

PPD ES&H Newsletter

March 2010

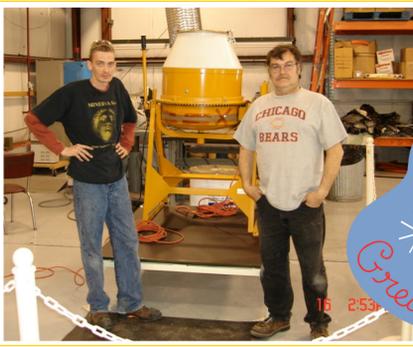
In This Issue:

- Improved Design
- New PPD ES&H Member—Nathan Duff
- Traffic Policy Revisions In Effect
- WANTED: Information
- Fire at Underwriter's Laboratory
- Unsecured Gas Cylinder Incident
- Injury report
- ES&H Challenge

Lab 5 Mixer—Safety Modifications

PPD ES&H would like to thank Jim Wish and Bill Brown, who built this new stand for the cement mixer used in Lab 5 (the mixer is used to combine two different types of plastic pellets before they are added to the plastic extruder). This mixer previously was standing on a stack of wooden pallets, which was an unstable base, creating a potential hazard of the mixer toppling over.

The new steel stand has four legs that give the mixer more stability, and a base to attach the mixer to.



Newest Addition to PPD ES&H Group—Nathan Duff



Please join us in welcoming Nathan Duff, who will soon be the division RSO. He is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. Nathan has earned his B.S. in Radiological Health Sciences from Purdue University and is currently working on a Master of Health Physics degree through the Oregon State University eCampus program.

After graduation from Purdue, Nathan worked as a Health Physicist at UCLA for three years. Between UCLA and Fermilab, he had a brief stint at Argonne National Lab as a Health Physics Technician.

Revised Traffic Policy—Please Note

The recently revised traffic policy ([FESHM 9010](#)) does include a ban on ALL cell phone use (and other electronic communication devices) while driving on lab property (in personal vehicles and government/lab-owned vehicles). This ban also includes hands-free devices, such as Bluetooth headsets. (*The only exception to this ban is individuals using two-way radios provided by the lab being used for lab business.*) Anyone who is using a cell phone or other mobile device while driving could face disciplinary action via the citation issued by Security. (See the Fermilab Today [article](#) for more information.

Please note the stricter rules regarding parking and traffic violations as well:

- 4 parking violations within a period of 90 days will result in a 5-day suspension.
- 3 moving violations (includes the use of mobile devices) within a period of 180 days will also result in a 5-day suspension.



Wanted!!! - Information on the tile dumped in PC4 dumpster



Recently it was discovered that asbestos-containing floor tiles were dumped into the Particle Physics Division PC4 dumpster. At the time no flooring renovation projects were ongoing within the division. An important thing to remember is it's against lab policy to bring any waste (yard debris, construction materials, or general garbage) from home or offsite construction jobs. If you witness or know of anyone illegally dumping material at the lab please contact security immediately at [x3414](#). To abate the issue we must hire an Illinois Department of Public Health licensed contractor to remove and dispose of the asbestos containing material, which is very expensive.

Since the tile that was discarded in the dumpster contains asbestos, it also poses a unique problem. It has a potential to expose lab employees or waste services to asbestos. Asbestos can cause serious illnesses. Some home building materials that may contain asbestos are floor tiles, pipe insulation, roofing materials, and siding. Most homes built after 1980 will not contain asbestos containing materials, but it is possible.

If you have any information regarding the dumping of tiles in the PC4 dumpster please contact Eric McHugh at [x3199](#).



Tire Dumped at Lab G

Another example of items that cannot be thrown into the dumpsters on-site is tires. DO NOT dispose of tires (personal or lab-owned) in the trash dumpsters. Lab-owned tires must be returned to vehicle maintenance for proper disposal. Contact the PPD Waste Coordinator—Jose De La O (x 2557) if you have any questions on waste disposal.

Side note: the cardboard and plastic in this dumpster could have been recycled if placed in the proper dumpster.

