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Subject: Sandia LL: Blue Alert- Working Alone

**Title: Blue Alert- Working Alone**

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**Lesson Learned:** When working alone in a low hazard environment, ensure co-workers are aware of your work location and time duration you will be there.

**Discussion:** A technician from another organization was assigned to a two-day task, by his own management, to perform work in an instrumentation trailer owned by Sandia National Laboratories. On the second day, the technician showed up at the work place, but didn't announce his presence to the Sandia personnel working in the same area. At lunch time, a Sandia person entered the trailer, but didn't see the other organization technician who was working behind the instrumentation rack. The Sandia person exited the trailer, locked the hasp used for property protection, in preparation to go to lunch. The locked in technician tried to exit the trailer, and believing the door to be jammed, used one of the two phones in the trailer to summon help. He was released, by the person who had locked him in, within about five minutes of when initially confined.

**Analysis:** This situation was not life threatening. There were two functional phones at his disposal to summon help. There was an "escape hatch" located in the floor of the trailer which the detainee would likely have found had he been confined long enough to search for an alternate means of escape It's good practice to notify other personnel in the immediate area of where you will be working and the approximate duration.

**Resolution:** A sign will be placed on the trailer door pointing out the location of the escape hatch. Sandia personnel will be instructed to audibly announce their intention to lock the trailer door prior to doing so.

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