

| Safety Spot Award Recipients | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|--|---|
| Recipient | Division | Date | Award For | (Pictures) |
| Nick Fong | NERSC | 06/2014 | When Nick was showing a coworker a sprinkler head underneath the computer room raised floor, he noticed there was water on the concrete subfloor. Nick pulled several more tiles and discovered that the water had spread over a large area. He immediately called Facility Manager Jeff Grounds. Jeff Grounds, along with Building Manager Mike Annas, traced the water to a leaking pump on AHU#24, which was offline. The water leak was very close to PDU#11. With time, the leak would have touched PDU#11 electrical receptacles. | |
| Robert (Bob) Cronin | FAC | 06/2014 | Sr. Project Manager for the Old Town Demolition project, Bob sent the an email to the project team indicating his expectation that "Safety First" will be a consistent message on the project, and that all project related meetings are to begin with a safety moment. Leading by example, Bob provided a safety topic to begin his manager's project meeting that afternoon, and added a safety moment slide to begin the presentation for the Old Town Demolition DOE Review the next day. | |
| Thomas A Burke | EETD | 06/2014 | Thomas Burke identified that electrical connections in a device were not in accordance with safety requirements (his findings were later verified by the EHS Division inspection). His proactive inspection of the device enabled the project to quickly notify the subcontractor to correct the electrical issues and resulted in further conversations with the subcontractor regarding more careful review of their manufacturing process to prevent future safety issues. | |
| Yonatan Horowitz | MSD | 06/2014 | Yonatan Horowitz unplugged a 30 A plug for a laser power in order to relocate it to a different outlet as part of an interlock system trouble shooting exercise. Yonatan took the opportunity to inspect the plug and noticed melted plastic on the outlet from which the plug had been removed. At that point Yonatan declared the interlock test over, identified the equipment as out of service, and requested a further inspection to be conducted by the LBNL Interlock SME and a qualified electrician. It was determined that the inside of the power supply plug was partially melted and burnt at the corresponding prong with only slight external evidence of damage. | |
| Jennifer Doyle | ENG | 05/2014 | Jennifer consistently demonstrated an attitude that supports safety culture. He is an active participant at Eng's monthly Safety Mtgs. Her attendance has been exceptional in comparison to rest of her group. To recognize that she serves as an example. | |
| Nancy Rothermich | PS | 05/2014 | Nancy provided over 9 years of service on Environment Management System's Core Team. She was instrumental in helping Lab establish current contract for disposing electronic waste with a provider that met certification standards for responsibly recycling these materials. Nancy continues serving on the Team, contributing her institutional knowledge of the site and waste mgmt, even though she is no longer with EHS. | |
| Blair Horst | LD | 05/2014 | Blair performed over 6 years of service on Environment Management System's Core Team. He played key role in implementing/managing programs intended to improve Lab's environmental performance in up to four different areas at one time (energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation management). Consistently contributed to the successes of the EMS during his tenure on the Core Team. | |
| Matthias Morzfeld | CR | 05/2014 | Stopped people to remind them that walking and texting is unsafe. They should stop walking before using their cell phones. |  |
| Donald Brian Bell | ENG | 04/2014 | Exercising exceptional initiative, and with EH&S oversight, Brian identified, tagged, and eliminated all old and unwanted chemicals from Building 88, some going back to experiments that took place decades ago. All remaining chemicals were reorganized, and improvements were made to the chemical storage area in the 88-Inch Machine Shop to prevent future accumulations. His efforts significantly improved a long-standing safety issue with legacy materials in Building 88, and reduced the number chemical hazards for both himself and his coworkers. Brian's work ethic, dedication, and meticulous attention to detail directly made the 88-Inch Cyclotron more safe and efficient, and reflect the highest levels of safety ideals, conduct, and practice at Berkeley Lab. | |

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| Choon Lim, Alan Biocca | ENG | 04/2014 | Choon Lim was testing a DC servo motor, touched the shaft of the motor, and felt a minor tingling. Choon recognized he had just received a shock and immediately reported it to his supervisor, Alan Biocca. Even though the shock felt very minor, Alan and Choon did not know how much electricity was present, and they were both aware of potential delayed health effects from an electric shock. Following Alan's guidance, Choon immediately sought medical attention at Health Services where he was released with no injury. | |
