

## Summary Report of Occurrences Reviewed From September 14 – 18, 2009

**Summary:** 22 occurrences at 12 sites reviewed during this period.

### Occurrences of Significant Interest (1)

#### **Radiological Concerns / Personnel Contamination – 1 occurrence at 1 site**

- NA – Los Alamos National Laboratory (Significance Category 2).** On September 14, while self-surveying after handling the contents of a container believed to be precious metals, a Chemistry Division employee detected that he was contaminated. A radiological control technician confirmed alpha contamination of 40,000 dpm on the employee's right hand, 42,000 dpm on his pant leg and shoe, and up to 60,000 dpm on the floor of his office. The employee was decontaminated; however, nasal smears were positive and he was placed on a special bioassay program along with another involved employee. The container had no radiation hazard markings. An isotopic analysis indicated the contamination was from plutonium-239 and americium-241. The employee had repeatedly asked if the material was radioactive and was told it was not because it was stored in a cold laboratory, so he took the material to his office (an uncontrolled area) and started to inventory the precious metals, a process that did not require personal protective equipment. When he removed the contents, which were in a plastic bag, he immediately noticed the bag was degraded as pieces of the bag fell onto his lap and the floor. Recognizing the signs of radiation-induced material disintegration, he immediately returned the bag to the container, replaced the cover, and self-surveyed. Contaminated areas were posted to restrict access and an extent of condition review was conducted for other CMR laboratory and storage areas.

**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	0	0	0	0	0
Near Miss	1	0	0	1	1
Authorization Basis	2	2	0	4	4
Radiological Concerns	1	3	1	5	3
Environmental	1	0	0	1	1
Fire Safety	0	0	0	0	0
Shipping/Quality Assurance	0	0	0	0	0
Criticality Concerns	1	0	0	1	1
Industrial Operations	1	1	0	2	2
Conduct of Operations	2	0	0	2	2
Electrical Safety	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Accident	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failures	0	1	0	1	1
Safeguards and Security	1	0	0	1	1
Suspect & Counterfeit Parts	3	1	0	4	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	

<b>ORPS Significance Categories</b>	<b>OE</b>	<b>SC1</b>	<b>SC2</b>	<b>SC3</b>	<b>SC4</b>	<b>R</b>
Totals for the Week:	0	0	2	9	11	0

### **Secretarial Office Summary**

National Nuclear Security Administration	8 occurrences	(2 sites)
Office of Environmental Management	11 occurrences	(7 sites)
Office of Fossil Energy	1 occurrence	(1 site)
Office of Nuclear Energy	1 occurrence	(1 site)
Office of Science	1 occurrence	(1 site)