

# THE ESPY *Newsletter*

JULY 2024

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## BLADE OF *Train!*

At our training center, we have a unique and inspiring way to celebrate the accomplishments of our participants: the "Blade of Train." This is a section of a wind turbine blade that we use for training. Each participant who completes their training with us gets to stick their name tag on the blade. The goal is to cover the entire blade with the name tags of all our successful participants, creating a visual testament to their hard work and achievements.

Every time a participant sticks their name tag to the blade, their achievement - the special occasion and proud moment - is captured with a photo.

This tradition fosters a sense of pride and belonging among our participants, as they can visibly see their contribution to the wind industry.

When participants return for refresher courses or advanced training, they can look back and see their name on the blade, reflecting on their growth and progress. It also becomes a moment of camaraderie as they spot names of friends, colleagues, and acquaintances in the field. The "Blade of Train" stands as a powerful symbol of dedication, achievement, and the ever-growing community of professionals committed to growing the wind industry.



# RESCUE KIT INSPECTIONS IN *Egypt!*



Juandr  Niemand, SP-Wind instructor and inspection technician, and the only certified Cresto rescue kit inspection and servicing technician in all of Africa, traveled to Egypt to conduct thorough inspections and servicing of rescue kits in wind turbines in Egypt. Having previously traveled to Egypt twice to facilitate training sessions, Juandr 's expertise and his insights are invaluable for understanding the critical role of rescue kit maintenance in ensuring the safety and efficiency of wind turbine operations. Below, Juandr  shares his experience in Egypt, safety challenges, and the importance of his work:

**What were some of the challenges you faced while working on wind farms in Egypt?**

*The language barriers, the extreme heat in summer and high wind speeds.*

**How did the local team in Egypt support your work, and what was it like collaborating with them?**

*I've been to Egypt three times, with different groups, and everyone has always been very helpful and supportive and they always want to know when I'm coming back.*

**Were there any unique safety considerations you had to keep in mind while working in Egypt?**

*Yes, snakes and scorpions. There are also wild dogs running around - some of them are very aggressive.*

**How did this trip compare to your previous trips to Egypt? Did you do the same type of work last time?**

*My first two trips to Egypt were for training. Both my first and second trip were to facilitate training - first BST and second ART. My last trip was to inspect*

*and re-vacuum seal 7 Cresto rescue kits that were opened at customs in Egypt.*

**Can you explain what Cresto rescue kit inspections and servicing entails for those who might not be familiar with it? What specific tasks did you perform during the inspection and servicing of the rescue kits?**

*Inspections are done to check for damage to the rescue device, ropes, slings and all the other accessories. In Egypt I inspected all 7 rescue kits that were opened by customs and I repacked and re-vacuum sealed all.*

**What are some common issues you encounter during rescue kit inspections, and how do you address them?**

*Often the ropes are far too long for the wind turbine generator (WTG). For example, when the hub of the WTG is 65m, but the rope in the rescue kit is 150m long, that would be a major risk*



for the technicians working in that turbine in the event of an emergency where the rescue kit needs to be used.

completed the rescue kit is vacuum sealed and a new inspection sticker and seals are added.

meet a lot of new people and make new friends. You also see how things work differently in other countries.

**How important are regular inspections and servicing of rescue kits for the safety of wind turbine technicians?**

It is very important to do a vacuum inspection once a year by a competent person that is trained by the manufacturer. I am a Cresto Level 3 competent person that can inspect and service all the Cresto rescue kits in the whole of Africa. Only a competent person is certified to do a vacuum inspection and pass or fail the equipment. After the inspection, it needs to be labeled with a new inspection sticker and the box needs to be sealed. If the bag is not vacuum sealed it needs to be removed from the WTG immediately.

Servicing needs to be conducted every 10 years from the date of manufacture of the kit. During servicing the following is done: the rope, slings, bolts that holds the covers of the rescue device together, the seals in the inside, the pulley and the brake pads are replaced, and the gear and shaft are greased. When the service is

**How was your overall experience travelling to Egypt for wind industry work? Do you enjoy travelling and do you find it rewarding? What do you enjoy most about travelling for work?**

My work experience in Egypt is always good. The people are friendly. We always stay in beautiful resorts where we can relax next to the red sea or swimming pools after a long day of work in the heat. I enjoy traveling for work because you

**What advice would you give to other technicians who might be interested in traveling abroad for work in the wind industry?**

Be prepared to work long hours in extreme and/or unfamiliar weather conditions. Be prepared for long drives to and back from site, and also the challenge of language barriers. If you get the opportunity, go for it, it is worth it. Make it count and also go and enjoy the experience. **SP**



# Meet Jessica! NEW TEAM MEMBER



Meet Jessica, communications and back-office, our newest team member at SP-Wind! Learn more about her Basic Safety Training experience and her first month at SP-Wind!

**What did you study or what training do you have in your field?**

*I did the Professional Diploma in Graphic Design through Shaw Academy online during lockdown because I had a lot of free time on my hands and decided to do something to further my skills and passion in art and design.*

**What work experience do you have in your field?**

*I worked as a Graphic Designer at a local agency where I created*

*graphics for in-store media panels to promote bimonthly promotions and specials. I was also in charge of a few local chain store social media pages for 3 years.*

**What do you enjoy most about your role and working at SP-Wind?**

*I enjoy creating exciting content for social media as well as meeting new people and learning about their experiences in the wind industry.*

**How was your first month working at SP-Wind? What has been the highlight or favourite moment?**

*My first month at SP-Wind has been such a blast. Everyday is different and exciting and the team is so welcoming and friendly.*

**What is different about your role and working for SP-Wind in comparison to your past working experience in your field?**

*Content creation is always different. With so much happening at SP-Wind in just one week, I have so much to play with creatively to create exciting*

*content for people who don't always see what goes on behind the scenes at the. Each day is never the same.*

**What training did you do and how was your overall experience of the training?**

*I did the Basic Safety Training in my first month working at SP-Wind. I enjoyed learning about new things about safety in regard to working in the Wind Industry. I looked forward to doing the Fire Awareness and First Aid part of the course as it's training that I have been dreaming of doing for a long time.*

**How has the training helped you in your current role?**

*It has helped me understand how to work safely at heights which leads me to be able to create accurate content for social media.*

**What is the most interesting thing you have learned so far about the wind industry?**

*Wind Turbines are more complex than what they seem to be. It's not just a tall tower and 3 blades, but a wind turbine consists of about 8,000 different components. **SP***

