

THE PORCELAIN PRESS

November 2012 - Weeks 1 & 2

Special Points of Interest:

Report your injury -

You stop for lunch or head home after work and notice your back is sore or your arm is tingling, what should you do? You need to tell your supervisor and report to the Medical office promptly - that way we can all work together to mitigate the cause ASAP.

Come to the ES&H Fair

On Thursday, November 29, the ES&H Fair will be held on the 15th floor of Wilson Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Topics include heating hazards, hearing loss, winter sport safety, holiday safety, Take 5, and more. Please plan to join us.

ES&H Concern or Suggestion?

Talk to your Supervisor, SSO or go to the ES&H homepage & click on 'Concerns & Suggestions'.

Space Heater Safety

With the return of cold weather, many people at Fermilab will seek the supplemental warmth of an electric space heater. Because these devices use electricity and generate heat, we need to think about their potential to produce electric shocks and fires. These hazards can be controlled by selecting the best heater for the situation and applying good practices. Get a safe space heater. Check for listing by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or third-party certification ("FM" or "ETL"). Choose heaters that operate at lower temperatures, such as those manufactured with ceramic elements. Heaters are required to have a tip-over switch and a maximum temperature switch if they are used at Fermilab. A good choice is the 1,500 W ceramic heater available through Fermilab's Stock Room (#2800-100000). Follow manufacturer recommendations. Everything you need to know about safe operation of the heater is written in the instructions. Key precautions are often summarized on equipment labels, such as:



- Place the heater in plain sight
- Avoid use near water
- Keep combustibles >3 feet away
- Turn off heater when not in use
- Do not use with an extension cord
- Watch for frayed cords or loose parts

If possible, try to avoid using electric space heaters. We are concerned about saving electricity, but more so, we are concerned about your safety. If your work area is too cold, contact your supervisor or building manager to see if the HVAC can be adjusted.

Extension Cords and Power Strips

Do not use an extension cord or power strip with appliances such as space heaters, microwaves or refrigerators. The overuse or improper use of extension cords and power strips is the most common electrical safety issue noted here at the laboratory. If you have questions in your specific work area, please work with your supervisor and safety officer to review your appliance use and office layout. At home it is just as important not to overload circuits. Plugging too many portable cooking items into one circuit may cause the circuit to become overloaded and trip. Remember this when you are doing your holiday decorating!

No Smoking near Entrances

One of the frequent questions we get is about whether or not there is a policy on smoking at the laboratory. There is a Director's Policy on smoking (Policy #25) that applies to all employees of Fermilab, Users, Visitors, Fermilab contractors and their subcontractors. The policy states that smoking is not permitted in any Laboratory buildings, Laboratory or government vehicles, within 25 feet of entrances or air intakes, stairs, decks, restrooms or any area posted as "No Smoking".

