

# Performance analysis, training development and employee communications enable Waste Management to save over \$20 million annually

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## Maintenance improvement programs critical to successful company makeover strategy

In 2000, Waste Management, Inc. brought in a new executive team to redesign the enterprise. Simplifying and modernizing maintenance processes and management were a key element of the strategy. Daniel Follette, Inc. has been engaged by Fleet Services directors and area fleet vice-presidents to help with a broad range of maintenance initiatives.

### Addressing structural and reporting issues

Waste Management, Inc. has grown largely through merger and acquisition. As a result, the management team inherited numerous, inconsistent maintenance and management processes. Previous lives as independent entities also meant that locations were used to exercising a fair degree of autonomy. Two immediate management tasks were to institute standard maintenance processes and implement standard reporting. Daniel Follette, Inc. participated in these initiatives in a number of ways described below.

## Skill and incentive issues

The need for new skills and improved skills was also critical. Operations and maintenance personnel as well as managers needed to learn the new systems.

Clear definition of performance expectations and consequences for substandard performance were also needed. As the company defined these performance standards, personnel in every part of operations and maintenance would be expected to meet them. That, too, would require training.

The degree of autonomy operating units were used to made it harder to institute oversight. Also, because most site managers came from operations or marketing, they did not have exposure to maintenance and generally did not know how to discuss or manage maintenance.

Daniel Follette, Inc. applied diagnostic tools to these performance issues and provided measurement tools, monitoring processes, a wide range of training materials and communication pieces that touched every level of the organization.

#### **Representative programs**

The following programs are representative of Daniel Follette, Inc.'s work with Waste Management, Inc. The breadth of experience and capabilities of the firm enabled Waste Management, Inc. to complete a wide range of tasks through turnkey engagements with a single consultant. This also eliminated the need to educate multiple suppliers. The firm's experience designing and implementing safety programs was another important consideration.

## Fleet Pride

Fleet Pride is a training, monitoring and communications program designed to improve vehicle inspections and stem the incidence of



# Performance consulting

vehicle misuse/abuse. The program is estimated to save up to \$10 million per year. The concept and



all program materials were created by Daniel Follette, Inc. The program included advance communications to all managers and executives; a manager's program guide; a "quick start guide" to help managers set up and manage the system; videos; testing; and employee training agendas.

Fleet Pride was possibly the first training program to establish verification of training and consequences for performance. Daniel Follette, Inc. built a relational database to track completion and employee performance. The firm also collected the necessary data to identify all location personnel and link them to

their managers for tracking.

### Manager's Guide to Maintenance Management

Managers recognize that closer control of maintenance is essential to meeting their location budgets. They were frustrated because their lack of familiarity and comfort with maintenance prevented fully effective management. The *Managers Guide to Maintenance Management* was created to overcome this problem. It provided encapsulated descriptions of each maintenance processes and the important variables to track. Through it, managers were able to recognize that

#### FMSS and Compass

FMSS (Fleet Maintenance Statistical System) and its successor, Compass, are Web-based tools used by managers and site personnel to track and manage maintenance. Daniel Follette, Inc. wrote and designed the operations manual for FMSS. The firm also built an Access/Visual Basic database to view and validate data as other developers created the Compass Web tools.

# National conferences and corporate communications

Daniel Follette, Inc. provided scripting, speaker support, articles, graphics and consultation for several national events and ongoing corporate communications.

#### **Additional Information**

- For more information about defining critical enterprise competencies, request the white paper, *Strategic Repertoire Analysis*.
- For an enterprise view of operations competencies and training for E&P firms, request *How strategic personnel development can reduce operations costs*, a white paper by Daniel Follette that originally appeared in the *Oil & Gas Journal*, November 12, 2001.
- Daniel Follette, Inc. provides proprietary software and work processes for performance and work analysis, skill definition, training and procedures development. Detailed information about Repertoire<sup>™</sup> processes and SkillForge<sup>™</sup> software are available at www.Follette.com or by contacting us at 713 527-9787.

they did not have to understand the *details* of maintenance, but rather *how to manage the maintenance processes.* The program guide included a series of agendas to help managers begin discussion of maintenance management and institute regular communications with maintenance personnel.

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