| Aaron Garrett | OSF | 04/2014 | Aaron Garrett came into my office and noticed the bookshelves above my desk were bowed. Upon inspection, we discovered that the shelves were worse than bowed: all the brackets were cracked. The brackets were dangerous and given an earthquake at minimum and possibly just for no reason could have given way, dumping my library of O'Reilly books on my head. Without Aaron's observant eye, this hazard might not have been noticed until the shelving failed. Aaron helped Will remove the books until Facilities staff fixed the shelves. | |
| Erin May | NSC | 01/2014 | Erin utilized Radiation Protection Group's (RPG) urgent assistance number to report her concern about a potential radiological contamination. RPG determined that no spread of contamination had occurred. Erin's alertness and prompt notification demonstrated her commitment to radiation safety, preventing a possible spread of contamination to areas outside of her immediate lab space. | |
| Paula Ashley | EETD | 01/2014 | When noticing a colleague struggling with an injury sustained offsite, Paula encouraged her to visit the LBNL Health Services. The colleague, who was unaware of the services provided by the onsite clinic, immediately went and obtained advice and first aid. Paula not only demonstrated collegial spirit but also a commitment to safety by prompting colleague to seek timely medical attention. | |
| Michael Walling Janie Morse | FA | 12/2013 | Michael and Janie noticed that a vendor was delivering hazardous materials out of compliance with DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations on packaging, labeling, and marking. Through their supervisor, they worked with the vendor to develop a corrective action and resolve the issue. Their diligence prevented possible mishandling of hazardous material during a spill, leak, or emergency response. Mike and Janie exemplify a commitment to safety and safety culture at the Lab. | |
| Janie Morse | FA | 11/2013 | While processing receipt packages, she identified a suspicious package that she thought might be potentially radioactive due to questionable markings. She held the package and called the Lab's Radiation Protection Group (RPG). Further investigation indicated the package was a reused box and did not contain radioactive material. Janie's attention to detail and alertness stopped a possible radioactive material from being sent to the end user without being processed by the Radiation Protection Group first. | |
| Teresa Montero | CSD | 11/2013 | When a colleague arrived at work with a scraped elbow from a fall on the way to work, Teresa drove the employee to Health Services and onward to an offsite health care provider for further treatment and evaluation. Teresa was a good samaritan for an employee in need of medical attention. | |
| Herbert (Ted) Keffeler | ENG | 10/2013 | During a small fire at B77, Ted led the building emergency evacuation effort and provided the fire crew with concise report, apprising them of the situation and probable cause. He managed a complete and orderly building evacuation which facilitated the fire response. He served as a valuable subject matter expert to the fire captain who was impressed by Ted's knowledge and calmness during the event. | |
| John Pepper | ENG | 10/2013 | John is in-charge of installing x-ray optics into the various beamlines at the ALS. He believed the existing Silicon mirror etching process could be improved by eliminating the use of toxic and corrosive HNA solution. He started using a mild abrasive on the Silicon mirrors and found it worked fine for gluing the mirrors. The change in the process not only removes a hazardous step in the attachment of Silicon mirrors, the new process no longer produces hazardous waste. | |
| Kurt Ettinger | EHS | 09/2013 | Kurt created Smartsheets for the Fall Protection Permit Inventory and helped develop a digital Fall Protection Matrix which tracks real-time projects that require fall protection systems to protect workers from fall hazards. The effort enabled a scientist complete required training and obtain permit off-site for work near Pemberton, NJ. Kurt's effort also enables EHS to introduce paperless record keeping processes to the Fall Protection Competent Person Group in Q1FY14. | |

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| David Mustar | FA | 09/2013 | On a Saturday before dawn, David was walking in the B71 area checking on liquid nitrogen tanks when he heard a faint sound. After a considerable time searching for the source of the sound, he came near a trailer and realized someone was calling for help inside. Unable to open the jammed door after repeated attempts, he used a crowbar and pried it open, freeing an employee who had been trapped inside the windowless trailer since 7:45 pm on Friday night. David's exceptional alertness and investigative effort resulted in helping a coworker out of a very difficult and potentially serious situation. | |
