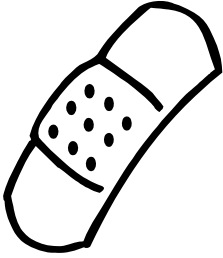


# EENS ESH Newsletter

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## April is Injury Prevention Month

Injuries are costly in both human and economic terms. Employees that are injured often pay a heavy price – as injuries can be painful, disabling, and even fatal. There is also the economic cost, which results in workers' comp claims, lost productivity, and lots more. Anything we can do to prevent job injuries is time and money well spent.

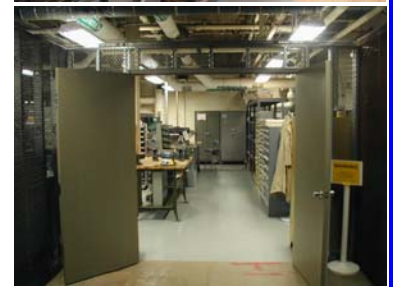
**Safety experts say that more than 80 percent of all job accidents are caused by things we do. As we all know, failing to take precautions can be just as dangerous as actively taking risks. Unsafe acts may be committed for a variety of reasons such as:** Lack of appreciation for the risks; Lack of knowledge of proper safety procedures; Rushing and working too fast; Complacency; Fatigue; Indifference to the safety rules; Attitudes such as believing that accidents only happen to other people are some examples. The other factor behind workplace injuries is unsafe conditions. With our workplace conditions often changing, we need to be always on the alert for new and different hazards that could arise anywhere, at any time.

What you can do:

- Inspect your work area, materials, and equipment for safety every day before you start working.
- Plan jobs, identify hazards/risks, and anticipate anything that could go wrong.
- Keep alert for anything that doesn't look, smell, or "feel" right.
- Cooperate with co-workers to plan and coordinate jobs to ensure safety—yours and theirs.
- Give your work your full attention.
- Avoid becoming complacent or taking shortcuts, no matter how many times you've done a job or how many years of experience you have.
- Ask - any time you're unsure about a hazard or a precaution—or if you uncover a problem you're not able to deal with alone.

## 815 Machine Shop

The Occupational Readiness Evaluation has been completed and the 815 Machine Shop will soon be ready for use. Rob Doty and Lou Gerlach have done a great job arranging for the Machine Shop to be moved to the basement of 815. This is a permanent move and the machines have been arranged to occupy the same footprint that was set-up in the D-wing. The cabinets and miscellaneous items have also been organized and the lighting in the new shop is better than before. Yusuf Celebi is still the Shop Supervisor and you will need to be on the Official Machine Shop User List for access. For entry, you must ask Yusuf Celebi, Lou Gerlach, or Rick Wilke to open the door. There won't be an official ribbon cutting ceremony but Research Ops will let Machine Shop Users know when the shop is open for business. You can pester Lou (x2910) for more information.





## Earth Day 2009

BNL is celebrating Earth Day all of next week with a variety of activities (<http://www.bnl.gov/ewms/eday/>). EENS scientist Alistair Rogers, a Plant Physiologist, will be giving an Earth Day Lecture on "Global Change and the Terrestrial Biosphere." (April 22, 4:00pm, Berkner Auditorium). Terrestrial ecosystems sustain life on Earth through the production of food, fuel, fiber, clean air, and naturally purified water. But how will agriculture and ecosystems be affected by global change? Rogers will describe the impact of projected climate change on the terrestrial biosphere and explain why plants are not just passive respondents to global change, but play an important role in determining the rate of change. Also EENS researcher Jim Higgins suggested the idea of a BNL photo for staff with Hybrid Cars. Look for the photo in an upcoming Bulletin.

## Green Tax Rebates



It's too late tax year '08, but for a bigger refund next year consider taking advantage of very special local and federal '09 offers for going green. **Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency** (<http://www.dsireusa.org/>)- state- and municipal-level motivators for upping your energy efficiency; **Energy Star** ([http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits)) an up-to-date listing of available federal incentives for energy improvements.



## Spill Response

Releases that meet any of the following criteria must be reported to Fire/Rescue by calling extension 911 or 2222: Unexpected releases of oil, hazardous substances, or radioactive materials thought or known to have entered a sink or drain or suspected to have impacted the environment (even a few drops spilled to the soil or a waterway must be reported); Any hazardous material spill where the staff member's actions would result in exposures to chemicals above established safety limits; Spills where the staff member believes that he/she possesses neither appropriate equipment nor training to mitigate the incident (e.g., all mercury spills need to be called-in because Fire Rescue has the vacuum to clean up the spill); Airborne releases of hazardous materials or spills that result or are likely to result in an uncontrolled release of the hazardous material. If a release occurs during routine operations and staff determines that the release has not caused an impact to soil, a waterway, or air, and will not result in exposure to personnel, then staff do not have to call for outside assistance provided that all of the following conditions are met: The spill is onto an impermeable surface; The material spilled is not a highly toxic or highly volatile material like methylene chloride; The person responding to the spill has appropriate training and materials to clean up the spill; The volume spilled is less than five gallons (petroleum-based products); The spill is cleaned up immediately. For assistance or answers to questions, please call your Environmental Compliance Rep, Joy Adams (x7898) or your Environmental, Safety and Health Coordinators, Pat Carr (x7192) or Linda Bowerman (x4265).



## Emergency Exits

**Exit routes must be:** Kept unobstructed - No materials or equipment should ever be placed within the exit route. They must be maintained during construction, repairs, or alterations and adequately lighted so that an employee with normal vision can see along the exit route. Routes must be arranged so that employees will not have to travel toward a high-hazard area, or effectively shielded from the high-hazard area. If you see Exit routes that are obstructed, please contact your Building Manager or your ESH Coordinator ( Pat Carr (x7192) or Linda Bowerman (x4265)) for assistance to correct the situation.



## ESSH Issues, Concerns, Suggestions?

Any questions, please feel free to contact EENS Research Operations (x2746) or use the RO Feedback Form (anonymously if desired): <http://www.bnl.gov/eens/resops/feedback/>

If you observe an unsafe condition and would like to report it, call the "ESH HOTLINE" ext. **8800**.