime flooding or water buildups due to backed up sewers and drain pipes, the ability to safely and adequately dewater sites is more important than ever.

Dewatering affected areas and buildings as soon as possible keeps water damage to structures and building materials from getting worse and reduces the chances for the formation of dangerous mildew and mold.

This is why dewatering is such an essential service for disaster cleanup contractors to offer. It truly makes a difference to clients, by providing visible benefits that justify the cost of hiring recovery companies at a time when the clients' instincts may be to save money wherever they can.

This being said, it is vital for contractors to do dewatering right. Mess up the process, and you could end up making damage to the flooded area worse.

WAYS TO DEWATER

There are four key ways to dewater affected sites. In all cases, care should be taken to send the removed water to a location that does not reflow the site, nor

pollute the natural environment.

Pumps are the most popular method for dewatering sites, whether they be submersible, centrifugal or diaphragm-based models. The trend in disaster recovery is to choose pumps with the highest durability and run time, offset by minimal power consumption and heat transmission.

In this last area, submersible pumps offer a real advantage, since the heat they generate is removed by the water they're immersed in. However, submersible pumps can consume more power than other models.

Small-diameter wells can also help in dewatering sites, assuming that the goal is to drop the level of groundwater raised by flooding. To do the job, these wells are piped to a common vacuum pump, which sends the extracted water to another location. If need be, the water can be pumped into tanker trucks and removed, but this is a resource-intensive solution.

If they happen to be available, existing constructed and/or natural drainage systems can be exploited to dewater sites. If not, then the quick deployment of bulldozers or other machinery can help to create temporary channels.

Finally, simple siphon hoses can be used to dewater an affected site, if it happens to be on a higher elevation than the location of a drainage channel. Use a pump to prime the drainage hose, then let gravity do the dewatering work for you.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Water from hurricanes and tornadoes is not just water. It can contain debris, contaminants, chemicals, dead animals and anything else loosened by the storm. It's not just removing water. So, sending that dirty water to a safe location is just one of the points that contractors need to keep in mind. It is also necessary to use pumps and hoses with sufficient capacity and power to do the job on an ongoing basis. All pipe connections, clamps and seals also need to be robust and reliable, and their power sources and supply cables must be waterproof, fray-free and properly grounded.

With respect to powering pumps, generators are a must. Make sure that they are powerful enough to handle the load, with