Smoldering Fires—Cause Fire at Underwriter's Lab in January

A January fire at the [Northbrook, IL Underwriter's Laboratory](#) is a reminder to us all about the dangers of smoldering materials. The lab had been conducting burn tests on various mattresses, and at the end of the day, personnel left under the assumption that there was no longer a fire hazard. It was not apparent that one or more of the mattresses were still smoldering, and broke into a fire by the next day (a Saturday). Luckily, the building is designed for those conditions, and there was no damage.

Prevention of smoldering hazards at Fermilab:

A reminder for individuals performing work that generates heat, spatter, slag or sparks (welding, grinding, etc.) to evaluate the work area prior to beginning that work. Observe for any combustibles (e.g. papers, cardboard, foam, etc.) or flammables in the area that could be affected (within a 25-foot radius), and take the necessary precautions—move items when possible, otherwise cover with fire blankets; have the proper fire extinguisher nearby; cover all wall and floor openings in the area; etc.



If you are performing hot work (welding, cutting or brazing), you must contact the Fire Department prior to beginning the work. The Fire Department will review the work area and proposed operation. If approved, they will issue a "Welding Permit." This copy of the permit is included in FESHM Chapter 6020.2, "[Welding, Burning and Brazing](#)."

You will be required to obtain additional approval from the PPD SSO (Eric McHugh, x3199) prior to welding, cutting or brazing within 25 feet of flammable gases or liquids. Please review the FESHM chapter if you intend to perform welding operations in the future so all proper precautions can be taken prior to the start of work.

Unsecured Gas Cylinders

Shell Petroleum's Pearl project in Qatar had an incident occur recently involving an argon gas cylinder being transported on a gas trolley. The trolley was poorly maintained, and the cylinder had not been secured. While pushing the trolley along an elevated, grated deck, the right wheel of the trolley broke off, which caused the cylinder to fall. The cylinder was being transported with the gauges still attached, so when the cylinder fell, the valve was sheared off. The cylinder started to spin on the deck, then fell between the toe board and midrail to the ground below, where it continued to spin for a few seconds before careening 20 meters in a curved direction, before stopping.



Fortunately there were no injuries involved in this incident. To prevent an incident similar to this one, please ensure that cylinders are not transported with the valves attached, use the cap. Also ensure that cylinders are properly secured to the trolley/cart during transport.

PPD February Injuries

A PPD employee was cleaning up an area, storing pieces of foam. The employee was placing them on a lower shelf of a storage rack. On the bottom shelf there was a 1/16" stainless steel sheet that was slightly overhanging the rack. While stacking the foam on the shelf, the employee slid their arm along the edge of the steel sheet, and suffered a C-shaped cut along their forearm. This cut required 9 stitches, which makes it a recordable injury.



When storing items with sharp edges, please review the work area for the best storage location. Make sure it will be visible, and make sure to cover the sharp edges.



February Winners!!

Winner of the ES&H Coffee Mug:

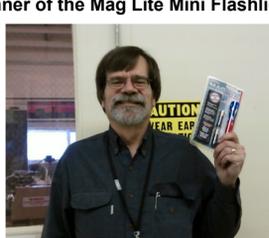


Albert Dyer

Question: How many Americans have some form of cardiovascular disease?

Answer: About 80 million Americans

Winner of the Mag Lite Mini Flashlight:



Jim Schellpfeffer

Winning Caption:

Man to bear: "No you can't drive this time, we're going into town!"



Caption contest runners-up:

- One more time around and then you chase me!
- Duck, duck, duck, Goose!!
- Remote keyless door entry with panic button option and remote engine starter option.....\$250. Being able to get gloves off to retrieve it from pants pocket while not cluding the bear!...well....you know!!!!!!
- 1,2,3,4,5, Ready or not here I come!
- Mmmm! Chew toy!
- Never play Duck, Duck, Goose with a polar bear.
- I heard these things make some great noises if you catch 'em.

March Contest #1—Captions

For a chance to win a pair of Harley Davidson Safety Glasses w/ case:

Provide a *humorous* caption for the following picture:



March Contest #2

Answer the following question, and you could win a PPD ES&H coffee mug:

What circumstances require you to receive approval from the division SSO, in addition to approval from the Fire Department when performing welding, cutting or brazing?



Please submit your responses/answers to [Angela Sands](#) by March 26th.

(If there are multiple correct answers/entries, a drawing is held.)