

Don't Run With Scissors!



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Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head

By: Giorgio Apollinari, Technical Division Head

We have recently updated the Technical Division Policy TD-1140 *Operational Readiness Clearance* to Version 5. This document clearly spells out the steps required to allow us to operate new equipment or develop a new process. As always, the latest versions of our policies can be found online on the TD website, with a link to the policy manual being on the left hand side in the Quick Menu. Please do ensure that you always check the online policy manual for any policies you are referencing to ensure you are viewing the most recent document.

Spring typically brings severe weather to our area. In order to prepare for a worst case scenario, we hold a tornado drill each March. The significance of these drills is that employees become familiar with where they are supposed to go during an emergency and they learn the emergency tone for a severe weather emergency. As a result, they are better prepared should an actual tornado strike our town. Data collected following natural disasters shows that people who trained with drills prior to an emergency were more likely to remain calm and be safe during an emergency. Please expect to participate in our drill.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>An employee was removing overhead ceiling tiles when a particle entered their left eye. The employee did not believe the particle to be of much significance, so they did not report the incident, nor try to remove the particle. During the evening they noticed that their eye was tearing and becoming more painful. The following morning they reported the incident and were sent off-site for medical evaluation, which resulted in Rx eye drops. The employee was wearing safety eye glasses throughout the work activity. The employee underestimated the severity of the injury that could result from not seeking prompt medical evaluation/ treatment. The incident resulted in medical treatment (Rx); the incident did not result in days away and there was no restricted activity.</p>	<p>Inadequate PPE was chosen for the job. The amount of dust/particle debris that was on the ceiling tiles was such that a tight pair of goggles would have provided better protection from falling overhead particles. The employee should have immediately reported the incident to his supervisor, and reported to Medical for prompt treatment.</p>
<p>An employee was moving a 160 liter dewar on a dewar cart into an equipment lift when they experienced a "pop" in their shoulder. They finished work for the day and did not mention the incident to their supervisor, but developed significant pain later that evening. They sought treatment for the pain over the weekend and called in sick on Monday, but did not inform the supervisor or Medical Office that the injury and the related time away from work were work related. The employee underwent surgery before returning to work. When the employee reported to the Medical Office on a return-to-work check, they informed medical personnel and his supervisor that the injury that led to the absences and surgery was work related. The employee returned to work with limitations that prevent them from performing some of their routine functions.</p>	<p>The employee should have stopped work immediately and reported the incident to his supervisor. This would have allowed for a quick and thorough investigation to possibly prevent a similar injury by adjusting work procedures. Upon follow-up with his personal physician, the employee should have reported to his supervisor and Medical that the work incident would result in surgery and time away from work.</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.