

# GARS Operations Newsletter

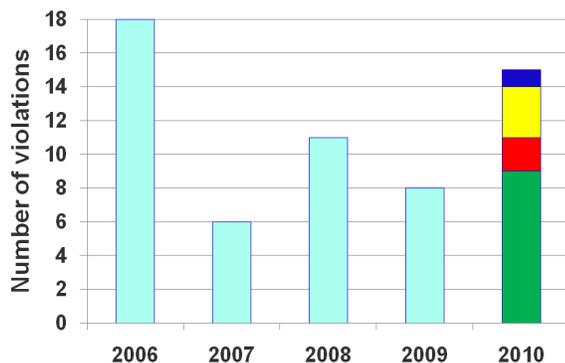
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

December, 2010



## BNL Traffic Safety

As we rush about our busy days it is important to remember to obey the speed limit. GARS and the Environmental Sciences Department have doubled the total number of



violations this year. BNL has a new Traffic Policy that is in effect and for all Parking and Level One Moving Violations (e.g., exceeding speed limit 1-15 mph, failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign) a conference with the ALD, Supervisor, and the Offender is required; for Guests a conference with the ALD is required. Level Two Violations (e.g., exceeding the speed limit 16—25 mph) require more actions such as Driver Training, a meeting with Human Resources, and a Warning letter to file. Level Three, well let's just say that you definitely do not want to exceed the speed limit by > 25 mph or drive under the influence because that can result in suspension without pay and, depending on the severity, termination from BNL. Please re-

member to drive safely and park in designated areas. For more information on this policy please refer to the SBMS Traffic Safety Subject Area: [https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/128/128\\_SA.cfm?parentID=128](https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/128/128_SA.cfm?parentID=128)

## Safety Solutions and Pollution Prevention Proposals



Past winner—After seeing a cyclist at night without headlights a S2 was submitted to obtain sets at the BERA store and stock item



Past P2 winner—Replacement of oil-driven pumps with dry pumps to eliminate oil

Put on your thinking caps! There is a combined total of \$40,000 this year for all S2 and P2 projects. Submission of any size project is encouraged (there is no maximum limit) as other funding sources may be available to assist in implementing good ideas. The web page that describes the guidelines and submission process for **S2** projects is: [http://www.bnl.gov/esh/shsd/OHSAS/S2\\_homepage.asp](http://www.bnl.gov/esh/shsd/OHSAS/S2_homepage.asp) Submissions must be made by 01/30/11. **P2** proposals are due by 1/15/11; for more information go to: [http://www.bnl.gov/ewms/pollutionpreve/P2\\_ROI.asp](http://www.bnl.gov/ewms/pollutionpreve/P2_ROI.asp) Your ESH Coordinators (Pat Carr, x7192 and Linda Bowerman, x4265), SHSD Rep. (Mary Chuc, x2711), ECR (Joy Haskins, x7898) will be happy to assist with the preparation of proposals.



## GARS Funding Highlight

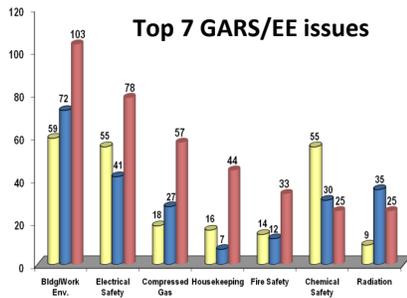
GARS received Funding Guidance from DOE - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) for \$500K to initiate research in FY 2011 using data from the Long Island Solar Farm being constructed on the BNL campus. This is an important milestone since it establishes BNL as a participant in the EERE Solar Energy Technologies Program.



## HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS!

Welcome to Christel Colon, SPHR, Human Resources Generalist for the GARS, BES and ELS Directorates.

# Safety Inspections



Every year Research Operations performs quarterly lab ESH inspections (otherwise known as Tier 1s) to look for potential safety hazards. At the end of the year, we review the data and look for trends and ways to improve. This year we noticed a significant increase in the top four categories: Bldg./Work Environment (e.g., postings), Electrical Safety, Compressed Gas, and Housekeeping. To help reduce future issues while working in the labs, please remember if there are changes in personnel and/or hazards many of the door postings need to be updated (contact RO x2746 to update HIPs); compressed gases need to be secured and status tags displayed; keep your work areas neat, remove objects from exit routes, and remember to have non-NRTL or modified electrical equipment inspected prior to use.

# Unattended Chemical Experiments



A tube filled with a toxic chemical burst during an overnight heating process. No guidance was left for responders

A recent event at BNL has resulted in new instructions for **Unattended Chemical Experiments**. Do not leave hazardous operations unattended, outside normal business hours, without the consent of the PI or designee. The PI determines if there is a need to complete the form for the experimental operations. A completed form identifies the hazards and a set of emergency actions/shutdown steps. The form should be posted at the main entrance to the experimental area. If others are in the lab while you are out of the area, inform them of the hazards and any precautions to be taken. For more information please contact your ESH Coordinators (Linda Bowerman, x4265 or Pat Carr, x7192) or go to the SBMS Subject Area Chemical Safety—Unattended Chemical Experiment Form and Instructions ([https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/120/120\\_Exh28.cfm?ExhibitID=7506](https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/120/120_Exh28.cfm?ExhibitID=7506))

# Holiday Safety



General rules: Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children, or better yet, use flameless candles. Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home and PRACTICE THE PLAN! Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous; flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room. Look to eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections. Decorations are for temporary use; take down decorations as early as possible to prevent corrosion of wires and other safety hazards. See the Consumer Product Safety Commission Holiday Safety Tips Brochure at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/holpubs.html>

# Principal Investigator Reminder

We would like to thank you for attending the Principal Investigator Orientations on November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. As a part of the new GARS Directorate structure, a Principal Investigator will be granted Tier III(a) up to \$5,000 Signature Authority for each of his/her current projects. Prior to being granted Signature Authority, you are required to successfully complete the web course, "Signature and Release Authorities Training (TQ- SIGAUTHORITY)", which is accessible by going to the BNL Web Training Center.



**Happy Holidays from Research and Business Operations!**