

*U.S. Department of Energy*



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# **LASER ACCIDENT BROOKHAVEN SITE OFFICE (BHSO) PERSPECTIVE**

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# Initial Response

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- Concern for injured person
- Surprise at number of Lasers at BNL
- “Type B” like program review of Laser Safety at BNL and lessons learned across complex and industry.
- Communication with program office Associate Director



# We weren't prepared.....

- Significant hazard
  - Large numbers of varied devices
  - Often invisible hazard
  - Hazards are “easy” to mitigate
  - Often used by inexperienced people
  - Experienced people usually contribute to accidents
  - Small or simple omission can result in serious injury
- Not fully cognizant of LBNL incident
- Inadequate follow-up to earlier laser safety review ('99)
- Limited staff expertise in BHSO/CH



# What are we doing different now.....

- BHSO/OMD awareness of lasers has increased.
  - OMD Facility Representatives with lasers in their facilities are now fully aware of the ANSI requirements. Further staffing analyses are planned to determine the need for a BHSO safety/industrial hygiene subject matter expert.
- Increased emphasis on corrective action follow-up.
  - Findings identified in the 1999 assessment were similar to those found in the 2004 DOE Laser Safety Program Review. BHSO has improved the follow-up to assessment findings especially in the area of contractor corrective action effectiveness.



# What are we doing different now continued

- Increased BHSO involvement in BSA activities.
  - BHSO is part of an overall BSA effort to improve BSA self-assessments.
  - BHSO is partnering with BSA to ensure that they develop effective and sustainable corrective actions.
  - BHSO implemented a pilot program identifying BHSO management system stewards and points of contact to help facilitate improvement in the BSA SBMS.

The above are part of an overall BHSO comprehensive safety strategy which stresses on-going communications between BHSO and BSA.



# What should others do different now.....

- Understand extent of Laser usage at your site
- Understand Laser Safety issues
- Learn from DOE and industry mistakes
- Endorse technical level working group
- Doon's what's better still - endorse