

Site Wide Issues

Fire Safety Updates

Brookhaven National Laboratory

December 2002

Topics

- Heat Detector Failures
- Fire Sprinkler Recall
- Site Fire Alarm System Front End Replacement
- Delayed Calls to Fire/Rescue

Heat Detectors

- Heat Detectors used for property protection, not life safety
- 6,000 on site, 140 buildings
- Destructive testing found eutectic alloy not responding quickly enough
- Results in larger fires, more damage
- Manufacturer & UL investigating 
- 5 year, \$1.25 Million corrective action



Sprinkler Recall

- Notified by Consumer Product Safety Commission newsletter of recalls
- PE survey 99 Buildings, inventorying all sprinkler heads
- 7 Buildings Identified (partial or total)
(120M, 129, 244, 257, 477, 725, 860)
- BNL facilities are low on the manufacturer's recall priority list
- Factors (new installations, water quality, low water pressures) make them low risks of failure at BNL facilities



Site Fire Alarm System

- Fire Alarm System's main computers are 1987 vintage
- Replacement equipment scarce
- New equipment not supported by older operating system and BIOS
- Vendor terminated formal support of equipment in 2001
- Capital Equipment funded FY03 (\$1M)
- Completion date 12/03

Delayed Calls to Fire/Rescue

- Recent delayed calls on small fires (cutting welding operation, power supply failure)
- Recent smell of smoke with no call for hours
- Note: Most large fires involve delay calls to the fire department
- Lessons learned developed



The “Global” View

Delayed response from detectors
+ Delayed response from sprinklers
+ Delayed response from occupants
= Loss of a facility

Requested action:

*Encourage Employees to call
911 whenever in doubt*

