

# GARS ESH Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

February, 2010

## Safety Stand Down Checklists



**THANK YOU** to all of the participants in the GARS Safety Stand Down in December. We received over 120 checklists and a total of 200 issues. Some issues have already been closed and all are being tracked as they are investigated and addressed by various organizations/individuals. Some have resulted in Safety Solution & Pollution Prevention Proposals — including bike lights for GARS/EE bicycles, umbrella bag stands and motion sensor lighting in stairways. Your input will continue to improve conditions and work toward further reducing risk for our staff. Please keep forwarding your ideas and concerns to your ESH Coordinators (L. Bowerman, x4265 or P.Carr, x7192). There will be an All Hands meeting to discuss the status of checklist items and a list of Stand Down items will soon be posted on the RO web page (<http://www.bnl.gov/gars/resops/>).

## GARS Safety Committees



The BNL Leadership Action Plan (LAP) calls for the implementation of Directorate Safety Councils. GARS Safety Council will be chaired by our ALD, Gerry Stokes and members include the Department Chairs, and the Research and Business Operations managers, and other ESH subject matter experts as needed. Some of the goals for this committee will be to: improve our safety culture and performance, evaluate performance against safety goals, objectives, and expectations, reward and recognize individual, organization, and project achievements, and to effectively share Lessons Learned. Peter Daum of Environmental Sciences is on the ELS Directorate Safety Council. Our long standing GARS ESH Committee usually meets monthly and will be taking its “show on the road”. The Committee, which currently includes RO & ESH staff and Departmental representatives, Bill Brown (QMO, formerly with ES&T), Tom Watson (Env. Sci.), Paul Philipsberg (Nonproliferation), will be holding meetings in various buildings and inviting staff to attend/participate. This committee works on various ESH issues and also develops the annual Objectives and Targets that drive continual improvement in our ESH Program. Notices will be sent to building occupants with the details of these “Open” meetings.

## Housekeeping Projects



By now you have heard a lot about the importance of Housekeeping to safe and efficient operations at BNL (<http://intranet.bnl.gov/safety/housekeeping.asp>). GARS will begin addressing housekeeping in Building 830. Our Housekeeping Team includes Tom Roberts (Bldg. Mgr), Pat Carr, Rob Doty, Lou Gerlach, Joy Haskins (ECR), Nick Contos (FS Rep), and Mary Chuc (SHSD Rep) and they will work with Peter Pohlot (BNL Housekeeping Project Manager). This clean-up will address legacy chemicals, radioactive waste and antiquated equipment. Staff members will be asked to go through their labs and identify what has to go. Eventually, all GARS buildings will participate in some type of housekeeping project to improve the conditions in Office and Laboratory space. A housekeeping schedule for the month of April is being prepared for other GARS/EE buildings. On Housekeeping Day, recycling bins, carts, and staging areas for equipment, will be arranged. RO will also be taking “Before & After” pictures to document the improvements that are made. To prepare for the clean-up in your buildings, start thinking about equipment that can be excessed/disposed, papers that can be recycled, and other items that can be disposed of or recycled. If you don't know how to dispose of something please contact your Environ. Comp. Rep. (Joy Haskins x7898) or ESH Coordinator (Linda x4265 or Pat x7192).



# President's Day



Enjoy a safe and snow free holiday weekend!

## Reminder - Laptop Battery Collection



Laptop Batteries are still being collected. If you have any old batteries that you would like recycled please contact your Building Manager. Research Ops has provided collection boxes for the batteries. To dispose of laptops or computers please contact your Property Representative, Lou Gerlach (x7876 or x2910).

## Safety Alert - Lessons Learned



At Argonne National Laboratory on Friday, January 29, an electric space heater began to smoke and exhibit a small orange glow while in operation in an office. Fortunately, the office occupants reacted quickly by disconnecting the plug from the wall receptacle. A preliminary investigation identified a possible manufacturing defect in the heater as the likely cause for the incident. **Due to the possible identified defect, employees should not use any Dayton model 1VNX8 space heaters.** For the time being, any such space heaters should be taken out of service. Please note that at this time this recommendation only applies to this particular make and model of space heater. An important lesson learned was illustrated from this incident. It is important, at work and at home, to not

leave an electric space heater unattended. In this case, the office occupants were able to quickly control the situation. If no one had been present, the situation might have quickly deteriorated. Remember to turn off and unplug any space heaters before the last person leaves. **Reminder:** All space heaters used at BNL must be approved by the Maintenance and Fabrication Division of F&O. Go to SBMS Subject Area on Fire Safety - Controlling Ignition Source for more details: [https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/178/178\\_pro1.cfm#1.1](https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/178/178_pro1.cfm#1.1)

## Training News

The new BNL Training Center opened in Building 902. Classroom training will be held there and if needed rooms may be reserved by departments.



Other highlights include: A new web-based ethics program will be implemented this year; Revised Compressed Gas Safety Training will be implemented with a 36 month re-train period; BNL Hosts will receive an e-mail if their guest has accessed BNL and has outstanding training.

**2009 Statistics:** Employees spent an average of 20 hours annually in training. 57% ESH; 32% Job/Access (facility delivered); 5% HR/Diversity; 4% Procurement/Quality; 2% IT. Most was classroom training (42%) and the rest was Web-based (34%) or facility (24%).



## Power Outages

**Before a power failure occurs:** Put essential equipment on emergency power circuits; Install appropriately-sized surge protection devices for all sensitive or expensive electronics; Make a list of equipment that must be reset, reprogrammed, restarted, or recalibrated once power returns; Program equipment that operates unattended to shut down safely during a power failure and not restart automatically when power returns; Always store chemicals safely at the end of the day or if a power failure occurs. **In case of a power failure:** Reduce electrical use and risk of power surges by: Turning off unnecessary lights and equipment. Transfer vulnerable items from cold rooms and refrigerators to equipment served by emergency power. **Shut down experiments that involve hazardous materials;** Make sure experiments are stable and won't create uncontrolled hazards; Check fume hoods and stop any operations that may be emitting hazardous vapors or fumes; Securely cap any open chemical containers; Close fume hood sashes; Check equipment on emergency power to ensure it's running properly. **When power returns/operations re-start:** Check equipment; Reset and restart equipment. If building systems, including fume hoods, fail to restart or operate correctly, contact your Building Manager or Facilities & Operations. Confirm air flow in your fume hood is restored. Recalibrate and reprogram equipment as necessary. Keep doors closed on refrigerators and freezers that failed until they have been repaired and returned to safe working temperature. If system/equipment failures create hazardous conditions, immediately notify your Bldg. Mgr. & Res. Ops (x4265).



## Safety Tip -

Anwar Hossain of the National Security and Nonproliferation Department shares his "Extra Minute Rule". Even after following all of the normal safety rules, Anwar takes an extra minute before leaving the office/lab to check that all things are left in a safe condition. Despite sometimes annoying his wife, he applies this rule at home and has managed to miss having some accidents. Since his rule has proven effective, Anwar says his wife doesn't complain about that extra minute any more!