

SAFETY & HEALTH BULLETIN

Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety & Health • U.S. Department of Energy • Washington, DC 20585

Security Issues – Gun Smuggled onto DOE Property

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PURPOSE

This Bulletin provides information on a potential security issue that may impact operations at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities. It concerns the security screening procedures in place for badged personnel requesting access to DOE property.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

This Bulletin contains preliminary information. Additional information regarding this security issue will be available following completion of a Special Review appointed by the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health.

BACKGROUND

On Thursday, April 21, 2005, a Department of Energy employee of the Chicago Operations Office smuggled a 9mm handgun onto the Argonne National Laboratory site near Chicago, IL. At this time, indications are that the employee subsequently used the weapon to commit suicide while in his office area.

IMPLICATIONS

Our interviews with security management from the Chicago Operations Office indicate that all security procedures were followed in allowing the victim to enter the Laboratory. Procedures in place at the site, which are similar to those at many other DOE installations, required vehicle searches for all non-badged personnel and visitors and random vehicle searches for badged employees. However, vehicle searches focus primarily on whether bombs or bomb materials were present and do not routinely include inspections for handguns. Briefcases and vehicle gloveboxes are not regularly searched as

part of the security screening process prior to personnel being granted site access.

ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

This incident highlights the need for all Federal and contractor personnel to maintain awareness of the actions of others, and to report any suspicious activities to appropriate authorities.

In addition, EH is issuing this Bulletin to ensure that security personnel maintain a heightened sense of awareness for those personnel who are not required to submit to security screening procedures.

EH ACTIONS

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health will conduct a Special Review of the security procedures in place at the Argonne National Laboratory to capture lessons learned and any access security improvements that may be undertaken at DOE sites as a result of this unfortunate incident.

Questions concerning this Safety Bulletin should be directed to Bill Cooper at (301) 903-3133 or by e-mail at william.cooper@eh.doe.gov.



John Spitaleri Shaw
Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety and Health