

Safety and Compliance: Hazards, Impacts, Expectations, and Responsibilities



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April 10, 2009

Safety and Safety Compliance in ESRL

Some recent DOC Safety Incidents include:

Some recent ESRL Safety Incidents include:

- Employee trapped in collapsed revolving door - 2006
- Employee collapses in DSRC Parking Lot – multiple events
- Employee slips and hits head in parking lot - 2006
- Water pipe flood in DSRC – Feb 08, Feb 09
- Construction worker injured during steam tunnel construction - 2007
- R/V Ronald H. Brown returned to port to resolve deferred maintenance and safety concerns – Spring 08
- NOAA affiliated diver dies off Florida Keys – April 08
- NIST mismanages Plutonium – June 08
- ESRL radiological licensing issues with Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Oct 08
- Laser labs institute restricted access in ESRL – Feb 09

Do these point to a negative trend across DOC?

Is ESRL part of a negative trend?

Can ESRL do better?

Has ESRL just been lucky there's been nothing worse?

Some ESRL Hazards!

Individuals

- Slips - ice, stairs, wet floors
- Falls - ladders, chairs, stairs, towers, roofs, large equipment
- Lifting and Moving – too heavy, using wrong or no equipment, poor footing
- Driving – pedestrians, bikes, cars, driving too long, dangerous conditions
- Ergonomics – repetitive stress, poor workspace setup
- Noise – loud equipment, noisy operating environments
- Working alone – inability to respond to injury, illness, or danger

Facilities & Equipment

- Fire – smoke and heat
- Electrical hazards - computer rooms, labs, experimental equipment, every office
- Chemical exposure – toxic exposure, pressurized systems, oxygen displacement
- Radiological – exposure to radiological sources
- Lasers – vision damage
- Flooding – weather-related, building system-related
- Field work – towers, aircraft, animals, cold and heat, lightning, unfamiliar environments

Compliance

- NOAA and OSHA safety requirement compliance
- NRC permitting compliance
- DOT requirement compliance – transportation of equipment, aircraft operations

Impacts of Safety and Compliance issues

- General lax safety and compliance attitude amongst employees
- Complacency surrounding risky activities at work and at home
- Perceived license to take unnecessary risks
- Unreported near miss events
- Employee distrust of management concern for well-being
- Bad publicity
- Community worry and loss of respect
- HQ and management distrust
- Loss of sponsor funding
- Injuries
- Workman's Compensation costs
- Lost mission work
- Lost work time for management and staff
- Loss of authorization to perform work
- Expensive recovery and response to issues
- Unplanned management and staff changes
- Death



Warning: The Surgeon General warns that failure to adhere to safety rules can lead to work slowdowns, work stoppage, injury or death.

Safety and Compliance Culture for ESRL

The Earth System Research Laboratory shall develop and maintain a positive safety culture.

Safety Culture by Definition: “The product of individual and group values, attitudes, perceptions, competencies, and patterns of behavior that determine the commitment to, and the style and proficiency of, an organization’s health and safety management” (U.K. Health and Safety Commission).

Plain English: A positive safety culture means everyone goes home the way they showed up, with:

- No safety worries,
- No exposures to unsafe conditions, and
- No injuries.



The ESRL Safety and Compliance Bill of Rights

Everyone in ESRL has the right:

- To** work in a safe and compliant environment,
- To** know what workplace risks may be present,
- To** know the potential impacts of workplace risks,
- To** be properly trained for or qualified to perform work tasks,
- To** raise safety and compliance concerns at any time,
- To** not perform a work task they believe are unsafe,
- To** stop work tasks if they believe there is an imminent risk to others,
- To** stop work tasks if they believe there is an imminent risk of non-compliance with requirements,
- To** be assured that their safety concerns will be given a high priority and addressed quickly and effectively, and
- To** be assured that there will be no negative repercussions for raising safety or compliance concerns.

The ESRL Safety and Compliance Responsibilities for Everyone

Everyone in ESRL has the responsibility to consider their own safety and the safety of others as a primary part of their job.

That responsibility requires ESRL team members to:

- ***Ensure*** their ***work areas are safe*** by correcting or reporting safety and compliance issues,
- ***Alert management*** and co-workers of an imminent risk they have identified,
- To ***stop a work task*** if they believe there is a safety risk to themselves or others,
- ***Maintain awareness*** of potential safety risks and requirements in their work area,
- ***Attend*** required NOAA ***safety training***,
- ***Attend job specific training*** for work tasks they may perform,
- To ***not perform work tasks without*** required job specific ***training***,
- To ***bypass*** your ***normal management*** reporting chain if you believe your safety or compliance ***concern is not being addressed*** effectively.

The ESRL Safety and Compliance Responsibilities for Managers and Safety Officers

Managers and Safety Officers have the responsibility to:

- ***Ensure*** The ESRL Safety and Compliance Bill of Rights is upheld
- ***Be immediately responsive*** to safety and compliance concerns
- ***Ensure*** ESRL team members understand and exercise their responsibilities for safety and compliance
- ***Ensure*** ESRL work places are safe
- ***Assess*** their work areas monthly to confirm safety compliance
- ***Report*** and share lessons from safety concerns with others so related issues can be corrected or avoided.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

1. Your supervisor, team lead, or project lead
2. Division Safety Officers:
 - Randy Collander, GSD
 - Ann Middlebrook, CSD
 - Bill Otto, PSD
 - Mike O'Neill, GMD
 - Dale Perry, ESRL
3. DSRC Field Safety Manager – Rhonda Carpenter, x 3912
4. Don Mock, ESRL Deputy Director for Administration, x6642
5. John Schneider, ESRL Deputy Director for Research, x4646
6. Sandy MacDonald, ESRL Director



Some Safety Activities in ESRL in FY2009

- Shelter in Place
- Continuity of Operations (COOP)
- DSRC Emergency Preparedness program
- Fire Drills
- SIP Drills
- Compliance Assessments and Safety Audits
- NRC license annual self assessments
- Monthly Safety Inspections
- Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)