

**SAFETY & HEALTH BULLETIN**

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

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**Potential Problems With Active Vehicle Security Barriers****PURPOSE**

This Safety Bulletin concerns a recent series of accidents involving inadvertent actuations of vehicle security barriers. Following the most recent accident, which occurred at the Germantown campus, the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health appointed a team to investigate and report its findings. This Bulletin provides additional information on the accidents and requests sites to report deficiencies and corrective actions to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health.

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION**

This Bulletin contains preliminary information. Additional information regarding this accident will be available following completion of an accident investigation appointed by the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health.

**BACKGROUND**

On April 7, 2005, the security barrier at the south gate of the Germantown campus inadvertently activated and collided with a commercial vehicle entering the facility. Simultaneously, the vehicle gate also closed on to the van's hood. The cause of the activation of the barrier is not known at this time. Information available at the time of this Bulletin indicates there were minor personnel injuries and vehicle damage associated with this incident.



There have been three other similar occurrences reported since July 2004 involving inadvertent barrier activation. At least six additional occurrences have occurred since 1999. The causes of these events varied, but operator error was the most predominant cause. Other causes were equipment failure and driver error.

**IMPLICATIONS**

Because serious personnel injury could result from inadvertent operation of active vehicle barriers, the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health appointed an investigation Board to review the circumstances of this accident on April 14, 2005.

**ACTIONS**

Site managers need to ensure that:

- Operability tests are performed on each barrier at the beginning of each shift to ensure all controls and safety features are functioning as intended.
- Routine preventive maintenance and inspections are up to date for all active vehicle barrier installations.
- The control box for activating all active vehicle barriers is configured to prevent inadvertent actuation.
- Control buttons for activating exit and entrance active vehicle barriers in the same control box should be separated by a wall or guard
- Personnel assigned responsibility for operating active vehicle barriers are trained to the manufacturers' operating procedures and demonstrate the ability to safely operate the barrier in accordance with the procedures.

**NOTIFICATION**

Report back findings to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health, including any deficiencies found and resultant corrective actions at your sites, within 90 days.

Questions concerning this Safety Bulletin should be directed to Jeannie Boyle at (301) 903-3393 or by e-mail at [Eugenia.Boyle@eh.doe.gov](mailto:Eugenia.Boyle@eh.doe.gov).

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