



BHSC NEWS

Los Alamos notifies employees, visitors of possible beryllium exposure

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., January 28, 2009 — Los Alamos National Laboratory is notifying approximately 1,890 current and former employees and authorized visitors of potential exposure to beryllium based on recently discovered beryllium contamination at one of the Lab's technical areas.

For approximately 240 employees who worked at the facility, documented experience shows that approximately 2 percent of these workers exposed to beryllium could become sensitized, and an even smaller percentage could develop chronic beryllium disease. For the remaining approximately 1,650 visitors, the risks of exposure are extremely low because of

the activities performed and the relatively short period of time spent at the location. Authorized visitors include approximately 1,000 former and current Lab employees and 650 non-Lab personnel who generally took classified tours at the Laboratory.

Current and former Laboratory employees and contractors who either worked at or visited the facility have been—or are in the process of being—notified of the beryllium levels. For affected personnel, the Laboratory's Safety Help Desk, (505) 665-7233, will have an operator standing by for questions or concerns. The help desk will be open Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. A personal consultation

with an industrial hygienist will be arranged for those concerned about exposure.

All current and former employees and visitors to the facility will be offered a beryllium sensitivity test.

These potential exposures were discovered in November and December of 2008 after industrial hygiene sampling at Technical Area 41 identified the presence of beryllium on some surfaces.

The location is used to store legacy and surplus materials. Access was immediately restricted and posted as a beryllium contamination area. Decontamination of the facility has begun and should be completed by February.

Chairman's Corner

BY MIKE BRISBON

Chairman, BHSC

I'd like to write about two things this time. First, by now all of you have likely heard about the new ACGIH TLV for beryllium, which has actually been in the works since the late 1990's.

Although this TLV, like all others, is not intended to be a regulatory value *per se*, it is likely to have an impact on occupational exposure limits in the U.S. and other coun-

tries. The fact that the new TLV is based on the inhalable convention, as described in ISO 7708, could have as much impact as numerical value itself. All who perform beryllium sampling and analysis will need to assess their posture regarding this new TLV. As one might expect, this will be a key discussion topic, both for the US/UK Joint Working Group 30-I-1 on Beryllium Facilities Safety, and for the BHSC itself, at the upcoming

spring meetings.

Speaking of spring meetings, we should once again have a robust technical agenda for the BHSC meeting at Savannah River Site. We are still putting the final touches on the agenda, but a preliminary version can be found in this issue of the BHSC NEWS. While we hope that many of you can come enjoy our Southern

See Corner pg 4

BERYLLIUM HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE BOARD

Special points of interest:

- > Possible beryllium exposure at LANL
- > New beryllium TLV
- > BHSC Spring Meeting at Savannah River Site
- > BERYLLIUM BLAST
- > Manage review of documents in Sharepoint

ACGIH ADOPTS PROPOSED TLV®

Threshold Limit Value (TLV®)-Time Weighted Average (TWA)
0.05 µg/m³

- as inhalable particulate matter
- Skin and SEN notations
- AI carcinogenicity classification

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BHSC Board Report

BERYLLIUM HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE BOARD

MIKE BRISSON
Chairman, BHSC

The Board continues to meet by conference call once a month.

Minutes from both of the 2008 BHSC meetings have been approved and should soon be available on the web site. Progress continues to be made on developing a set of by-laws for consideration

at the spring 2009 BHSC meeting. meeting.

At last report, the BHSC has 63 official members. As a reminder, the membership application is on the BHSC web site

BHSC BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Brisson, Chairman
Tom Ford, Vice Chair
David Weitzman, Vice Chair
Steven Jahn, Secretary
Amy Ekechukwu
Tony Quinn
Geoffrey Braybrooke
Mike McCawley
John Bishop

*All times are local
(Eastern Daylight
or GMT - 4)*

*ABIH maintenance points
to be requested*

BSHC Spring Meeting: Preliminary Agenda (as of 2/9/09) US DOE Savannah River Site, Aiken,

Tuesday, March 31

0830-1130 BHSC Board Meeting (Board members only)
1300-1600 J DWOG 30-I-1 (leader: Tom Ford, NNSA Y-12)
Anticipated focus area: ACGIH TLV
Open to personnel from DOE, DoD, and AWE (federal and contractor)

No classified information
No security clearance required

Wednesday, April 1

0830-1200 Morning session
-Welcoming remarks and announcements
-Presentation by Darrah Sleeth, University of Michigan, "Inhalation studies in slow-moving air"
-NNSA Supplemental Guidance on Beryllium Surface Contamination in Areas Outside of Beryllium Operational Areas

Wednesday, April 1 (cont)

-Roundtable: Real-World Perspectives on CBD (speakers being arranged)
1200-1300 Lunch
1300-1700 Afternoon session
-Review of Los Alamos TA-41 Beryllium Incident
-BHSC white papers from Risk Communication Subcommittee and/or Data Reporting Task Force
1700 Subcommittee Breakouts