| Eli Dart | SN | 09/2013 | After a 5th floor window in B50A broke and created a cascade of fallen glass on the sidewalks below, Eli demonstrated an exemplary response by having the cones set up, keeping people away from the broken glass and the walkway, and arranged for Facilities to work on the broken window right away. When the Building Emergency Team arrived, Eli had already secured the area to ensure the safety of the people so the problem could be corrected quickly and safely. | |
| Douglas Taube | ALS | 09/2013 | With used gas cylinders accumulating for years, the Building 2 compressed gas storage area had been in disarray for a while. Doug took the initiative and embarked on a Lab-wide project to organize and place all unwanted compressed gas cylinders from various Lab facilities in a central location to allow for easy vendor retrieval. Doug's dedication and high level of service is a great asset to LBNL. | |
| Madelyn Bello, Julie Chao, Blair Horst, Arthur Patterson | HR, PA, Directorate, EHS | 09/2013 | The Non-Smoking Policy Revision Team spent many hours writing, reviewing, editing the revised policy and communicating the proposed changes to BSO and UCOP, as well as to the Lab population. Members spent a fair amount of time walking around the Lab to identify locations for designated smoking areas that met state and LBNL fire marshal requirements. Their effort will greatly reduce the amount of secondhand smoke exposure to Lab employees, affiliates, subcontractors, and visitors. | |
| Lisa Sangmaster | FA | 09/2013 | Lisa volunteered to assist the Facilities Division Zero Accident Committee (DZAC) by scheduling and setting up the monthly meetings, recording attendance, and distributing notes and presentations. Lisa's willingness to take on these responsibilities has contributed greatly to the DZAC's efforts. | |
| Karolina Nalepa, Ronnie Woods, Sara Hefty, Brandon Craig, Joeseeph Griffin, Danae Havice-Hull, Patricia Jiminez, Hanh Kent, George Rosas, Helen (Elani) Yatar, Erin Claybaugh, Nicholas (Nick) Everson, Vivi Fissekidou, Susan Synarski, Maryann Villavert | FA,OCFO, ESD, EETD, MSD | 09/2013 | This group of employees designed, adopted, implemented, and facilitated the timely equipment procurement for the pilot Waste Diversion Program at LBNL. This new program is intended to help the Lab meet federal and University of California goal of keeping non-hazardous waste materials out of landfills. The team has helped the Lab take a significant step toward achieving that goal. When fully implemented across the Lab's main site, the effort will result in both environmental and business operations benefit. D11 | |
| Simone Sassolini | MSD | 09/2013 | New at the Molecular Foundry, Simone has an exceptional eye for safety and, within a short time, has already identified two longstanding safety issues that could have resulted in serious injuries if left unaddressed. He took the initiative to analyze the hazards and came up with solutions to mitigate and eliminate the hazards. In one instance, Simon installed the right component that he was able to obtain from the vendor free of charge. | |
| Don Beaton | FA | 08/2013 | During a research equipment transportation event at Lawrence Road, Don was queued behind a truck at an intersection and observed a somewhat chaotic situation. The convergence of a lowboy trailer, passenger vehicles, a truck, GEM cars, flagger, and pedestrians attempting to cross the roads made for a confusing and potentially unsafe traffic condition. Don decided to assist in directing the traffic and was soon able to help clear up the snarl at the intersection. | |
| Michael Elizalde | FA | 08/2013 | Mike has supervised a majority of the Lab's traffic and pedestrian safety improvements in the past year. He was able to identify potential issues and hazards and make design adjustments, as well as resolving unanticipated problems and conflicts. Through his effort and professionalism, these projects were all completed safely, on schedule, and within budget. | |

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| Tim Hart, David Stein, Mike Kritscher, James Osborn, Laura Chen, Tom Farrell, Mike Kincaid | FA, OCA, ENG, ENG, PS, FA, EHS | 08/2013 | Members of the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee volunteered to help design a new roadway and walkway system in the guest house/cafeteria area. The team worked over several months and proposed a design that meets the Lab's current needs and presents a significant traffic safety improvement in the area. The design was approved and recently implemented. | |
