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Subject: Re: Regaining Momentum

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 00:43:31 GMT

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Brains and Callie had gone on to try and find the recovery system that vented the methane gas away from the buildings. They located a stairwell that seemed to be going in the right direction, but it was blocked. A small aftershock then hit, and some of the material partly fell away, revealing an opening. So, carefully, they went down. They found a wide hallway, filled with debris, but negotiable.

Slowly they made their way, checking the rooms on either side, until they found what they were looking for.. But they instantly knew it was hopeless to try and get it going.

"I don't believe this, Ursa. This machine is a pile of junk. If I didn't know better, I'd say it was one of the original machines from the last century. It looks like someone was trying to save some money at the expense of people's lives. Or siphon off money for himself."

"I hate to think that of anyone, Einstein," Callie replied, "but I'd have to say that, in this instance, you're right. I can't imagine how they got this past the inspectors." She moved to one side, squatted down to peer past some of the debris. "But the beams and cement have crushed what looks like a very essential part of it, so old or not, it's useless. We're going to have to find another way of getting the methane out of here."

"What did the readings you took say again?"

Callie rechecked. "Very high. The last reading had it at 460 parts per thousand, and climbing rapidly."

"Then we need to act fast." Brains tapped his communicator. "Mobile Base from Einstein."

"Go ahead, Einstein."

"The device to vent the methane away is useless. It is both old, and badly damaged. We're going to need the Excavator to unblock the tunnels in as many locations as we can, and perhaps the Laser Truck to bore several holes into them from above. And we need to do it as fast as possible. Our readings indicate a high count of methane gas there, and it's rising rapidly."

"Tynan and Sweet have the Excavator and, I believe, have unblocked the tunnels in at least two locations already. The Laser Truck is standing by. Return here, and we'll figure out where the best places to poke the holes would be. We need to make it fast. Indy has informed me that both some thunderstorms and either another quake or a large aftershock is due within the next hour or two."

Damn! That's all we need. "F-A-B, Maverick. We're on our way." Brains cut communications, looked over at Callie and said, "Let's move. Every second counts."

As quickly as they could, they made their way back to the surface, then headed back to Mobile control.

