

Kingman shop workers lead the way

Everything's 'green' at this Equipment Service Shop

This is the second in a three-part series about ADOT Equipment Services shops using environmentally friendly measures.

By Ron Loar
Editor

Mechanics are cleaning up their act in ADOT's Equipment Services garages around the state, and the employees at the Kingman shop are leading the way.

Physical Plant Operations Manager John Nichols recently visited the shop to present Steve Carspecken and his six employees the Green Shop Award for attaining a perfect score

in their evaluation. Nichols praised the willingness of the mechanics and technicians to adapt to new, and stringent regulations. "It's difficult to get old dogs to learn new tricks, but these mechanics quickly



Curtis Thurman, equipment repair technician, uses a SmartWasher® to clean brake and rotor assembly instead of using harmful solvents.

accepted the new eco-friendly measures," Nichols said.

Carspecken, who has worked for Equipment Services for 20 years, wondered, too, if it would be difficult to get his crew to come around to doing business the new way. He didn't have to wait very long to find out that his workers were eager for the new methods. One thing he noticed is that the hands of the technicians are no longer rough and chafed from using harsh chemicals. Spills are less frequent, resulting in less clean-ups and fewer slips. "It's actually a pleasure to work in a clean and safe shop. I believe the guys feel better about working in a safer and healthier environment," he said.

Employees actually developed ways to make their jobs easier, safer, and cleaner. They fabricated inexpensive containers to prevent excess lubricants from dripping from grease and oil guns onto the garage floor.

"It's things like this that show they are embracing new methods," Robert Trapani, environmental engineer said. "Their willingness to go above and beyond the basic requirements is what earned them the Green Shop award."

Oil-stained floors, grease-soaked rags, and harmful solvents in vehicle repair shops are a thing of the past. In fact, ADOT's 22 Equipment Services shops around the state are meeting, or exceeding standards set for private commercial shops by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. They have done this by hiring their own 'Green Guru,' Robert Trapani, to implement and oversee the Green Shop Program.

Two years ago, Trapani joined ADOT and, under the direction of Devin Darlek, environmental program manager, assessed the overall conditions of the vehicle repair shops, then set about writing an in-depth Best Management Practice Manual that outlined ways to deal with disposal of waste materials such as used oil filters, coolant, tires, and batteries.

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David Arnold, Jr., parts expediter for the Kingman shop, removes a battery from the covered secondary containment storage area. Shop Supervisor Steve Carspecken, right, says the storage unit prevents battery acid from potentially leaking on the floor.