

Summary Report of Occurrences Reviewed From April 7 – 11, 2008

Summary: 27 occurrences at 13 sites reviewed during this period.

Significant Occurrences (2)

Near Misses – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **NA – Sandia National Laboratories (Significance Category 3).** On April 2, a mechanical construction contract worker was installing a hanger on a 4-inch steam piping header, when steam started escaping from a crack on a valve feeding a 1-inch condensate line. The worker immediately notified Steam Plant personnel, who shutdown the four boilers feeding the steam header. The area was cordoned off and notifications and investigation were initiated. After the piping cooled, the cracked valve was removed, a 1-inch carbon steel valve was installed on the header side of the break, and a plug was installed on the condensate side. The valve, steam header, and boilers, which operate at 120 psi and 350 degrees F, were recently installed and had operated continuously for one week before the valve failure.

Conduct of Operations – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **NA – Los Alamos National Laboratory (Significance Category 2).** On March 27, two furnaces used in the process of converting oxalate precipitate into plutonium oxide had been loaded with material and started on a programmed heating cycle. During a performance test of the third furnace, personnel heard the fire door on the glovebox line close and the fire alarm activate. They exited the room, and the Operations Center was notified. The furnaces were shut off from outside the gloveboxes, and the Los Alamos Fire Department arrived and verified that there was no fire. Investigators discovered that a thermocouple, which controls program temperature, had not been installed on the third furnace. The thermocouple was sitting on the bottom of the glovebox providing inaccurate process temperature measurements, which caused the glovebox temperature to climb to the 190 °F and trigger the fire alarm and release the drop box fire doors. Investigators also discovered that one of the thermal detectors on the third furnace was wired incorrectly such that any defects in the detector loop would go undetected. Detailed operating procedures that call for pre-operational checks, including testing of alarm set points and the installation of thermocouples do not exist.

Other Occurrences (25). See Table (Note: The Table includes the occurrences listed above).

Occurrence Category	Number of Occurrences				Number of Sites
	E&E	NNSA	SC	DOE Total	
Injury - Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety	1	1	0	2	2
Near Miss	0	1	0	1	1
Authorization Basis	1	1	1	3	3
Radiological Concerns	1	0	0	1	1
Environmental	1	0	0	1	1
Fire Safety	0	3	0	3	2
Shipping/Quality Assurance	0	0	0	0	0
Criticality Concerns	0	0	0	0	0

Industrial Operations	0	1	0	1	1
Conduct of Operations	3	2	0	5	5
Electrical Safety	1	0	1	2	2
Vehicle Accident	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failures	1	3	2	6	6
Safeguards and Security	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect & Counterfeit Parts	0	2	0	2	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	14	4	27	

Secretarial Office Summary

National Nuclear Security Administration	14 occurrences	(5 sites)
Office of Environmental Management	7 occurrences	(3 sites)
Office of Nuclear Energy	2 occurrences	(1 site)
Office of Science	4 occurrences	(4 sites)