

Gunshot triangulation device testing

Report to the Fermilab Community Advisory Board, Oct. 28, 2010

The Fermilab security director outlined for the board last month a recurring problem of people shooting guns near the edges of the laboratory and bullets coming onto the site. Fermilab is installing a system to triangulate the gunshots to improve police response time. This will require a set-up calibration of two dozen gunshots during a total of 6 minutes at the laboratory site. The board was asked for recommendations about how and whom to inform of the test firing.

In response to the board discussion, Fermilab plans to take the following actions:

- The test firing will occur during the mid-day of a week day to minimize the number of residents who will be home during the shooting and number of residents on site for recreation purposes. During this time, Fermilab officials also will be available to answer phone calls from the public.
- The Fermilab security office will contact 911 dispatch call centers for the Tri-Cities, Aurora and DuPage County prior to the shooting and explain what will occur that day.
- Police in Batavia, Aurora and West Chicago as well as Kane County Sheriff's deputies will be notified in advance of the testing.
- *Fermilab Today*, the internal and external daily, online newsletter for the laboratory, will run an announcement about the testing and a phone number for people to call with questions. See draft of announcement at the bottom of page.
- Media outlets and neighborhoods surrounding the laboratory will not be directly notified of the shooting to reduce the risk of creating fear and increase the chance of catching the shooters.

Text of Announcement to run in *Fermilab Today*:

Kane County Sheriff's deputies will conduct a controlled shoot on site today to help the laboratory install a high-tech system that hopefully will put an end to illegal gunfire near the laboratory.

Fermilab officials have found bullet holes on site this year and last. It appears the bullets originated off site, likely from a nearby cornfield. No one has been hurt, but shooting did damage an electrical switch box. Officials speculate the damage was unintentionally caused from illegal hunting or target practice. Residents in surrounding neighborhoods also have complained of occasionally hearing brief gunfire on weekends.

In an effort to prevent further incidents, Fermilab has hired a Texas company to set up a series of acoustic antennas on site that will triangulate the origin of gunfire. To calibrate the antennas, deputies will need to shoot a total of 24 shots, 12 each at a location inside the Main Injector ring opposite building MI60 and at a location near Ring Road between buildings 21 and 30. Each series of shots will take about three minutes. Deputies will fire the bullets into a protective box that allows the sound to travel but not the ammunition. Once calibrated, the antennas should help police quickly locate the origin of future gunfire, potentially aiding in an arrest.

Anyone with questions about the calibration should contact the Fermilab Office of Communication at (630) 840-3351.