

Daily **NEWS**Bulletin

Los Alamos National Laboratory
A Department of Energy/University of California Laboratory

Bulletin



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Report

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001

Partly to mostly cloudy and cooler with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.
High 74. Low near 48.



Moderate

Updated at 1:10 p.m.

Message from Laboratory Director Browne regarding Family Day

Family Day to be rescheduled

Due to the tragic events earlier this week, I have determined, reluctantly, that Family Day should be rescheduled to assure maximum attendance and continued safe, secure operations. I intend to reschedule Family Day before the end of the calendar year.

As you know, there are a number of Laboratory employees on travel, many of whom may not be able to

return to Los Alamos by Saturday (Sept. 15) for Family Day. In addition, the heightened security status at all Department of Energy facilities, including our Laboratory, could stretch security resources beyond what would be prudent if we decided to continue with our original schedule for Family Day.

These are tragic and difficult days for our nation. In place of Family Day, I hope you will take a moment to remember our countrymen who lost their lives on Tuesday and the loved ones they leave behind. We must be grateful for the blessings that the United States bestows on all of us and for the beacon of hope it represents to so many others who don't enjoy the freedoms and liberty we treasure.

Our mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory has never been more critical. I know each of us will re-dedicate ourselves to making our best efforts even better and to assuring our fellow citizens that we can be counted on to meet our national security mission with the best science and technology in the world.

Laboratory Director Browne issues employee statement on Tuesday's incidents on east coast

Laboratory Director John Browne on Wednesday issued a memo to Lab workers regarding the recent incidents on the east coast. To read the full memo, [click here](#). (Adobe Acrobat required)

New burners for wilderness fuel mitigation efforts will reduce smoke emissions dramatically

The Laboratory next week plans to begin employing special equipment to safely burn thousands of tons of wood without producing large amounts of smoke and particulate matter.

The Lab will begin using new "air-curtain destructors" to safely and cleanly burn piles of downed trees, stumps and slash from forest thinning projects located near the Lab's southern boundary. The newly employed burners work similarly to low-emission "pellet stoves" by blowing a curtain of air over materials as they burn within a semi-enclosed environment. The fan-driven curtain of air introduces a steady oxygen supply into the fuel and helps ensure that nearly all fuel and gases are consumed. The machines can burn up to 20 tons of wood an hour and produce about one tenth of the smoke and particulate material that is normally produced by traditional open burning. What's more, the machines are safe - burning all material within deep trenches or an open-top fire box.

In addition to helping solve wood-disposal problems in an environmentally-friendly manner, the decision to use the air-curtain destructors helped with the Laboratory's on-going efforts to stimulate business

activity in Northern New Mexico. The Laboratory has entered into a contract with Anvil Welding Enterprises of Hernandez, N.M., for wood burning and related services associated with wildfire mitigation activities. The one-year, renewable contract with Anvil Welding Enterprises is worth approximately \$1.6 million.

After the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire, which burned nearly 8,000 acres of Laboratory property, Laboratory officials accelerated an aggressive wildfire prevention plan that includes thinning thousands of acres of Laboratory property. The areas are badly overgrown and rife with so-called ladder fuels, which allow flames to reach tree canopies and create dangerous "crown-fire" conditions.

Crews have thinned numerous trees, shrubs and other vegetation in accordance with the wildfire prevention plan. A large amount of wood from these thinning efforts remains at Technical Area 16, so crews will begin using the new burners in that area first while thinning efforts continue at other areas of the Laboratory.

Once crews finish burning downed wood and slash from the TA-16 area, they will move to other areas to dispose of thinned trees and slash. Under the current operating plan, crews will begin stoking up the burners in the morning and will continue operating them non-stop for the entire day, if possible. Burning operations may be suspended due to unfavorable weather or operational conditions. Because of the configuration and operational nature of the burning machines, crews can curtail combustion quickly if in-progress burns need to be suspended.

