



Most U.S. organizations understand that effective safety programs are needed to support employees and their work environments. But, many do not realize just how valuable EH&S investment can be for the well-being of the overall organization. According to OSHA, an effective safety program can provide a 400-600% return on investment. It's hard to argue with an ROI like that. One of our Colorado clients demonstrated exactly how this can be done. They proved that effective employee communication and resolution management can bring real EH&S improvement, reducing risk to both workers and the organization.

Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (MWRD) in Denver, Colorado operates wastewater treatment facilities for about 2 million people in metropolitan Denver and parts of northern Colorado. With over 400 employees, MWRD has a well-deserved reputation for commitment to the organization and "going the extra mile". MWRD has received numerous awards including the Grand Prize in 2017 for its South Secondary Treatment Project and in 2018 for the newly constructed Northern Treatment Plant. MWRD does not shy away from the drive for excellence.

When Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist, Sunny Bradford, wanted to upgrade the company EH&S incident management system, his team in partnership with MWRD's insurance pool, chose Sospes for innovative solutions that could meet the MWRD drive for excellence.

Sospes worked closely with Sunny and the MWRD implementation team to ensure the transition was seamless. With a solid understanding of MWRD processes and goals, the team developed a plan to quickly integrate Sospes into the MWRD day-to-day activities. The dedicated team effort combined with the intuitive Sospes platform provided for quick implementation and adoption across the entire organization.

*"Hazards are no longer ignored or go uncorrected. Now they are easily identified by employees, investigated and assigned with a due date. The tool has helped us become more efficient and safer."*

- Sunny Bradford



*Sospes' focus on employee engagement helps with communication across any organization. Critical environmental, health, and safety reporting is easily done by any employee at any time.*

MWRD employees quickly used the platform's observation reporting capability to improve safety. One such report included safety concerns with stormwater sampling. This collection process required MWRD operators to take river samples at locations that were not easily accessed during the harsh weather conditions of stormwater sampling. Not only was an MWRD employee able to easily report the concern, but the Sospes platform allowed her to submit both text and photographs to clearly document the risks inherent in the current practice.

The reporting capabilities of the Sospes system provided detailed notification directly to the responsible management team. The integrated workflow allowed for purposeful risk assessment, mitigation development, and resolution accountability. As a result, the MWRD team was able to identify the risk, collaborate on a resolution, and implement a new, safer method to collect stormwater samples within 2 months. The new sampler not only mitigated safety risk, but it also helped with overall process efficiency. This resulted in a better and safer sampling process.