

# GARS ESH Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

July, 2010

**RO Welcomes - Sallie Crick** to our staff. Sallie joined the group last month and will be working on Tier I Inspections, Property Management and a whole lot more. She can be reached at x2746

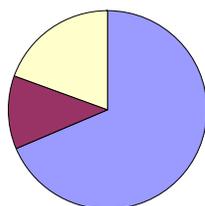
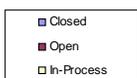
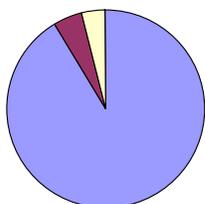
## Some Like It Hot!



Record breaking Heat in July! Did you know that BNL provides environmental monitoring for Heat Stress conditions in the late spring, summer, and early fall. These notifications can alert workers of environmental conditions that make them susceptible to heat stress when mixed with strenuous work. For updates on heat stress alerts go to: <http://www.bnl.gov/esh/shsd/ih/exec/heat.asp>.

## GARS Check List Update – July, 2010

RO



F&amp;O

Progress continues to be made as we work our way down the Action Item Lists that were compiled from the checklists submitted after the Safety Stand Down last December. Over 90% of the Research Operations action items have been completed. The remaining RO action items: 5 open items in Building 815 will be addressed in FY11 as part of the Lab Housekeeping Project and four items are in process (1 item to be purchased, 1 item awaiting P2 result and 2 residual housekeeping items in Bldg. 830). Facility and Operations also continues to make good progress and has completed over 80% of the items on their list. By the end of CY 2010, Research Operations hopes to close out both action item lists. If you have any questions about an item that you submitted please feel free to contact Research Operations (x4265). Your input continues to improve conditions and further reduces risk for our staff. Please keep forwarding your ideas and concerns to your ESH Coordinators.

## GARS Housekeeping Project Update



B. 526 Cleanup

The GARS Housekeeping Days for FY10 have been completed in Buildings 130, 197, 830, and 526. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this effort a success! As a result of the clean-up in Bldg. 830 there were several of Spotlight Awards given out to the key participants: Tom Roberts (NN, Building Manager), Lou Gerlach (RO, Alt. Bldg. Mgr.), (Larry Milian (EE, previous Building Manager), Joy Haskins and Joe Pavlak (Environmental Protection Division). Congratulations to all! Your efforts made the clean up safe and efficient.



## Global Cooling

Some ways to stay cool and “save energy” - Shade sunny windows with awnings or cover with curtains, blinds, or shades or cover windowpanes with low emissivity films to reduce unwanted solar heat.

Plug cell phones, MP3 players or cameras into a solar charger. Portable Solar Chargers can power many hand held devices anywhere, anytime for many hours. To conserve your own energy just put up your feet and relax with some ice cold lemonade...cause its best that way . . .

# Laptop Battery Collection—Update



The laptop battery collection boxes have been removed from the buildings and a total of **35** Lithium batteries and **20** Nickel Metal Hydride batteries were collected. Thanks to all for making the removal of a potential fire hazard a success. If you have additional laptop batteries to be collected please contact Joy Haskins (x7898) for assistance.

## Two Lessons Learned



**LITHIUM BATTERIES** — There was a small fire that self extinguished in a piece of equipment being tested at the RADTEC Facility (detectors were designed/built by another Laboratory). One of the ARAM detectors appeared charred and smelled burnt. The apparent cause was the internal Li battery overheated. The battery was rated to 104 °F but the temperature inside the casing was probably hotter. When designing new equipment, remember to check the temperature range of any rechargeable batteries and ensure that adequate ventilation or heat sinks are available to dissipate excess heat.



**INSPECT EQUIPMENT** — A guest researcher struck the top of her foot against the edge of a dolly holding equipment. The guest reported to OMC and then SBU Hospital where she received several sutures. This homemade piece of equipment was brought into the lab in an effort to minimize the risk of back injury associated with moving equipment. Unfortunately, introducing the dolly to the lab added a new hazard that was not identified. As an immediate corrective action, the cart edges were padded. Remember to inspect all equipment prior to use for any potential hazards. Remember that whenever making a change – consider if you have introduced/increased risk in another area.

## Safety Communication and New Ideas



Driving on a road that bulged down its center, Dr. McCarroll noticed that the bulge helped to keep motorists on their own side of the road and that gave her an idea. She tried persuading the town council to "paint a line down the middle of the road" to set an example and "lead the nation in public safety." She got the typical bureaucratic response. Not taking take no for an answer, she took her idea to the local women's club. The vote was unanimous in support of the project. For seven long years, she continued to face opposition before her idea was implemented. In 1924 the California Highway Commission agreed to experiment with a centerline on Route 99. Accidents on both test stretches diminished dramatically, and soon the entire state boasted McCarroll lines on its highways. **Message:** When you conceive an idea in which you fervently believe, go after that idea, especially if people you respect believe it's a good one. Adapted by Pat Carr from *Something To Smile About* by Zig Ziglar. Published in 1997 by Thomas Nelson Publishers.

**Safety** makes science possible at Brookhaven National Laboratory

### Footwear Requirements

Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Shoes in Laboratories, Shops, & Industrial Areas

ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE	WHY?
		Openings in front and back
		Openings in front and back
		Openings in front and back
		High top, high and insufficient coverage in front
		High top, high and not a closed toe

Note: Safety toe shoes or other footwear may be required in certain areas.

## PPE and Chemical Safety

Summer is the ideal time to review proper attire for working in laboratories. When working with chemicals in the lab, all skin should be protected from exposure. Most lab workers are aware of the benefits of proper PPE in the form of lab coats, gloves, and safety glasses, but did you know your personal clothing is actually your last line of defense against chemical or biological exposure? Long pants and closed toed shoes cover areas of the body that lab coats do not protect. In the event of a dropped and broken bottle, your clothing may provide your only protection against exposure. Shorts, sandals and other open toed shoes are not allowed for this reason. Ideally, shoes should be of an impermeable substance such as leather instead of cloth. Skirts must be long enough to cover the legs completely (Note: tights/pantyhose are not considered adequate leg covering).