



Life Sciences Directorate ES&H News Letter

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Tier 1 Safety Inspection Results for FY '08

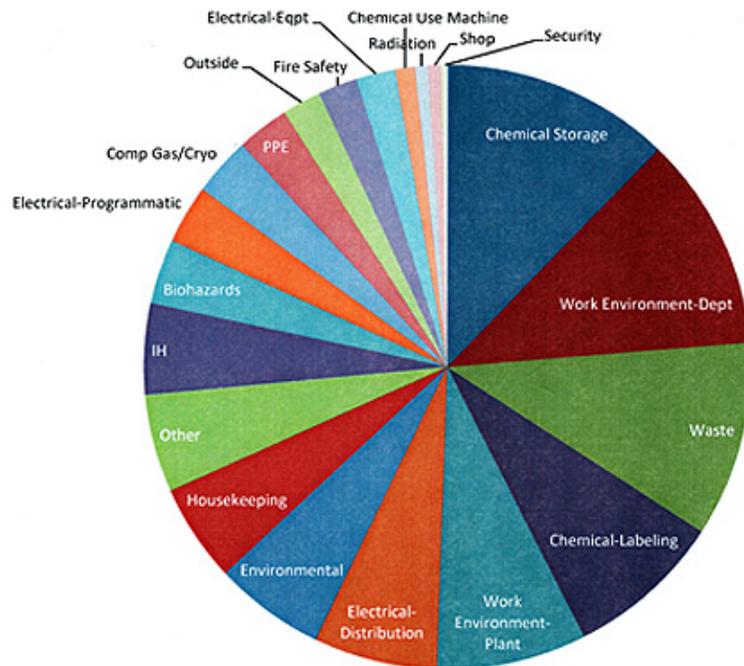
By Bob Colichio

Listed below is the breakdown of the total findings which were identified during Tier 1 Safety Inspections for FY '08.

The top 5 categories of findings were:

- Chemical Safety (Storage)
- Open/unattended sharps containers
- Chemical Safety (Labeling)
- Electrical Safety
- General Working Environment
- Housekeeping

Descriptions of some of the findings are listed below the chart



92% of Tier 1 Inspection Findings were corrected on the spot !

Chemical Safety Storage:

- Incompatibles being stored together (ie; Nitric and Sulfuric Acid) also chemicals being stored “alphabetically” which may put incompatibles next to each other.
- Loose or damaged caps
- Corrosive liquids being stored on shelves above eye level
- No secondary containment for liquids
- Outdated peroxide testing

Open/unattended sharps containers:

- Sharps containers have the round spin wheel in the constant open position.
- Cover not tightly snapped closed

Chemical Safety Labeling:

- Unlabeled bottles, jars, wash bottles and dispensers
- Labels faded to the point of being unreadable
- Use of chemical symbols instead of the chemical name

Electrical Safety:

- Frayed or damaged power cords
- Extension cords used for non-temporary equipment
- Blocked electrical panels
- Cascading outlet strips or extension cords

General Working Environment:

- Freezers needing defrosting (chemicals/samples icebound)
- Improper storage of heavy materials on shelves
- Items blocking access to sink eyewashes
- Trip hazards caused by wires, tubing or equipment

Housekeeping:

- General clutter on floors/benchtops
- Unused equipment
- Clutter in fume hoods (which can impact hood face velocity)
- Excessive storage of equipment on shelves

New Emergency Information Placards

By Bob Colichio

As of October 31, 2008 all of the old yellow safety placards have been changed to the new Emergency Information Placards (pictured right).

The old green boards and the yellow safety placards have been evolving over the years into safety information for occupants and that was not the original intent.

The intent of the new placards is to give safety information to non-occupants during non-working hours (ie; fire/rescue, security or Plant Engineering) in case of emergency.

These placards are updated on an annual basis, normally following your Experimental Safety Review meetings, but, if you have a change in the following, please inform myself or Ann Emrick to make changes to your placard:

- Phone number change
- Change in personnel listed on the current placard
- Introduction of a chemical hazard not already listed on the current placard (ie; flammable, oxidizer)
- Use of radioactive material if not already listed



Lost/Missing TLD Charges

By Bob Colichio

Lately we've been getting a number of extra charges for individuals losing or damaging their TLD's or not exchanging it prior to the next badge exchange date. In the event this happens Radiological Control Division initiates a Routine Exposure Investigation (REI).

The administration cost associated with this investigation is generally \$400.00 per each TLD.

Emails are normally sent out several days before the scheduled exchange date. Please ensure you hang your TLD on the board before this date. If you will be gone from BNL for an extended period, make sure you hang your badge on the board before you leave.

If, in the event you miss the exchange date, immediately bring your TLD to the Facility Support office ASAP.

