



# *the* OUTRIGGER

R. Baker & Son Magazine  
*Disabled Veteran Founded*

December 2010

## R. BAKER & SON The Missing Work Scope In Mission Critical

by: Dave Baker

When industry professionals are planning a new technical space or facility, projects are plotted and finessed to the smallest detail. But when it comes to mission critical selective demolition, details are usually scarce, to say the least. By nature, work scopes for these projects are often limited to a general outline and a few basic drawings, and the details are left to the contractor's discretion, knowledge and experience.

Selective demolition requires expert analysis to correctly identify utilities, and shutting down, locking down and removing only what is specified as coordinated with the owner and user. In areas packed with piping, controls, ductwork and equipment, this can be an extremely complicated task. Often times, one wrong move can shut down critical operations nearby, causing major problems. Further complicating matters are tight budget constraints that are common in today's money conscious world. Instead of bringing in new equipment, projects often call for relocation and reuse of existing equipment from on- or off-site, requiring careful dismantling, removal, shipment, and precise reassembly.

Complex issues are regularly encountered in mission critical work, so it is essential to hire an expert contracting firm to perform these projects. Most contractors expect the unexpected, but only the best of them are capable of handling them.



*inside this issue...*

the missing work scope in mission critical - quality awards  
safety in the ancient world - an honor and a privilege  
industry buzz: the drill that saved lives - osha safety tips

## Safety In The Ancient World

Though we might think that workplace safety regulations, measures, and compensation are modern developments, there are many examples of dating back to ancient times...

Egyptians recognized the hazards of breathing chemical fumes and documented guidelines for proper usage. Hippocrates attributed the respiratory problems of Greek stonecutters to rock dust, and noted breathing problems and pale complexions in metal workers.

Workers' compensation laws date as far back as 2050 B.C., when ancient Sumerians were given monetary recompense for workplace injuries. Ancient Greek, Roman, Arab, and Chinese civilizations had compensation laws in place, as well, awarding specific amounts for specific injuries. Over the next 2,000 years, however, there was little increase in the regard for the safety of workers. During the Dark Ages, workers had essentially no rights and very little protection, relying on the discretion of their feudal lords for proper safety measures and compensation for injury. It wasn't until the 17th century that England enacted its first safety and compensation laws.

With the dawn of the Industrial Revolution came increased awareness of workplace safety. Some of first insurance companies, founded around 1812, inspected textile factories for hazards and suggested accident prevention methods. The Pennsylvania Mine Safety Act was passed into law in 1864, and Massachusetts instituted the first government-sponsored factory inspection program in 1867. By the end of the century, numerous laws, codes, and regulations, had been enacted, and by 1915, thirty states had passed workers' compensation laws.



## An HONOR and a PRIVILEGE...

True to his patriotic nature, Walter Baker, owner of R. Baker & Son and a disabled veteran, entered a lottery to read victims' names at the 2010 World Trade Center Memorial Service and was fortunate enough to be chosen. Mr. Baker felt extremely honored to have been given the opportunity to take part in the annual observance in tribute to those fallen in the 9/11 attacks. He was profoundly moved by the experience and considers his participation in the ceremony to be one of the proudest moments of his life.

**R. Baker & Son thanks Walter for his own personal sacrifices and for his enduring dedication to our country. God bless those who lost their lives on 9/11, our brave veterans, and the USA.**



All of us at R. Baker & Son join in saying Thank You to our friends, customers and colleagues for your support throughout the year.

We wish everyone a joyous holiday season, and health, happiness and prosperity in the year to come.

**Happy Holidays!**

## INDUSTRY BUZZ: The Drill / Team That Saved Lives

Worldwide headlines were dominated for several months by the international rescue effort for 33 trapped Chilean miners, and a small Pennsylvania company played a central part in the successful operation.

Center Rock, Inc., of Berlin, Pa., manufactured the drill bit that bored through 2,000 feet of rock to where the miners were trapped.

Center Rock, located in a remote area of Pennsylvania, was founded only 12 years ago. They first gained attention in 2002, when they helped to free nine miners trapped in the nearby Quecreek mine. Five years ago, Center Rock developed a low profile (LP) canister drill bit, and they grew from 16 to 75 employees. When they were called upon to provide their product for the rescue effort, owner Brandon Fisher and two team members spent 37 sleep-deprived days overseeing the drilling, enduring harsh conditions, many dark moments, and, finally, pride and elation when the drill broke through to the miners.

The LP drill bit used in Chile consists of four air hammers and four drill bits contained in a 28-inch wide canister that move in tandem to dig through the rock. Center Rock states on their website that their LP drills "have been used to bore holes up to 900 feet deep" and are "designed to reach much greater depths". Clearly their capabilities were not overstated.

Chilean officials originally estimated that the rescue effort would take approximately four months. The actual rescue took a mere 69 days.



## OSHA QUICK CARD

### CONSTRUCTION HAZARDS

#### Prevent Falls-

- ◆Wear and use personal fall arrest equipment.
- ◆Install and maintain perimeter protection.
- ◆Cover and secure floor openings and label floor opening covers.
- ◆Use ladders and scaffolds safely.

#### Prevent Struck-By-

- ◆Never position yourself between moving and fixed objects.
- ◆Wear high-visibility clothes

#### Prevent Caught In-Between-

- ◆Never enter an unprotected trench or excavation 5 feet or deeper without an adequate protective system in place; some trenches under 5 feet deep may also need such a system.
- ◆Make sure the trench or excavation is protected either by sloping, shoring, benching or trench shield systems.

#### Prevent Electrocutions-

- ◆Locate and identify utilities before starting work.

- ◆Look for overhead power lines when operating any equipment.
- ◆Maintain a safe distance away from power lines; learn the safe distance requirements.
- ◆Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double insulated.
- ◆Use ground-fault circuit interrupters for protection.
- ◆Be alert to electrical hazards when working with ladders, scaffolds or other platforms.

For more complete information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>, or call 1-800-321-OSHA