

Don't Run With Scissors!

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Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head



By: Giorgio Apollinari, Technical Division Head

We are still deep in the depths of winter as I write this message, but it seems like spring is sure to come soon. This can be one of the most dangerous times of the year, as we become complacent with the weather conditions, thinking we have surely mastered walking on ice and snow by January. It can become tedious to remain vigilant for these kinds of safety conditions, but it is critical that we not let our guard slip.

There's another kind of safety that all employees must be vigilant about – protection of Personally Identifiable Information. Identity theft incidents rise each year with an enormous cost of time and energy, as well as money. Taking steps to ensure that you keep data safe in locked cabinets, behind passwords and in restricted areas will ensure that Fermilab will not fall prey to such crimes. I encourage you to complete the PII training which Fermilab is now offering to all employees to ensure that you know what needs to be done to protect confidential information.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>An employee was cutting 1/8-inch aluminum stock on a table saw with a 10-inch carbide blade, which was in nearly new condition. Approximately 3/4 of the way through the cut, the aluminum plate "kicked back" and was propelled into a tool box approximately 7 feet away. The employee suffered a laceration on the left thumb as a result. Medical personnel administered a local anesthetic to assist with cleaning, and the employee returned to work with no restrictions. Although the employee had previously received Tech Shop training, this task was out of the normal scope of duty. Additionally, the saw blade was not correct for the application.</p>	<p>This incident would have been prevented if an individual experienced with this activity had performed the task, thus resulting in the use of the correct saw blade. The Division in which the incident occurred has instituted better control on the use of its tech shops.</p>
<p>A contract welder was repositioning himself into the center of a MINERVA plane to continue welding. As the contractor stepped down off of the plane (approx. 17" elevation change), he stepped onto the "smoke eater" tubing (approximate diameter 2.5 inches), twisting his ankle. The contractor fell forward, but the only injury he sustained was a sprained ankle. The contractor was working on an established project with a written procedure and hazard analysis. Lighting and visibility in the area were not an issue.</p>	<p>The welder was carrying his welding hose when the incident occurred, which may have contributed to his misstep. However, employees must be cognizant of hazards on walking and working surfaces when working in congested areas.</p>
<p>An employee was walking towards Wilson Hall in the parking lot when they stepped on the seam between a large asphalt patch and the original asphalt surface, causing them to turn their ankle. The difference in surfaces was approximately two inches. First aid treatment only was needed.</p>	<p>FESS Roads & Grounds is repairing the parking lot in this location. However, employees need to be on the alert for uneven surfaces and other hazards when walking in parking lots. These hazards should be reported as well. Inordinate amounts of rain will cause ground soils to shift.</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.