



Nevada Site Office News

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Power Restored to NTS U1a Complex

Power has been restored to the U1a Complex at the Nevada Test Site by electrical maintenance personnel. All personnel have been brought to the surface safely and work activities for the day have halted due to heavy thunderstorms in the area.

Power to the facility went out due to intense thunderstorm activity at about 1:15 p.m. PDT. Power was restored to the facility just after 2:00 p.m. PDT.

A total of 57 miners, technicians and scientists were in the tunnel complex in refugee chambers during the power outage.

The U1a Complex is an underground laboratory consisting of horizontal tunnels, each about one half mile in length, where experiments supporting the nation's nuclear stockpile are conducted. The U1a Complex is mined at the base of a vertical shaft approximately 960-feet below ground surface. The vertical shaft is equipped with a mechanical hoist for personnel and equipment access while another vertical shaft, about 1,000 feet away, provides cross ventilation instrumentation and utility access, and emergency exits.

The underground U1a Complex is the location for subcritical experiments. Subcritical experiments use chemical high explosives to generate high pressures that are applied to nuclear weapon materials. The configuration and quantities of explosives and nuclear materials are such that no nuclear explosion can occur. Because there is no nuclear explosion, subcritical experiments are consistent with the U.S. nuclear testing moratorium.