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Jefferson Lab

## SAFETY FLASH

**EVENT: STUDENT'S EYE WAS EXPOSED TO A 30W LASER WHILE WEARING PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR- NO INJURIES**

**DATE/TIME OF EVENT: JUNE 7, 2019; 12:30 P.M.**



### **EVENT DESCRIPTION:**

On June 7, 2019, a graduate student working in Experimental Equipment Lab, lab 102A, was tasked with checking the laser power and wavelength of a laser. Upon finishing that task, they began checking the fiber surfaces of the two unused fibers using a fiber inspection scope. The student then picked up the third fiber and began inspecting it. The student quickly realized the fiber was connected to the Class IV (30W) laser which was still energized and projecting beam. Fortunately, the student was wearing protective eyewear, which is required upon entry into this lab. They did not feel any adverse effects from the exposure.

The student was unable to report the event to their supervisor that day, as the supervisor was not on-site. The student reported the event to his supervisor Monday, June 10, 2019.

The student was then referred to Occupational Medicine for evaluation. It was determined that the student was not injured as a result of the exposure. Since the event, all lasers operations in lab 102A have been suspended.

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### **EVENT IMPACT:**

Laser operations in the lab have been suspended until management approves the restart.

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### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- It is imperative that before working on equipment there is verification that it is de-energized.
- If something does not look or feel right, be sure to stop and ask questions to gain clarity and a better understanding as to what the status of the equipment may be.
- Supervisors should notify their subordinates when they will be off-site and ensure their back up is identified or their contact information is available.

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### **WHAT WENT RIGHT?**

Anyone entering lab 102A is required to wear protective eyewear that is suitable to protect against all the lasers in the room. Without wearing this eyewear, the student may have suffered a serious eye injury.

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