

## Lesson Learned Briefing

**No.:** LL17-0010

**Title:** Communication is key to Laser Safety

**Event:** LBNL Event

**Event Date:**

**Category:** Facilities - Maintenance

### Lesson Learned Statement:

Over the last several months, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) has experienced two instances of miss-communication pertaining to laser safety, which led to conditions where employees' safety could have been compromised. Below is an overview of one situation where lessons were learned as it relates to performing maintenance work.

### Discussion:

A Facilities technician was scheduled to perform maintenance work in a LBNL laser lab. Upon arrival, the technician knocked on the door and no one answered; he proceeded to enter. The magnetic lock on the door malfunctioned, allowing the technician to enter. This resulted in tripping the laser interlock and shutting down all lasers. The laser beam was enclosed and there was no laser beam exposure to the technician.

### Lessons Learned:

- Facilities personnel must be escorted when visiting laser labs or radiological areas. They should contact the person requesting service and wait until an escort is provided to enter the research lab/area.
- The lab hazards and entry restrictions should be communicated clearly to Facilities personnel on the work order created by the Maximo system.
- The interlock check procedures in a laser lab should be revised to include details on how to check the magnetic locks. It is recommended that laser users perform frequent checks to verify if the door is locked and positive access is achieved, and not rely on the annual interlock check only.

- The laser warning sign should be installed at eye level whenever practical, or have a bright, highly visible front panel.

Lessons Learned are part of the ISM Core Function 5, Feedback and Improvement. Applicable Lessons Learned are to be considered during working planning activities and incorporated in work processes, prior to performing work.

Please contact the following subject matter experts if you have any questions regarding this briefing.

- Streeper, Beth ([BStreeper@lbl.gov](mailto:BStreeper@lbl.gov))

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