

GARS Operations Newsletter

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October is National Fire Safety Month

Did you know that Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended. All in the same week! Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through and the fires changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. For more information go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=2017&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202010>



GARS Local Emergency Drills

Time is the biggest enemy when evacuating and every second counts.

We have completed our Annual Evacuation Drills, and Staff did a good job!

A few key reminders to staff: **1)** Know the location of your Assembly Areas, **2)** Close but do not lock your doors, to compartmentalize the building to prevent the spread of smoke and fire, **3)** Use Ctrl-Alt-Delete to lock your workstation. Take your keys, bag/coat etc. as you may not be allowed back into your building for a while, **4)** Be cognizant of alternative exits – just like on a plane the closest exit may be blocked so you must know alternate exit routes, **5)** Report accountability to the LEC/Alternate, communicating any special hazards/needs, **6)** If the LEC or Alt. are not present, then their duties should be assumed by a senior manager or supervisor.

Lessons Learned - Prompt Calls to Fire Dept. Prevent Losses



Sometimes BNL staff delay summoning the Fire Department because of concerns such as: commotion caused by the fire apparatus, lack of confidence regarding their understanding of the hazard, and possible negative connotation. The BNL Fire Dept. is on-site to assist BNL operations and encourages prompt calls. They can access normally locked areas and have equipment to locate hot spots. Remember Prompt notification to the Fire Department has the potential to mitigate major losses. For more info go to: <https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/ll/viewLesson.cfm?LessonID=336>



Who Should We Call?

There may be an occasion when we need to notify a relative or designee when a staff member becomes ill or injured at work. Updating or checking your contact information is easy and only takes a few minutes. Log in to the [PeopleSoft HR](#) page and click on "Employee Self Service" and then "Emergency Contacts." You can also update your emergency contact information via "Time Entry" and then "Update My Emergency Contacts" in the lower left corner. *We hope we don't ever need to reach your emergency contact but be prepared because emergencies can occur without a moment's notice.*



Home Fire Safety

In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major inferno. *It only takes minutes* for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Do not waste precious, life-saving time trying to save property. Family members should leave immediately and take the safest exit route. If escape through smoke is required, crawl low, under the smoke and keep mouths covered. Smoke from a fire contains toxic gases

that can disorient or, at worst, overcome people. It's smoke inhalation that kills many people in home fires. Family escape plans should provide two ways to get out of each room. If the primary route is blocked by fire or smoke, a second route out is essential. A secondary route might be a window onto an adjacent roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows. Escape Plans for home must be practiced. A good practice should include family members to feel their way out of the house in the dark or with eyes closed to prepare for actual fire conditions in which there may be smoke and lack of light. Designate a meeting location away from the home so family members who are separated during the escape can reunite and make sure everybody got out safely.

Escape first; then call 911. Never go back into a burning building for any reason. If a family member is missing, tell the firefighters. They are equipped to perform rescues safely. It is very important to teach children not to hide from firefighters – as they look scary in their gear. Try going to the local Fire Department for children to see firefighters in their gear. Have working smoke alarms installed on every level of the home, and test batteries monthly. Replace the entire smoke alarm every ten years, or as the manufacturer's guidelines recommend.



Candle Fires

With the holidays fast approaching, it is interesting to note that December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year. The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, Halloween and December 23. So why not try flameless candles or battery operated tea lights as a safer alternative?

ROCO Implementation - RSMs

As part of the ROCO initiative, Department Chairs designated Research Space Managers (RSMs) to provide ongoing oversight of activities and operations in the Directorate's buildings. The RSMs are the stewards for the "as occupied" research, operations, and other balance of plant spaces within a facility, and they will serve as the contact for the coordination of facility-related operational issues that affect experimental or programmatic areas and will be the primary point of contact to the Integrated Facility Management (IFM) Project Managers. The Facility Project Manager (FPM) for your building is still your primary contact for maintenance issues and you can also call x2468 or enter any requests on-line at: <http://intranet.bnl.gov/ifm/>

Your RSM will communicate hazard and safety information to researchers and staff in their buildings. The RSM will continue to be either the Local Emergency Coordinator (LEC) or the Alt. LEC depending on the location. So make sure you know who your RSM is!

Facility	Research Space Manager (RSM)	LEC	ALT LECs
East Complex			
526	Y. Celebi	C. Brown	Y. Celebi
830	T. Roberts	T. Roberts	L. Gerlach
836	Y. Celebi	Y. Celebi	C. Brown
RADTEC	T. Roberts	T. Roberts	S. Mitra
Central Complex			
815	L. Gerlach	R. Wilke	L. Gerlach
130	L. Fitz	L. Fitz	J. Frejka
197	J. Carbonaro	J. Carbonaro	R. Webster
750A	C. Cacace	E. Hoey	P. Zahra
South Complex			
179	L. Gerlach	L. Gerlach	R. Lake