“Green Alternatives Wizard”

By Joy S. Adams



The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has developed a database which provides information on alternatives to hazardous chemicals or processes. The “Green” Alternatives Wizard, found at the link below, can be used to look for a new chemical or process as well as to research a chemical or process you've already heard about. The wizard is not limited to

laboratory chemicals/processes and can be applied to household usage as well. Check with your ESH Coordinator prior to making any substitutions to your work at BNL.

[MIT's Green Alternatives Wizard](#)

Cyber Security Awareness – “Phishing”

By Denise Monteleone

So what is **phishing**? In the field of computer security, phishing is the criminally fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details, by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. Communications pretending to be from popular social web sites such as (Youtube, Facebook, Myspace), auction sites (eBay), online banks (Teachers Federal Credit Union, Chase), online payment processors (PayPal), or IT Administrators (Yahoo, ISPs) are commonly used to lure the unsuspecting. Phishing is typically carried out by e-mail or instant messaging, and it often directs users to enter details at a fake website whose URL and look and feel are almost identical to the legitimate one.

Don't click links in e-mail or on web sites without verifying that the real link actually goes to the site you intend

to visit. Also, do not open attachments unless you know and trust the sender.

For further information and examples see: <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/phishing/identify.msp>

P2/S2 Call for Proposals

By Denise Monteleone



Safety Solutions (S2) Program

The BNL Safety Solutions (S2) Program is designed to seek out and fund health and safety improvements and corrective actions derived from employee suggestions. The (S2) Program provides a limited amount of funding to support worthwhile projects. This program reflects the BNL and Department of Energy accident and injury prevention goals and policies and represents an ongoing effort to make safe operations an integral part of the BNL operating philosophy.

Applications are accepted all year. For further information and links to the criteria for submitting an Improvement Project go to:

[BNL S2 Homepage](#)

Pollution Prevention (P2) Program

The BNL Pollution Prevention (P2) Program functions in a similar manner, funding pollution prevention and waste minimization projects.

The scope of the BNL (P2) Program includes:

- Elimination or reduction of wastes, effluents and emissions at the source
- Conservation of natural resources and reuse of materials
- Recycling, and
- Procurement of environmentally preferable products.

On November 3rd a call for P2 proposals for FY09 was issued. For further information and links to the criteria for submitting an Improvement Project go to: [BNL P2 Funding Opportunities](#)

Ergonomics

By Denise Monteleone



BNL now has three different "Ergonomic Web Courses" available on line at <http://training.bnl.gov/demo/courses/index.html>

- Ergonomics in the Laboratory Setting (**TQ-ERGO-LAB**)
- Ergonomics of Office Work Stations (**TQ-ERGO-OFFICE-W**)
- Ergonomics in Mechanical and Industrial Work (**TQ-ERGO-IND**)

When a new work area is being designed and/or an existing one is being changed, it is a good time for an ergonomic evaluation.

Any staff member who would like an ergonomic evaluation of their work area should contact your Building Manager or ESH Coordinator.

Think Before You Act

By Ann Emrick



Human performance improvement is a set of concepts based on the knowledge of human behavior. These concepts can help us to understand and better manage our interaction with people, processes, equipment, and our work environment. The basic premise is that people are fallible, and even the best make mistakes so we need to build systems that allow for mistakes to occur without them becoming an issue and we need to make people aware of what they can do to lessen the potential for error.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself before you start a task in order to reduce the chance of error:

- What are the critical steps of the task that must go right (not only for safety purposes but for efficiency and cost)?
- How can I make a mistake at the critical step?
 - Am I in a hurry or stressed?
 - Trying to do multiple tasks at once?
 - Repetitive actions or monotonous task that might cause me to become distracted.
- What is the worst thing that can go wrong and if it does am I prepared to handle it?

For more information see [the Bulletin vol. 62 – No. 32 from September 19, 2008](#)

Highlights of ESH Goals

By Ann Emrick

Each year we set goals to help improve our operations support. Here are some highlights as to what we accomplished in FY 08 and what we plan on doing to improve in FY09.

FY08

- We maintained a >95% completion rate for all required ESH training.
- Obtained BNL Pollution Prevention (P2) funds to purchase light and water timers (to be installed in FY09).
- Obtained Safety Solutions (S2) funds to install fall protection and review of rad work practices.
- Cleaned out many legacy materials. You may not consider this to be very important however it usually eliminates space charges, unnecessary hazards (chemicals, radioactive materials), housekeeping issues and administrative work from maintaining unwanted materials.
- 92% of the Safety Inspection (Tier I) findings were closed out on the spot –which is why it's important researchers are in the lab during the inspection.

FY09

- Continue to dispose of unwanted materials, equipment, unwanted chemicals. Contact your building manager or ES&H Coordinator if you have anything you want to get rid of.
- Submit ideas to improve worker safety and/or the environment (see P2 and S2 article).
- Review your hazardous chemical inventory to ensure that everything is stored properly, the container is in good condition, labels are not faded or peeling and they are in secondary containment.