

Lesson Learned Briefing

No.: LL12-0039

Title: Secure Your Vehicle Before Exiting

Event: LBNL Event

Event Date: 07/22/2010

Category: ES&H - Traffic Safety, Accident/Injury, Fleet

Lesson Learned Statement:

When exiting a vehicle, it is essential that the vehicle is secured. A secured vehicle prohibits movement that could harm an individual exiting the vehicle and/or others that are in the vicinity. The vehicle's ignition must be turned off, the transmission must be placed in park, and the emergency brake should be set.

Discussion:

On July 20, 2010, a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) contract security guard was injured while exiting a Lab security vehicle. As the security guard exited the vehicle, the vehicle rolled backwards knocking the guard down and seriously injuring him.

Analysis

The investigation revealed that the vehicle's transmission was not placed in Park, and the parking brake had not been set. The failure to use the vehicle safety features allowed the vehicle to move backward striking the guard. A review of the DOE Lessons Learned Database, at the time of the incident, showed that 23 similar incidents had been reported throughout the DOE complex. A similar incident also occurred at LBNL in 2008.

Actions to prevent recurrence:

When exiting a vehicle, secure the vehicle by:

1. turning off the ignition
2. placing the transmission in "park"
3. setting the emergency brake

As a final note, the California Vehicle Code requires the vehicle to be secured as described above prior to exiting the vehicle.

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.

- DeBusk, Richard E (REDeBusk@lbl.gov)
- Porter, Kory James (KJPorter@lbl.gov)
- Fisher, Ross W (RWFisher@lbl.gov)

[Give feedback for this briefing](#)

For other lessons learned and best practices, go to [Lessons Learned and Best Practices Library](#)
