

Don't Run With Scissors!

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Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head



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The Technical Division always has a priority on safety. However, this month, we would also like to emphasize another side of our responsibilities and that is security. We take steps to ensure that our employees and our property are safe and secured, but sometimes our best efforts are hampered. It's important that employees respect the security measures that we take.

Theft at the Lab is an ongoing concern and the security measures that we take are a key method of prevention of this type of crime. Recently we discovered a security lapse that could have had serious consequences. An employee had taped over a door lock for convenience, but had forgotten to remove the tape afterwards. This unacceptable action was discovered by Fermilab Security during their rounds that night. Although we recognize it can be inconvenient to use your key every time to enter a building, we must not circumvent the security measures we have put in place.

The Technical Division has been a model of safety for the lab and we enjoy letting our employees know that their efforts are successful. One of the ways we do this is by placing signage around our facilities spelling out the number of days since the last incident. Unfortunately, we have recently been having problems with vandalism of these signs. We ask that all employees please respect the intent of these signs and not alter or remove them in any way.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
An individual was replacing the belts on a large fan unit when their index finger became trapped between the belt and the fan pulley as he turned the pulley. The employee suffered lacerations and a broken finger. This was a DART case, with the employee being on work restrictions for 14 days.	A review of the work procedures revealed that had alternate work practices been used, the injury would not have occurred. The employee did not loosen the pulley to allow the belt to easily slip off of the pulley, but rather was using a screw driver to push the belt off of the pulley as he turned the pulley.
Employee was descending a ladder from a roof to a mezzanine area when they stepped on pipe that was three to four inches above the floor. The employee twisted their ankle and received first aid treatment.	The individual's foot had become wedged between a valve flange and a metal guard on the mezzanine. The individual was reaching with his foot for the floor without looking when coming off of the ladder and placed his foot between the two, thinking that it was the floor. Although employees need to be aware of walking/working surface hazards, the area has been guarded to prevent a re-occurrence.
In the process of standing up while working in tight quarters, an employee struck their left shoulder on the corner of a metal box, causing the employee to fall to their knees. The employee suffered a contusion to their shoulder, for which they received first aid treatment.	The individual should have been paying closer attention to their surroundings, especially in such tight quarters..
An employee handling freshly cut plywood received a splinter in their finger, which had to be removed in Medical.	The employee should have been wearing the available leather gloves to handle the freshly cut wood.

Most safety experts believe that all accidents can be prevented. As you can see by the prevention column, a little extra care and attention on the part of the individuals might have avoided these accidents from occurring.