

GARS ESH Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

April, 2010

EARTH DAY - April 22, 2010



We can all take part in the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day this week as BNL celebrates EARTH WEEK 2010 (<http://www.bnl.gov/ewms/eday/>). Activities include Environmental Displays at Berkner (April 19 – 23) and the Environmental Pledge Tree at the Research Support Bldg. (April 22-23). This year's focus is on sustainability in the workplace and home, and pledges will incorporate many of the President's new Executive Orders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy. Learn how each of us can help BNL reach its goals. All donations will be forwarded to the Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast (FERN), a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance habitats in the Northeast through research and education. Great giveaways will be available! For more information, contact Jason Remien, Ext. 3477.

EMS/OHSAS Re-certification Audit - May 3 –7, 2010



Every three years BNL is audited by our Third Party Registrar (NSF) for Recertification to our Environmental, and Safety & Health Management Systems, ISO EMS 14001 and OHSAS 18001, respectively. An Audit Team of four people will be here for one week. One team member will be spending Wednesday 5/5 interviewing GARS Staff and walking through our areas. The Auditor will be looking for evidence of folks doing what we say we do, for example following the SBMS Subject Areas. You can anticipate being asked to explain the environmental, safety and health aspects of your work and the consequences that could result from working outside of established controls. Employees are expected to be familiar with the BNL ESSH Policy and to explain how ES&H information flows through your line organization. For anyone who would like to brush-up on their EMS & OSH Facts, a one page PRIMER will be available on the Research Operations Web Page next week (<http://www.bnl.gov/gars/resops/>). For any questions, or if you would like information please contact your EMS & OSH REPS: Pat Carr or Linda Bowerman.

ESSH Policy – is on the BNL Web Page (<http://www.bnl.gov/eshq/ESSH.asp>) and is posted in all GARS buildings. This policy sets the stage for excellence in research & operations while incorporating safety into operations & activities. The Principles called out are: Environment; Safety; Security; Health; Compliance; Community; and Continual Improvement.

ESH Objectives & Targets - Every year GARS develops Objectives & Targets (O&T) to drive continual improvement in our ES&H Program.



It is almost that time again...for our Summer Students. So here is a little reminder - Hosts must ensure that prior to their arrival all students have their required Training & Qualification identified on their New Employee Orientation Form – and for those doing laboratory research that the Work Planning Documents (ESR, WP, RWP) must be listed on the Form. Sponsors must notify the Student to complete all Required Training prior to arrival (except on-site classroom training). This provides for a less stressful first day and allows the students to get started with less delay.



GARS Housekeeping Project Update

We kicked off GARS Housekeeping Days last month in Building 830. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this effort a success! Many items (including the bathtub) were recycled, and hazardous/rad waste materials were segregated and are ready for disposal. Still to come – Bldg. 130 scheduled for 5/12, Bldg. 197 on 5/19, and Bldg. 526 scheduled for the first week of May.

Safety Alert - Fans Gone Wild



When the temperatures soared above 90°F, an employee of the Energy Sciences and Technology Department turned on a fan that had been stored in the office over the winter. At the moment the fan was powered on the plastic blades shattered. Luckily, the employee was not injured and reported the incident to GARS ESH Coordinators immediately. The fan was only a year old and the employee returned it to the point of purchase for a store refund. A search on the internet for recalls of this fan or for other similar incidents did not turn up any information for this Optimus fan model F166-FD. The manufacturer was notified and alerted to this potential problem. When turning on fans, be sure to check and make sure the blades are on securely and the fan guards are in place. Avert your face to avoid

any flying objects when the power switch is turned on. For more information on recalls or to report a defective or unsafe product go to The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Office Kitchen Etiquette



During the Safety Stand-down staff asked “Do the BNL Custodians clean kitchens &/or refrigerators?” The Answer: NO. The kitchens and refrigerators are a convenience for staff and it is the responsibility of staff to maintain them in a clean and safe manner. Custodians will sweep/mop the floors, but keeping the counters and appliances clean is up to us. Please be considerate of your co-workers and clean-up after yourself; wash your dishes, clean –up spills, etc. Ensure food stored in the refrigerator is in closed containers or wrapped and disposed of before it spoils/smells. One suggestion is to either designate a responsible person or to rotate the chore(s).

Drinking Water at BNL



Environmental Protection data shows that the drinking water in GARS buildings meets drinking water standards. Bottled water dispensers are not justified based on our water quality, but may be justified in areas not serviced by BNL water. Managers may opt to purchase dispensers. Two of the main safety & health issues concerning the dispensers are:

- **Replacing Water Bottles** – The 40 pound water bottles can be unwieldy. Always request assistance if you feel uncertain about lifting and turning the bottle.
- **Cleaning Dispensers** – Periodic cleaning is required. For cleaning instructions refer to the following Fact Sheet: <http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/water/cooler.htm>

If you are concerned about the water coming from the building plumbing the recommended procedure is to flush water from the faucet for 1 to 3 minutes, or until the water is noticeably colder and use only cold water for drinking and cooking.

For more information on drinking water please refer to the SBMS subject area at the following web site: https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/16/16_SA.cfm?parentID=16 or <http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/water/cooler.htm>



Radiation Training Update:

All personnel who are currently qualified for General Employee Radiological Training (GERT) or Radiological Worker 1 are required to complete the web course TQ-10CFR835-UPDATE by June 1st, 2010. This course informs a qualified worker, of changes to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that controls radiological work at DOE facilities. The CFR mandates that all employees are notified of changes to the regulations.



Reminder—Electrical Safety

Extension cords should not be daisy chained (no more than one extension cord should be plugged into an outlet to the equipment that is in use). If cords cross a walkway or aisle then the cords should have a protective cover. Cords should be inspected for damage and removed from service when damage is found. Multi-outlet strips should not be permanently installed and should not be dangling to reach the equipment in use.