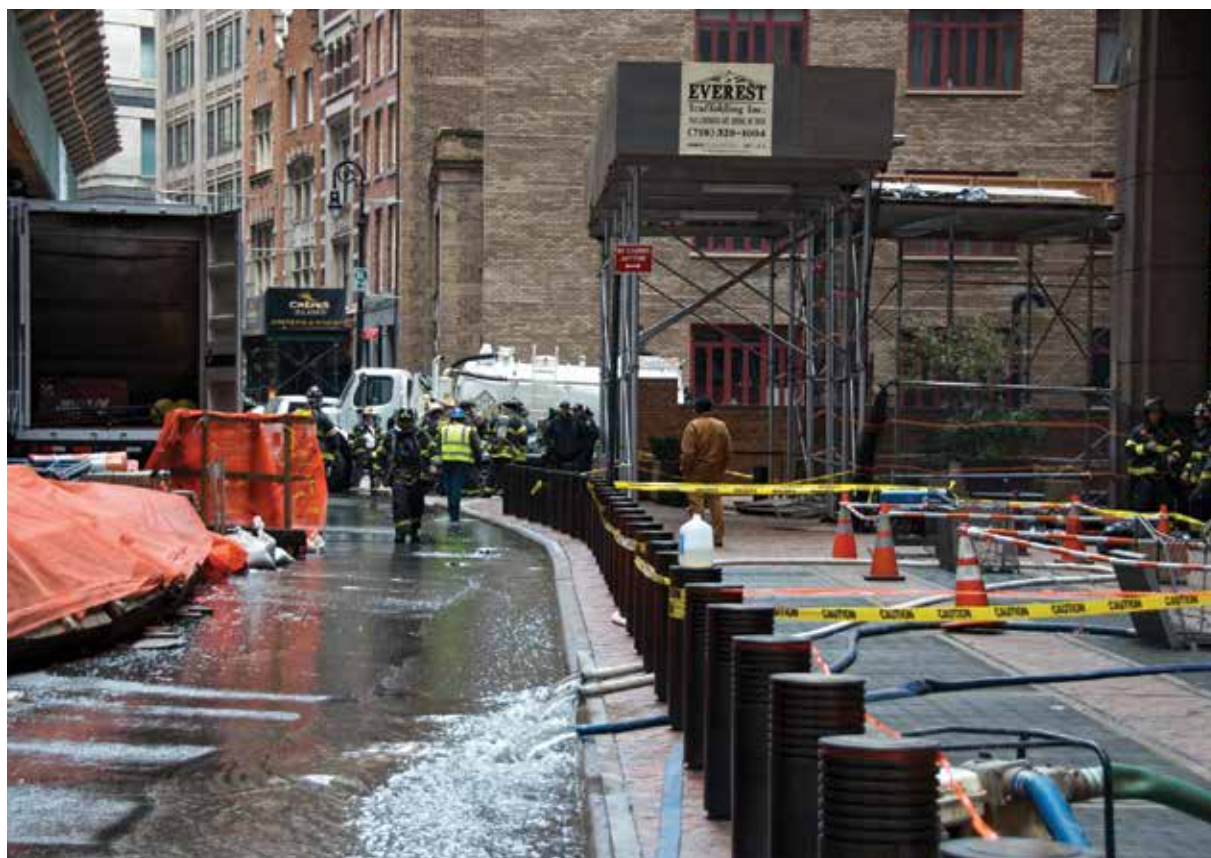
sufficient fuel capacity to run for long periods. At the same time, you have to be able to move them to the site, so portability matters too. Never place them on surfaces vulnerable to flooding.

When buying dewatering pumps, ask about their ability to handle contaminated water and filter out debris. Using equipment that filters out debris will prevent breakdowns during service. It is possible to stick a consumer-grade submersible waterfall pump into a flooded basement, but chances are it will clog up with debris within minutes, if not sooner.

THREE TRENDS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Dewatering equipment is becoming more sophisticated, with remote control and monitoring being made possible through Internet of Things connections. Granted, the conditions that exist right after a disaster usually don't make this kind of remote management practical. But as things settle down, it may be possible to implement re-

🚧 Crews in New York running hoses and pumps to clear water from flooded building basements and the stormwater system.



ECO-FRIENDLINESS IS ALSO A TREND TO WATCH FOR; SPECIFICALLY DEWATERING PUMPS AND OTHER MACHINERY THAT USES LESS POWER THAN BEFORE, WHILE MINIMIZING POLLUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



mote control and monitoring in some cleanup situations. In places where flooding is regular, monitoring equipment could make short work of flooding king tides.

A case in point: Smartrek Technologies is a maker of remote sensor networks for monitoring dewatering pumps and piping systems. When it is possible to do so, “Monitor and manage groundwater levels, vacuum levels for wells, pump operation with electrical power, pressure, flow rates, tank levels, etc. remotely to avoid unnecessary employee travel,” says Smartrek’s website. “Monitor and remotely control levels, pressure and flow to prevent overflows, detect equipment failure and get peace of mind.”

Eco-friendliness is also a trend to watch for; specifically dewatering pumps

and other machinery that uses less power than before, while minimizing pollution to the environment. Portability and compactness is the third trend, because the more capability a disaster recovery and cleanup crew can carry with them using smaller form factors, the better.

THE TAKEAWAY

Dewatering can be a moneymaker for contractors. However, like most fields in the world of disaster cleanup, it is a service that requires the appropriate equipment and know-how to execute these operations properly. So do your homework, and then take the plunge into dewatering. Your clients and your bottom line will be glad you did. **D**

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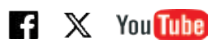
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