

Construction News ON LOCATION
At your super service



Team members at **Jon Wayne** were preparing to give two teams of 35 people each tours of their facility. One team member took on the role of Bryant Man, which apparently comes with an adorable doggy sidekick. The company was hosting the tours as part of the last day of the Service Super Summit being held at the Embassy Suites Hotel downtown. —mp

Storm water regulations getting tougher

Submitted by: **Brad Flack**, CPESC, CESSWI, President, **Storm-Tex Services**

If you are in the construction industry then you are no doubt not exempt from the new storm water management regulations in Central Texas. Travis County, the City of Austin, Bexar County and San Antonio and surrounding area jurisdictions have recently increased their requirements for storm water pollution prevention.

The regulations come down from a higher level than the local jurisdiction. The EPA has increased the requirements that they put on each state's storm water management program.

Texas has a delegated permit, which means that the TCEQ has been put in charge of handling our state's storm water program.

Texas is also the second largest state, behind Alaska, and in order to assist the TCEQ manage this large land, they delegate authority to larger urbanized areas and their watersheds. These urbanized areas and watersheds must file a permit to the TCEQ in order to manage their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4. Each MS4 is charged with reducing the runoff pollution from storm water discharges into the waterways of this great state.

One of the ways they chose to do this is tighten restrictions and regulations on the construction sites. These sites can be some of the worst violators in regards to silt, sediments and debris entering our waterways.

Each MS4 has outlined their own version of the new regulations, but more importantly are a couple of key changes.

When creating storm water pollution

prevention plan, either a professional engineer or a CPESC (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control) must sign off on the SWPPP or ESC (Erosion and Sediment Control) plans prior to construction. And once this has been completed the site must be inspected at intervals that each jurisdiction requires by a CPESC, or a CESSWI (Certified Erosion, Sediment, & Storm Water Inspector) or similar certification.

This means that each site must now either hire or at least contract out this work. If a site is not being certified or inspected by one of those certification holders, then the site is in violation of the local laws and is subject to fees and penalties. Don't just take a person's word on it, be sure to double check their certification is legitimate. You can look them up on the official websites: www.CPESC.com and www.CESSWI.com.

Brad Flack serves on the Board of Directors for the South Central Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association as the Administrative Vice President and is the President-Elect for next year. He also serves as the Region 7 Representative for the CPESC Council and is also its Technical Vice Chair. He also serves as a TCEQ Enviromentor and is on the IECA Region 1 Education Committee: Stormwater Management Track serving North & South America and Europe. —ab





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The Pod people



L-R: Mike Fry, San Antonio operations manager; Mike Miller, CAD/QC/APM; Richard Herrera, team leader

The **NeoPod Systems** facility in San Antonio is the company's only facility for construction. Though its corporate headquarters is in Florida with owners **Juan Bermudez**, president, and **Chuck Ermer**, CEO, NeoPod does all the pre-fabrication of its modular restrooms for commercial projects across the nation right here in the Alamo City.

NeoPod has been here for about three years now on West Laurel, and its first project was the Texas A&M University Northside Residence Hall in College Station with just under 400 bathrooms going into that job.

Operations manager for San Antonio **Mike Fry**, who received his bachelor's of science from Texas A&M, has been with NeoPod for two years now. With his experience in electrical project management, Fry wears many hats at NeoPod including project manager, superintendent, and estimator.

"We build for dormitories, hospitals,

hotels, army barracks," Fry says, noting that they have started delivering their work to an Army barracks in Fort Carson, CO. "Any time you have a typical bathroom arrangement in a building."

Though they can do projects of any size, Fry explains that they like to take on larger orders, because with their type of construction, with higher quantities, they are able to make the process more efficient, which can, in turn, decrease the cost of each unit.

"They are all built specified to the project to meet the specs, the local codes, and the owner's desire as far as finishes go," he states. "We can build up to five per day. It all depends on how much work is needing to be done on each one."

After the modular restrooms are completed, Fry explains, "A coordinated installation is done, and it's typically performed by the general contractor or another sub on the job, most likely the dry-wall contractor." —mp