Don't Run With Scissors!

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As the year comes to a close and the new year starts, I would like to take a moment to express my thanks to all of the employees in the Technical Division for your hard work and dedication. You make it a pleasure to work at Fermilab. Thank you.

I am very pleased to announce some recent changes to our ES&H Committee. Joining our committee for three year terms are Clark Reid and Donna Hicks. We welcome their input. After many years of valuable service to the committee, Dave Burke, Jim Hammer, and Dean Validis are now stepping down.

We are in the process of updating policies in the TD Policy Manual. The following policies have been updated: ***TD-1010 Absences from Work, TD-1050 Traffic Violations (rescinded), TD-1140 Operational Readiness Clearance, TD-2020 Self-Assessment Program, TD-4020 Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Technical Division Buildings,*** and ***TD-7010 Guidelines for Working in Industrial Building 1 and 1A*** from the Test and Instrumentation Department.

In addition, we recently established these new policies: ***TD-1180 Smoking Policy for Technical Division Buildings*** and ***TD-4160 On-Site Transportation Of Materials By Technical Division Personnel***.

The latest copies of these and all Technical Division policies are available on the TD Web Site (http://tdserver1.fnal.gov/tdweb/hq/policies/TDPoliciesProcContents.htm). Please remember that the online versions of our policies are the masters and that if you are maintaining printed copies, you should regularly check to ensure your copies are the most up to date versions.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
An employee was spraying an aerosol lubricant onto the moving parts of a large paper shredder when a flash fire occurred, blowing the top off the shredder cabinet and starting a small fire in the shredder cabinet. The employee extinguished the fire using a portable fire extinguisher before the arrival of site fire department and emergency response personnel. The employee was transported by ambulance to the local medical center where he was treated for a very minor burn to his left forearm. Site personnel discovered that the lubricant had been discontinued in 1995. However, a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the lubricant stated that the aerosol lubricant is considered flammable. The spray can label clearly indicated that the material was "extremely flammable."	Pre-job planning is very important, particularly when using hazardous chemicals. Pre-job planning in this particularly instance should have included a review of the lubricant product label and MSDS. A pre-job briefing with the employee could have warned that employee that an operating shredder produces warm surfaces on the cutting blades and other components, which would then cause an extremely flammable material to ignite when sprayed onto them.
A Fermilab driver delivered a tank to an onsite location and unfastened the straps holding it in place. A forklift operator then proceeded to pick the load. He tried to tilt and raise the forks at the same time in order to pick up the tank. However, he was unsuccessful and the vessel rolled off of the fork tines to the opposite side of the truck and then into the adjacent ditch. Neither the driver nor the forklift operator was injured.	Pre-job planning and communication of that plan to all participants before starting a job is very important. It is also important to stop and re-evaluate the job if the work is not progressing as expected.

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.

Please Be Safe This Winter!

Winter can be hazardous as the number of slips and falls on ice and snow last year showed. It takes a combination of preventative actions, such as snow removal and salting, and hazard recognition to mitigate this hazard. Pointing out hazardous conditions to building management, wearing proper foot coverings, being cognizant of the potential hazards at hand, and walking appropriately for the conditions are all steps that employees can take in an attempt to prevent these kinds of incidents from occurring.

Below is a summary of all the slips on ice and snow that occurred last winter at Fermilab.

- An employee stepped out of a van, slipped and fell on the icy, unsalted pavement.
- An employee was re-entering a building after spreading salt on areas of the pavement that had recently been shoveled when the individual slipped and fell.
- An employee slipped and averted a fall, twisting the left side of the employee's back.
- An employee slipped in the parking lot when leaving work, possibly stepping on "black ice" and falling to the ground.
- An employee slipped on icy pavement, and fell on the left knee. The injury caused the employee to miss work.
- An employee shoveling snow on an inclined area in preparation for a delivery slipped and fell.
- As an employee was exiting the vehicle, the individual's left foot hit a patch of ice under the snow, causing the person to fall backwards.
- While returning to the truck, an employee slipped on snow-covered ice.
- An employee walking in the parking lot slipped on ice and fell.
- While leaving an off-site conference dinner, an employee slipped on an icy surface, fracturing the individual's right lower leg.