

Date: Tue, 15 Dec 1998 11:32:14 -0600

From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>

Subject: Yellow Alert: Employee Pinned Against Dock When Incorrect Equipment Switch Operated

TITLE: Employee Pinned Against Dock When Incorrect Equipment Switch Operated

IDENTIFIER: 1998-LA-LANL-ESH7-0009

DATE: December 15, 1998

LESSONS LEARNED STATEMENT: Mechanical equipment switches should be clearly labeled to ensure that the intended equipment is activated when switches are operated.

DISCUSSION: While two workers were unloading a nitrogen bottle from the bed of a truck, one of the workers was momentarily pinned between the loading dock ramp and the truck bumper. His co-worker had inadvertently depressed the control for the dock leveler when he attempted to raise a nearby roll-up door. The controls for the roll-up door and the dock leveler are located next to each other, and they were not labeled to indicate which control operated what piece of equipment. The co-worker saw his partner pinned between the dock and truck bumper, and he immediately lowered the dock leveler. The worker was not injured.

ANALYSIS: The worker attempting to raise the roll-up door should have informed his co-worker to stand clear when he was opening the door, and the controls should have been labeled to indicate which control was for the roll-up door and which one was for the dock leveler. As a result of this incident, the building manager has issued a work ticket to have the control switches labeled.

RECOMMENDATIONS: As managers, supervisors, or other personnel conduct walkarounds, they should take note of the labeling of control switches for roll-up and/or bay doors. If these switches are not labeled, the appropriate steps should be taken to have the switches labeled. Workers who identify switch label discrepancies should report them immediately to their supervisor, building/facility management personnel, or a health and safety representative for disposition.

ORIGINATOR: Johnson Controls Northern New Mexico

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DOE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: Configuration Management

KEYWORDS: switches, labeling, roll-up door

REFERENCES: JCNNM Lessons Learned Bulletin, Issue LLB99-003-WS

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of this report, please contact the originator of significant action(s) taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is appreciated.