

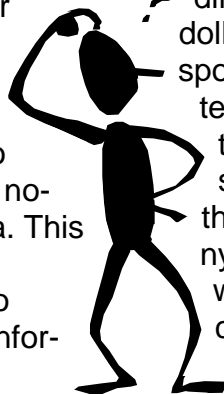
Respect, Like A Wet Slap In The Face!

Maintenance Moments

All of us in maintenance have noticed a really bad shift in the way we are treated. Many of us have been here long enough to see this as a pattern, but I think this situation has got to be one of the biggest insults to us in a long time! I am talking about how are newest plant manager treats the maintenance craft as a whole. Ever since he has arrived, his actions are to get us out of his sight. We have had to get rid of many of our work areas, our floor lockers and even our storage cabinets for our trade manuals! While this is all old news to us as well, he seems to be really upset about our "clumping". This apparently is defined by two or more maintenance craft employees talking to each other in any area or at any time in the building. The reason of our getting together does not matter.! It even includes our morning tour turn-over, every day at seven o'clock. And he's still surprised that we are gathering for our assignments! His understanding of what and how we do our job, seems to escape him. We recently had a group of ET's going to their work area, when one of them noticed the plant manager in the area. This heroic individual quickly called a "clumping alert" and attempted to space the group at arms length! Unfortunately, three minutes later, our maintenance manager was now trying to find out what happened!! I'll tell you what happened! I really good joke fell on deaf ears, that's what happened!

We have just finished connecting all of our mail processing equipment to the new network infrastructure. Just the maintenance side was six guys for a week! We finally are getting the right to maintain our own network equipment. Literally, tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on this conversion. Everything up and running,

and we know what comes next! Yup, no routes on this equipment! This is so typical of the way our department is managed! We have seven IDF (cabinets for networking equipment) and two MDF, that have no routes. We have eleven BDS (bio hazard detection) systems with no routes. (And if the alarm goes off, remember to walk quickly AWAY from the 010 area !). We have three IJPs that are CRITICAL to processing return-to-sender mail, that have no routes! I'm sure there are many other areas with the same problems of important equipment without routes. Is it really rocket science to assign routes to this equipment? I suppose the new stuff will get lumped in with whatever other piece of equipment that they happen to be near. Until that is, something big happens and that old thing ACCOUNTABILITY rears it ugly head!



So, what this comes to mean is this; we are directly responsible for maintaining millions of dollars worth of equipment. We are directly responsible for maintaining equipment that protects the lives of everyone in Phoenix! With the exception of the custodial crews, (who seem to be waxing the wax that's on the wax that's on the floor, and then making it all shiny!) the plant manager would rather not deal with us! How is it that OUR managers (who claim to be maintenance) can't seem to get this guy to be more realistic? How is it that top management allows this guy to run the plants like his own personal sand box? How does a plant manger expect people to respect him when he has such distaste for them? These are the questions that can give you headaches and ulcers! I suppose in the end, it does not matter what he says or thinks. We enjoy our jobs and take pride in doing them and know full well that, the equipment will be maintained in spite of what they do, not because of what they do! Since we wont get REAL respect (or movie tickets!) I guess it's up to us to make the best of his time here.....

WATCH OUT! CLUMPING ALERT!!!!