PPD's News to Live By

March 2013

PPD ESH Newsletter Archives

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EPEAT-Registered Electronics

Executive Order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance) requires all federal entities to purchase EPEAT-registered electronics. We currently have programs in place for purchasing computers, laptops and monitors (see this page).

In 2012, new standards for the EPEAT environmental rating system were approved. The new standards include rating imaging equipment (e.g. copiers, fax machines, scanners, printers, all-in-ones, digital duplicators and mailing machines) and televisions (15 inches or larger).

Beginning in January 2013, imaging equipment was added to the registry.

When ordering new imaging equipment, you must now indicate on the purchase requisition whether the item meets EPEAT standards, and whether it has a Gold, Silver or Bronze rating. Search the EPEAT registry to find out if you are purchasing an EPEAT product: http://ww2.epeat.net/searchoptions.aspx

If you have questions, you can always contact Gerald Guglielmo (gug@fnal.gov) for guidance with purchasing computers, monitors or imaging equipment.

Flat panel televisions will be added to the EPEAT registry at the end of March. Further details will be made available as the list of registered items is released.

The following resources are available for further information:

- Computing Division's What is EPEAT?
- Computing Division's Think Green page
- EPA's EPEAT for Federal Purchasers

National Severe Storm Preparedness Week – March 3-9, 2013

During this year's National Severe Storm Preparedness Week, many of us will be practicing our tornado response procedures. Every occupied building on-site is required to perform a documented tornado drill. Many locations will use the Sitewide Emergency Warning System (SEWS) test scheduled on Tuesday, March 5th as an opportunity to complete a functional drill. (Wilson Hall occupants will be participating in a functional drill on March 5th beginning at 10 AM.)

Your area/department manager should determine if your location will be performing a functional or tabletop drill this year. Contact them if you are unsure what the plans are. Please contact your emergency warden if unsure of the emergency assembly or evacuation locations for your work area.

It is recommended that you review your severe storm preparedness at home as well:

- Always pay attention to the weather forecasts for watches and warnings. Monitor forecasts before leaving on a trip or plan to spend time outdoors.
- Stay up-to-date with weather information, using sources such as the National Weather Service, NOAA weather radios, etc.
- Have an emergency kit packed and ready to go.
- Make sure you and your family know what to do if severe weather is approaching (where to take shelter, etc.).
- If caught outdoors or in a vehicle during a severe storm event, take cover in a sturdy building (do not take shelter under an overpass) or a ditch, keeping your head covered and body as flat to the ground as possible. Be aware of the risk for flash flooding.

NOvA at Ash River Block Pivoter Winch Incident

The NOvA project uses a large, project designed "Block Pivoter", which functions as an assembly table for building, rotating, and placing the 28 blocks that comprise the detector. After the assembly of a 200 ton block is complete, the Block Pivoter rotates the block from horizontal to about 13 degrees from vertical, and drives the completed block down the NOvA detector hall to its operating location. Once the block has been placed in position, the Block Pivoter is reversed approximately 50 feet away from the detector structure. The process of releasing the pivoter table from vertical to its neutral position commences using two independent hand-operated winches connected to the table with 3/8 inch 7x19 galvanized cables and Crosby hooks. Once the table has been returned to the neutral position it is driven back and raised to its horizontal assembly position to repeat the process.

On December 6th, during the return of the pivoter to its neutral position, one of the galvanized winch cables broke. No one was injured and the only damage was to the cable. The causal analysis found that a deviation from the written procedure led the technicians to remove one of the cables during this process. The table was released using only one cable. The cable had been wrapped poorly which led to slack being built up on the winch. Once the winch rotated, the slack was taken up by the table broke the cable. The procedure and training was found to be inadequate in communicating the loads on the winches, proper spooling, inspection of the winches and cables, and the importance of utilizing both cables during this process. The project has revamped their procedures and hazard analysis. They have also implemented a policy of reporting and reviewing procedure deviations and work-arounds.

March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month

According to the National Safety Council, more than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day. We can always do more to protect ourselves from eye injuries at work. The Fermilab Eye-Protection Program is described in FESHM Chapter 5101. To obtain non-prescription eye-protection, the laboratory stockroom provides safety eyewear, goggles and face shields. For those of us with vision prescriptions, the ES&H Section coordinates the dispensing of prescription safety eyewear. Contact the PPD SSO with any questions.

Lesson Learned—An Electrical Crane Hazard

A recent DOE Lesson Learned was reported as the result of a mechanic's metal retractable tape measure inadvertently making contact with a crane electrical feed rail, causing a 480 volt breaker to trip, de-energizing the crane. No injuries resulted from the event. The mechanic was taking a measurement from the crane cab over a cell bypass housing to evaluate the clearance of a proposed fixture to lift cell housings. After the mechanic extended the tape measure upward approximately three feet in preparation for taking the measurement the tape measure bent. When the mechanic attempted to straighten the tape measure, it went into the one-inch wide opening of the crane feed rail housing, located about three feet behind and to the right of the mechanic.

Personnel did not identify the crane feed rail as an electrical hazard for the measurement activity although they knew the crane feed rail was energized. The energized crane feed rail was protected by a sheet metal housing and was not directly in the work area; the distance to the feed rail was the same as it would be for normal crane operations. Therefore, no special or additional electrical safety precautions were identified. The potential for the metal tape measure to move or bend and contact the feed rail was not identified as a possible condition.

The following corrective actions resulted from the incident investigation:

- Shift Briefs with affected personnel regarding the need to mesh known parameters with unknown possibilities; reinforcing the need for a questioning attitude as it relates to hazard identification.
- Crane operation procedure has been revised to add a precaution about the energized crane feed rail
- A drill has been developed to reinforce the proper actions for supervisors in response to a similar type crane event.

Climate Change and Blizzards

It might be counterintuitive to consider global warming as a contributor to an increase in the number of blizzards. However, the details provided in this Minnesota Public Radio article provide an explanation of how it just might be true (see this article from ClimateWatch Magazine as well). The basis of the idea is that global warming would decrease the overall global snowfall while allowing the warmer air to hold higher levels of moisture. Then, once the temperature drops just enough to allow that moisture to fall as snow, the heavy blizzards may potentially occur.

The "Doh!" Photos of the Month

PPD February Injuries

No injuries reported!

Did you find this newsletter helpful? Does it have the kind of information you are looking for? Your feedback is important. Please continue to use the electronic safety concern database, or send comments to Angela Sands, asands@fnal.gov