

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[RSS](#) [View this email in your browser](#)

Ames Laboratory

Creating Materials & Energy Solutions

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ESH&A Newsletter - April 2016



“E”

A couple of years ago Sean Whalen was walking the Des Moines River near Boone when he found this reusable cloth bag buried in silt. Sean thought this captured the essence of irony where many of our “green” efforts are concerned. Stewardship is difficult; our Garden Planet requires constant tending.

This month’s newsletter focuses on “E” – Energy, Effort, Environment, Earth. A primary function of DOE and Ames Laboratory is protecting the environment through promoting energy efficiency and developing materials to drive the green economy. As Laboratory employees we help fulfill this mission in multiple ways, whether by contributing at the desk, department, research, or community level.

Read on for news, tips, and tactics to improve our E!

Environmental Events in

Celebration of Earth Day, April 22:

On Campus - Live Green! Celebrates [Earth Month](#)

Ames - City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department [Open House](#), Sat. April 23

Des Moines – City of Des Moines [Earth Day Trash Bash](#), Fri. Apr 22

West Des Moines – City of West Des Moines [Earth Day Family Fun Fair](#), Sat. April 23

Story County – Story County hosts [All Species, One Earth Event](#), Sat. April 23

Iowa – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation hosts [Earth Day Evening Paddle](#) at Brushy Creek State Park, Fri. April 22

April Safety Hero



Jarrett Olson from Facilities and Engineering Services reported to ESH&A a vacuum pump leaking oil on the floor in 53 Spedding Hall. Jarrett's awareness of his surroundings while performing his regular duties is an outstanding example of attention to detail. His timely notification and most importantly, his help preventing hazards are what make him a Safety Hero!

Follow up actions: ESH&A worked with William Meier (graduate student DMSE) to clean up the oil and place the pump in a secondary container to hold any future leaks.



BE THE NEXT LAB SAFETY HERO! Click on the link above to view the video.

Ames Lab Receives Perfect Record Award

The National Safety Council has recognized Ames Laboratory for 0 lost work days due to occupational injury or illness in 2015. THANK YOU for your efforts! The dedication being shown to safety is paying off, not just with a plaque, but with fewer and less serious accidents. This is YOUR award, and an accomplishment of which we can all be proud!



Could This Happen Here?

Two recent research related tragedies highlight the importance of STOP – THINK – CHECK – DO WORK SAFELY.

In October, 2015, a mechanical worker at the [Florida State University Mag Lab](#) was killed when a 33 lb. end cap blew off a pressurized line and struck him at an estimated 18 mph. The line had been initially drained and depressurized, but a leak caused the system to re-pressurize to approximately 325 psi. Causal factors include no re-verification that the system remained at zero energy, lack of task coordination, ineffective Lock-Out-Tag-Out (LOTO) procedures, and inadequate work planning and control procedures. The victim leaves behind a wife, 5 children, and 3 grandkids.

On March 16, 2016, a 29 year post-doc at the University of Hawaii lost her arm in a [laboratory explosion](#). The victim was conducting an activity which had been done repeatedly since 2008, and involved hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. The cause of the explosion is not yet known. According to a report published in [chemistryworld](#), researchers in the department have been carrying out the same procedure virtually every day for nearly eight years. *'An experiment was in progress to grow cells by feeding them a mixture of low pressure hydrogen, carbon dioxide and oxygen,' Brian Taylor, the dean of the university's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology told reporters at a news conference the day after the incident. 'They were taking higher pressure small cylinders and putting a combination [of the gases] into a smaller low pressure cylinder to be the feed for these cells to grow in. Since 2008 the process has been used almost daily and without incident. Clearly something unexplained happened,' he added. 'There was an explosion so there had to be an ignition event – we don't [yet] know what that was.'*

ESH&A will follow this story and provide information as it becomes available.

During 2016 the Training Office is focused on reviewing our training modules by strengthening learning objectives, streamlining course content, and increasing the overall interactivensness of each module. The Training Office has created a new process for reviewing Ames Laboratory courses in an effort to provide transparency in course development and outline best practices for adult learning. If you are interested in reading about the process please go [here](#)

We are looking forward to the positive changes that will come from this detailed review. If you have any feedback about Ames Laboratory courses we would be happy to hear from you. Please reach out via email to Hiliary Burns (hburns@ameslab.gov) or Molly Granseth (mgranseth@ameslab.gov)

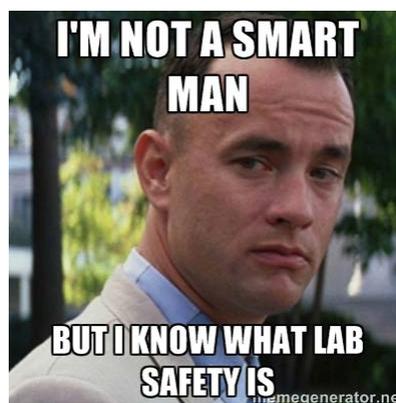
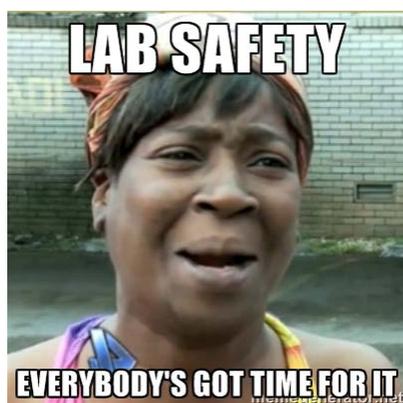


DON'T

FORGET

To existing employees, please sign up for safety alert notifications via email and phone text using ISU Access Plus. Also, please notify and remind new employees to do the same.

To receive safety alert notifications please go to ISU Access Plus, log in, under the A+ Home tab click on ISU Alert on the left hand side, then fill out the page with your current information.



Copyright © 2016 Ames Laboratory, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp