

Summary Report of Occurrences Reviewed *From April 28 – May 2, 2008*

Summary: 28 occurrences at 15 sites reviewed during this period.

Significant Occurrences (7)

Near Misses – 3 occurrences at 3 sites

- **NA – Los Alamos National Laboratory (Significance Category 3).** On April 22, a researcher entered a laboratory and found the laboratory covered in shattered glass and a white powdery substance. A glass bottle containing 500 ml of a sodium hydroxide/sodium dodecyl sulfate solution had shattered on a laboratory magnetic stirrer hot plate. A student had mistakenly turned the plate to high heat instead of high stir and left it unattended. The laboratory was secured pending development of a documented reentry plan for clean up of the laboratory. This event had the potential for serious occupational injury from flying shattered glass and exposure to sodium hydroxide.
- **SC – Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Significance Category 4).** April 22, an 18-foot research vessel operating above Bonneville Dam and hydroelectric plant capsized when currents drove the boat into a buoy and cable system. There were two PNNL staff members aboard who were wearing Personal Flotation Devices when they were dumped into the water. The staff members clung to the cable until a PNNL safety boat, which was supporting the activity, immediately pulled them from the water. There were no injuries associated with the incident and all safety protocols worked as intended. The research vessel was successfully recovered by the Corp of Engineers with no significant loss of property. A spill of less than 1 gallon of fuel was reported to the Washington State Department of Ecology.
- **EM – Idaho National Laboratory (Significance Category 3).** On April 21, the driver of a 1981 vintage articulated dump truck noticed unusual movement on the back end of the truck while carrying a full load of material to a landfill. The driver stopped to investigate, and found only 5 of the 21 lug nuts still attached to the back wheel, with 2 of the 5 nuts nearly unthreaded. The wheel had partially separated from the hub and several of the lugs were damaged. The lug nuts were retrieved from the road and reinstalled. The truck was unloaded, transported to the mechanics shop, and tagged out of service for repair.

Injuries – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **EM – Hanford Site, Office of River Protection (Significance Category 3).** On April 23, a subcontractor painter in the South East corner of the Low Activity Waste Building, who was cleaning pipe hangers with an electric grinder from a knuckle boom lift, was requested by his foreman to stop work and come down. When the painter stepped back to move the lift, the cord of his grinder was wrapped around the joy stick, causing the knuckle boom to rise and catch his chest against the control panel of the lift and the back of his neck against a pipe. The painter hit the stop switch and manipulated the controls by feel, in order to move the lift basket enough to free his head. He removed the cord from around the controls and lowered himself to the ground. The worker reported to medical and was sent to Kadlec Hospital for x-rays. Work was stopped and notifications were made.

Industrial Hygiene Exposure – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **SC – Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (Significance Category 3).** On April 28, subcontract personnel were cutting a copper lined metal tank so that it could be removed. The cutting operation generated smoke and those performing the cutting operation were wearing respirators. The subcontractor's industrial hygiene consultant performed air sampling to confirm exposures were within the Permissible Exposure Limit of 100 ug/m³ for copper. The air sampling result for a crane operator in the vicinity of the cutting operation was 268 ug/m³. The crane operator was wearing a dust mask. The cutting work was stopped. Preliminary findings from the incident investigation show that the Job Hazard Analysis was not being followed.

Conduct of Operations – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **NA – Los Alamos National Laboratory (Significance Category 4).** On April 23, maintenance personnel performing a general maintenance run on two furnaces in Building PF-4 at TA 55 planned to start heat treatment on one furnace but inadvertently started the other. The furnace door was open for cool-down from a previous run and the heat radiating from the open furnace cracked a window on the glovebox while the furnace was unattended for approximately 20 minutes. Currently, this glovebox does not hold any nuclear materials. Work was stopped, notifications were made, and the area was surveyed with no contamination found. A critique was held.

Environmental Compliance – 1 occurrence at 1 site

- **SC – Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Significance Category 4).** On April 18, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) received a copy of a civil suit filed (but not yet served) by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and the Strawberry Canyon Stewardship Group. The suit, filed in San Francisco Federal District Court, alleges that the Laboratory is in violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and State of California Waste Discharge Requirements. The lawsuit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs related to alleged ongoing discharges of polluted storm and non-storm water from the LBNL facility into US waters. LBNL has retained the service of a law firm to provide the defense in the pending lawsuit. Laboratory counsel is the point of contact for LBNL in this matter.

Other Occurrences (21). 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	2	1	4	4
Near Miss	2	1	1	4	4
Authorization Basis	3	1	0	4	3
Radiological Concerns	0	0	1	1	1
Environmental	0	0	1	1	1
Fire Safety	1	1	1	3	3
Shipping/Quality Assurance	1	0	0	1	1
Criticality Concerns	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Operations	0	0	0	0	0
Conduct of Operations	0	2	0	2	2
Electrical Safety	0	2	0	2	1

Occurrence Category	Number of Occurrences				Number of Sites
	E&E	NNSA	SC	DOE Total	
Vehicle Accident	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failures	0	3	0	3	3
Safeguards and Security	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect & Counterfeit Parts	2	0	1	3	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	12	6	28	

Secretarial Office Summary

National Nuclear Security Administration	12 occurrences	(4 sites)
Office of Environmental Management	6 occurrences	(5 sites)
Office of Nuclear Energy	4 occurrences	(1 site)
Office of Science	6 occurrences	(5 sites)