

Don't Run With Scissors!

Sept/Oct. 2009 Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head



By: Giorgio Apollinari, Technical Division Head

It is with truly great pleasure that I announce that the Technical Division has recently surpassed One Million Manhours without a DART Injury. This is a great honor and a testament to the work that each and every employee performs every day. By taking time to stop and evaluate your workplaces and jobs regularly, you are contributing to a safe environment at Fermilab and it is appreciated.

Please note that the Technical Division issued a new Policy 4100, ES&H and NEPA Procurement Review, in July 2009. The latest copy of the policy (and all policies) can be found on the Technical Division Website at <http://tdserver1.fnal.gov/tdweb/hq/policies/TDPoliciesProcContents.htm>.

During the last several months, the Technical Division was heavily involved in the shutdown of the Tevatron. We are very proud that we completed that enormous undertaking with no safety incidents. Thank you for your efforts.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>An employee was installing a helium C-seal in a very congested area in the main tunnel, and had to work around fixed equipment installed in the area. While installing the seal, the employee's right arm rested on a vent encased in ice. The employee was wearing a short sleeve shirt. The employee estimates that his arm rested on the ice for 3 to 5 minutes while the seal was being installed, but that he was unaware that his arm was resting on an ice block. The employee went to Medical where he was diagnosed with frost bite on the right arm</p>	<p>The employee's arm was exposed to the ice block because it was not properly protected. Employees have been instructed to wear a double long sleeve shirt when potentially exposed to ice blocks. The division safety department is pursuing the purchase of slip-on protective sleeves to prevent future exposures.</p>
<p>A visitor arrived at Fermilab at 2:00 am and proceeded to their destination. While walking towards the entrance the visitor approached the side of the very low entrance ramp (less than six inches in height) at the same time they were reaching for their cell phone to make a call. As a result of being distracted, the visitor did not see the elevated ramp. The area is well lit, but the visitor tripped and fell, resulting in a laceration to lower lip, scraped wrist and chin, and minor chipped front tooth.</p>	<p>Employees need to be attentive when in unfamiliar surroundings, or when in familiar surroundings but under different conditions than usual, and not be distracted by other activities such as making cell phone calls.</p>
<p>An employee was attempting to make a cable connection located 7.5 feet above floor level in a congested area. To attach the cable, the employee was squatting on a scissor lift set at its lowest level (3 feet above floor level) and was looking upward. As the employee was reaching toward the connection point he hit his forehead on a valve associated with some piping near his head, causing a laceration. The employee required six sutures to close the wound.</p>	<p>The scissors lift was the wrong tool for the job. Because the connection point was only 7.5 feet from floor level, a step ladder should have been used. Squatting on the scissors lift created an awkward position that could have resulted in other injuries. Because of the congested work area, the employee should also have been wearing a bump cap, which was available.</p>

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.