Wednesday, April 1 (cont)

Evening (optional)

BERYLLIUM BLAST

-Dinner at Carolina Star shooting complex (steak and potato, two rounds of shooting sports)

Thursday, April 2

0830-1145 Morning session
-Roundtable: Air sampling in light of ACGIH TLV (speakers include Tom Ford, Tom Datts, Paul Wambach; one other invited)
-Abstract (15-minute) presentations (speakers/topics to be confirmed)
-Research Needs Survey

Thursday, April 2 (cont)

1145-1230 Lunch
1230-1430 Afternoon session
-Reports, election of new vice chairs, review/approval of by-laws
1430-1645 Tours
IH laboratories (radiological and non-radiological)

BERYLLIUM BLAST



Sharepoint

BY MELECITA M. ARCHULETA

As of today, we have 96 individuals registered to use the Share point site. It can be accessed either directly by going to : <https://collaborate.sandia.gov/sites/BHSC>

Or through the BHSC web site at: <http://www.sandia.gov/BHSC/index.htm> go to the Subcommittee link and you can

access the individual subcommittee share point site from that link. By opening up the description of the subcommittee and clicking on the title. This will take you to the Share point site and if you have a user ID and password you can access the link.

I have added access to those individuals that have indicated a preference for a

subcommittee in their registration, but I ask the leads of the subcommittees to please update their sites with individuals that are on their teams.

There is lots of good information on each of the committee share point sites.

This is great way to manage review of documents and meeting discussions.

Conference Call Schedule—March

Date	Day	Start	End	Lines	Group or Purpose
03/05/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10	Be by Fluorescence WG
03/10/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	25	Sampling/Analysis SC
03/11/09	Wed	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10	Med/Epi SC
03/12/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10	Risk Communication SC
03/12/09	Thu	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	10	Research Needs SC
03/17/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	15	BeD/Digestion WG
03/17/09	Tue	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	10	Meetings/Symposia SC
03/18/09	Wed	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	15	BHSC Board
03/19/09	Thu	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10	Accreditation WG
03/24/09	Tue	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	10	Sampling WG

BHSC Meetings: Spring 2009 – Spring 2010

Spring 2009: Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC

Mar 31: Board and JOWOG

Apr 1-2: Main BHSC meeting

Fall 2009: DOE North Las Vegas complex

Nov 3: Board and JOWOG

Nov 4-5: Main BHSC Meeting

Spring 2010: U. K. Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, Reading, U.K.

Apr 13-15: Tentative dates

Locations for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 meetings are now being solicited.

*Fall meetings are typically in the western U.S.
Spring meetings are typically in the eastern U.S.
(or at AWE).*

Locations typically need to be at a DOE, DoD, or AWE site.

Conference Call Number

803-725-1403

Pass code 2227011

If you would be interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Mike Brisson.



The **Beryllium Health and Safety Committee (BHSC)** is committed to preventing beryllium sensitization and chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) and other adverse health effects that can be caused by workplace exposure to beryllium.

The Mission of the BHSC will be accomplished by:

- Promoting the safe use of beryllium
- Obtaining a better understanding of exposure risks
- Improving exposure monitoring
- Fostering improved controls
- Accumulating and Disseminating information concerning beryllium process best work practices, as well as, data from the health studies concerning the hazards associated with beryllium
- Training / mentoring of beryllium health professionals
- Identifying and promoting research that has the potential to enhance or improve our worker safety programs

BERYLLIUM HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE BOARD

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hospitality, we recognize that many will lack travel funding to attend in person. We will have a telephone hookup as we have for the last several meetings, but we are also working on a way to allow remote participants to view the presentations in real time using web technology. You'll hear more about that soon.

We are always looking for ways to increase involvement, and to improve our formality of operations without losing the collegial atmosphere that helps make the BHSC what it is. I'll have more to say on both of these topics next time.

(The views expressed in the Chairman's Corner are those of the chairman and are not necessarily official positions of the BHSC.)



Subcommittee Report

BY AMY EKECHUKWU

Chairperson, Sampling and Analysis Subcommittee
The Sampling and Analysis Subcommittee is dedicated to researching and addressing the issues associated with sampling and analysis of beryllium particulates. There are currently five working groups addressing specific issues: BeO Working Group, Accreditation, Fluorescence, Informatics, and Sampling. Each of these working groups holds monthly conference calls and reports monthly on their activities to the Sampling and Analysis Subcommittee. The BeO Working group is currently organizing a BeO round-robin study for digestion and analysis methods at different labs.

Jim Jenkins
BHSC NEWS, Editor

Industrial Hygiene
B&W Y-12 National Security Complex
Phone: 865-576-7180
Fax: 865-576-2213
E-mail: jenkinsljr@y12.doe.gov