

EENS ESH Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

January, 2009



Even if the fire is under control or has been put out, it must be reported to Fire Rescue for evaluation (x2222 or 911).



Event Reporting

All staff must report abnormal events that they perceive may endanger the health and safety of staff or the public, have an adverse effect on the environment, seriously impact the operations and intended purpose of BNL facilities, result in loss or damage of property, or adversely affect national security or the security interests of DOE or BNL. Recently there have been a few events within the Directorate that left people questioning what should be done or reported (e.g., trash can fires, sounding of monitors/alarms, chemical odors in buildings, etc.). All fires must be reported and always report any event or condition of concern to your Supervisor as soon as practical (if unavailable, to the next higher level of management) or ES&H Coordinator who will notify the Department Chair/Division Manager as appropriate. If there is any question or doubt please call your ESH Coordinators immediately (Linda Bowerman x4265 or Pat Carr x7192). The Occurrence Categorizer can be reached via cell phone at 631-433-0443 and they will determine if the event is DOE reportable. All events must be reported within 24 hours of the occurrence. If the event is reportable, a report is prepared and sent to DOE within 48 hours.



Pollution Prevention (P2)

The deadline for FY09 P2 proposals is January 30. The P2 Council reviews submitted proposals from BNL staff that will reduce waste, improve recycling, conserve resources and save money. If you have ideas that will significantly reduce waste and reduce disposal costs, contact Pat Carr (your EMS Rep at 7192) or Joy Adams (your ECR at 7898) for assistance developing ideas/proposals. Past P2 winners can be found at: <http://dev.bnl.gov/ewms/pollutionpre/CostSavings.asp>.

P2 Suggestions for Labs: Upgrade instruments or move to automation to conserve energy and chemical resources, use of capillary columns instead of larger diameter columns in GCs or HPLC equipment, use of dry pumps instead of those requiring oil, diaphragm pumps instead of water circulation. Replacement of benzene or carbon tetrachloride with less hazardous solvents.



Part of BNL's policy for maintaining a safe working environment.

Reminder: Safety Observations

Line Managers are required to make quarterly safety observations with the objective of reducing risk and eliminating potential injury to all staff. There is now a link to the BNL Safety Observation Database on the EENS Research Operations Webpage: <http://www.bnl.gov/eens/resops/>



SHSD Representative: Nancy Felock (x2319) is our new SHSD Rep. and will be assisting the Directorate with Industrial Hygiene concerns such as chemical monitoring and ergonomics and Industrial Safety concerns such as electrical, pressure and compressed gases.



Stop Slips, Trips and Falls

When weather is bad make sure you wear the proper footwear so you do not end up falling & hurt yourself. Remember your shoes are warm when you are in the building. The minute you walk outside when there is snow & ice, you are more susceptible to fall because the soles of your shoes are warm. Specific behaviors lead to slips, trips and falls. Walking too fast or running causes one foot to land harder on the heel of the front foot & pushes harder off the sole of the rear foot. Rapid changes in direction create similar problems. Other problems are: distractions, not watching where one is going, carrying materials that obstruct view and failure to use handrails. Proper housekeeping, well designed traffic patterns and the use of abrasive skid resistant coatings reduce risks of slips, trips and falls. Inspect all working and walking surfaces, ensuring good housekeeping and lighting. Ensure personnel use handrails on stairs, and those that climb ladders have hands free. Report any issues such as uneven walking surfaces, loose/unsecured rugs or mats, uncovered cables in walkways, obstructed views to your supervisor, ESH Coordinator or Building Manager.



Hazards of Snow Shoveling

Shoveling can be hard work, only 2 minutes of shoveling raises the heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate significantly. For individuals with chronic disease such as heart disease, older individuals and sedentary individuals these increases can be dangerous. Persons with emphysema & asthma are also at risk as cold air constricts respiratory passages. Remember to keep some ice melt on hand to throw on your doorstep. Store your shovel & broom close to the door. Sometimes it is easier to sweep the snow away than to shovel it. Before you go out, warm-up your shoveling muscles by jogging in place or climbing stairs. Outside stand with your feet hip-width apart & with your knees slightly bent. Hold the shovel close to your body & keep your back straight as you bend at the knees (holding a shovel of snow with arms outstretched puts too much weight on your spine). Push the snow as you shovel if possible as it is easier on your back than lifting the snow. Scoop small amounts of snow & walk to where you want to dump it - do not throw the snow. Do not work to the point of exhaustion. If you feel tightness in your chest stop immediately.

Asbestos Survey



The BNL Steam Shop is conducting a survey of all occupied spaces on site to determine location, condition and labeling of asbestos or non-asbestos insulating materials. If you have any questions about this activity, contact your Building Manager.

Reminder



All building occupants should lock their offices when leaving for extended periods, and their buildings at the end of the day (especially weekends and holidays).



ESSH Issues, Concerns, Suggestions?

For any environmental, safety, security or health questions, please feel free to contact EENS Research Ops (x2746) or use the RO Feedback Form: <http://www.bnl.gov/eens/resops/feedback/>