Members of the public may notice small amounts of smoke from time to time in association with the burning activities. Personnel in Air Quality (ESH-17) will monitor all emissions to ensure that the Laboratory doesn't exceed any federal, state or local air-quality standards. The TA-16 burn plan has been reviewed by safety personnel, regulators from the New Mexico Environment Department, and by Laboratory and Los Alamos County fire officials.

"Current DOE policy dictates that we cannot conduct open burning on Laboratory property, and yet we still are faced with a situation where we must dispose of tons of wood from fire mitigation efforts," said Steve Mee, manager for environmental activities in the Laboratory's Cerro Grande Fire Rehabilitation Project Office. "When we looked at air-curtain destructors, we saw how safe, environmentally friendly, efficient and effective they were, so we knew that this was the way to go to dispose of wood that cannot be given away."

--James E. Rickman



Security and Safeguards issues second bulletin

The Security and Safeguards (S) Division has issued a second bulletin for Laboratory personnel in response to the incidents on Tuesday on the east coast. To read the memo, [click here](#)

A horizontal banner with a colorful, abstract background of yellow, green, and blue. The text "Employee Assistance Program" is written in a blue, serif font across the center of the banner.

Employee Assistance Program

Lab's offers Employee Assistance Program for workers in response to Tuesday incidents

Counselors from the Laboratory's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) are available to talk with Laboratory workers personally, or with employees as a group in response to Tuesday's incidents on the east coast. The impact of what was seen and heard through the day and what Lab workers continue to experience can take a serious emotional toll on individual workers, their families and in the workplace.

For more information, call the Employee Assistance Program at 7-7339, or Occupational Medicine (ESH-2) at 7-7251.

The Employee Assistance Program is located at Technical Area 53.



NNSA Administrator Gordon message to employees

Gen. John Gordon, National Nuclear Security Administration director, has issued a message to NNSA personnel in response to the incidents Tuesday in New York and Washington, D.C. To read the full message, [click here](#).

Editor's Note: As part of national Drive Safely Work Week, the Daily Newsbulletin will publish a safe driving tip each day this week.

Minimize distractions behind the wheel

During "Get Your Car in Order Day" today, here are some tips to minimize distractions while behind the wheel. Pre-set your vehicle's climate control, radio, compact disc or cassette player and become familiar with the location of controls for turn signals, wipers and lights. Adjust side and rearview mirrors to reduce blind spots.



Source: The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety



Orderly dismissal

An unidentified member of Protection Technology Los Alamos, top, directs vehicle traffic on West Jemez Road Tuesday after Laboratory workers were dismissed for the day in response to the incidents in New York and Washington, D.C.



At left, a line of vehicles moves east along West Jemez Road near Technical Area 3 as shown in this photo looking east. The Laboratory reopened under normal operations on Wednesday.
Photos by LeRoy N. Sanchez, Public Affairs

On today's [bulletin board](#)

[Commuter's Corner](#) | [Parking areas around TA-3](#) | [Parking shuttle routes \(pdf\)](#) or [jpeg](#)

- **NEW!** United Blood Service blood donations information
- Advanced Electronics training seminar offered
- LALT presents "Deathtrap"
- Found: eye glasses
- Found: coin purse
- West Road open
- Fidelity Investments at Laboratory today
- Computer Corner news
- Senior Scientist & Engineering Institute final call for nominations
- ESD's Microsoft Visio presentation cancelled
- West to deliver Stanislaw Ulam memorial lectures in Santa Fe
- Diversity training
- Family Strengths Network classes
- Meltdown outdoor climbing event set for Sept. 29
- Laboratory Counsel reception area temporarily closed
- Registration for master's degree programs via Distance Learning currently underway
- Procurement Web page has questions and answers about fiscal year end purchasing
- Volunteer opportunities
- Purchasing guidelines deadline approaches
- Employees leaving Lab must attend termination presentation

 [Got a news tip for the Newsbulletin? Click here.](#) 

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