

# Don't Run With Scissors!

August 2010

Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head



**By: Giorgio Apollinari, Technical Division Head**

Summer brings not only the typical dangers of stinging insects but also an increased interaction between bicycles, motorcycles, and vehicles. Please be extra mindful of the bicyclists riding on Fermilab grounds. In addition, watch for motorcycles which may be parked in apparently empty parking spaces. It would be all too easy to pull in too quickly and not realize the space was already occupied. Motorcyclists, you can help make your vehicle more visible by parking in the middle and closer to the entrance of the parking space, rather than near the curb.

For those of you that were not able to attend the mandatory Division Head Safety Talk held this month, our Support Department group is scheduling make up sessions that will enable you to watch a video of the presentation. You will be contacted when the classes are ready in August via the ESHTRK TRAIN database.

Please mark your calendar for the TD Annual Picnic to celebrate your Division-wide accomplishments on August 20, 2010.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>An experimenter had used heavy duty cable ties to affix a photomultiplier tube to a metal support and was in the process of cutting off the excess length of one of the cable ties. There were no functioning cutters at hand, so the individual decided to use a pair of office type scissors to cut the cable ties. The scissors would not cut through the thick/hard plastic cable tie with the force being applied at the scissors' handle, so the individual used his left hand to grasp and squeeze the outer edges of the blades of the scissors to apply additional pressure. The scissors slipped on the cable tie and the third and fourth fingers of his left hand were caught between the scissors' blades as they closed. The individual needed nine sutures to close the wounds.</p>	<p>This injury could have been prevented if the correct tool for the job, a cutter capable of cutting through the heavy cable ties, had been available to the individual. There was a cutter in the area, but it was not functional, and a replacement cutter had not been procured for the individuals in the area to use.</p>
<p>An employee picked up two steel bars, 19" x 3.5" x 2", from a cargo van and carried them together into a building. As the employee bent over and placed the two bars on the floor, they felt immediate pain in both sides of their back. The employee reported to the Medical Office where they were given first aid treatment and placed on work restrictions that prevent them from performing some of their routine job functions. The employee had previously handled the bars and thought that they weighed approximately 20 lbs. An actual measurement found that they weigh 30 lbs each.</p>	<p>Even if the bars had weighed only 20 lbs., the employee should not have been carrying two at a time. At this weight the employee would have been approaching the Fermilab established weight limit of 50 lbs. The employee should have "taken five" to determine what sort of weight he would be attempting to carry before performing the task. The employee should have taken two trips or asked a second person to help.</p>
<p>An employee was walking down the stairs from the cafeteria area towards the auditorium lobby. The employee became distracted, adjusting their name tag, and misstepped, causing them to twist their right foot and fall.</p>	<p>The employee was not utilizing a handrail while descending the stairs. The employee may not have fallen if they had been holding on to the handrail.</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.**