| David Trebotich | CRD | 08/2013 | David noticed a potential traffic hazard for pedestrians at the bottom landing of stairs from B50 to Chu road and the crosswalk to B65. The configuration of steps, landing, sidewalk, and road placed pedestrians too close to vehicle traffic. He suggested reorienting the landing or installing guard rails to minimize the hazard. The Lab's Traffic Safety Committee later obtained funding and in July, 2013, a new guard rail was installed at this heavily travelled area. |  |
| Joseph Perillo | PS | 08/2013 | While walking by B48 Firehouse, Joe noticed a person standing near the edge of the building rooftop without any fall protection. He immediately entered B48 to investigate and to alert the personnel on-duty regarding the Lab's fall protection requirements. The incident was later investigated and determined to have violated several LBNL safety requirements. Joe's vigilance helped to enhance the safety awareness among LBNL contract workers, including the fire protection personnel. | |
| Tennessee Gock | ALS | 07/2013 | Tennessee Gock made exceptional efforts in leading the development of and supervising the LBNL Road Safety Day 2013. She coordinated the communication and publicity for the activities, scheduled work assignments, and facilitated Lab's senior management's participation. Tennessee was instrumental in working closely with co-host Emergency Preparedness Fair team to refine the Road Safety Day event to ensure the combined activities were efficient without compromising either events' focus and importance. |  |
| Chris Diesch | CS | 07/2013 | Chris was vigilant in noticing a slip/trip/fall hazard at crosswalk from B50B to the Bevatron parking lot. Without any lights, it was difficult for pedestrians to see the uneven curb side leading to the parking lot covered stairway. Chris submitted his observation to the Lab's Safety Concerns and followed up with his division safety staff to ensure actions are taken to address this safety issue. | |
| Mary Hester | CS | 07/2013 | Mary was concerned about lack of lighting at the uncovered stairway to the Bevatron parking lot. The lights had been powered-off during an installation work and was not turned back on. Mary took the initiative to contact the Lab's Safety Concern to restore the light. | |
| Simon Teat | ALS | 07/2013 | While ALS scientist Simon Teat was opening the outer layer of a package, he read the accompanying paperwork and noticed that a user had sent a Uranium containing sample in the package. Knowing there are special procedures for processing radioactive samples, Simon immediately notified the ALS safety personnel and then contacted the Lab's Radiation Protection Group(RPG) for radioactive analysis. Simon was able to recognize a hazard, stopped work, and notified safety personnel for appropriate actions, thus averting a potential Uranium contamination at ALS. | |
| Dahlia An, Kathleen Bjornstad, Joel Morales-Rivera, Chris Rosen, Jonathan Villalobos, Melissa Caballero | CSD EHS | 06/2013 | This team spent a tremendous amount of time and effort organizing new laboratory space in B70A and implementing and optimizing laboratory procedures to safely perform a series of hazardous large-scale experiments. Issues addressed range from industrial hygiene (anesthetic gases exposure) to radiation protection (long-lived radionuclides), biosafety (animal tissues and microorganisms), animal welfare, and waste management (radioactive/mixed waste). These constraints require constant dedication to safety and exceptional teamwork. | |
| Karen Nunez | ALS | 06/2013 | Karen is the First-Place winner among entries from the Emergency Go Kit Contest. Contest winners used creativity and resourcefulness to assemble diverse supply kits with contents that could address a variety of survival scenarios. These examples help continue the conversation on emergency preparedness among colleagues at the Lab and beyond. |  |
| Tracy Mattox | MSD | 06/2013 | Tracy is the Second-Place winner among entries from the Emergency Go Kit Contest. The contest increased awareness of the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness. |  |

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| Deborah Ash | EETD | 06/2013 | Deborah is the Third-Place winner among entries from the Emergency Go Kit Contest. |  |
| Bobby Otilar | JGI | 06/2013 | While making his lunch, Bobby discovered an exploded glass bottle in the JGI building 310-lunch room freezer. The glass was clear and not easily seen, it could potentially cut someone reaching into the freezer. He removed one piece of glass, made and posted a red warning sign, and attached a red warning tape flag to the freezer handle. He then contacted the JGI Safety office for further assistance to clean up the sharps. | |
| Deborah Ash | EETD | 05/2013 | Deborah prevents accidents by reporting hazards before they result in injury such as a power outage in a room and unsanitary conditions, keeping corridors and conference rooms clear of tripping hazards, and serving as an effective department ergo advocate. | |
| Dave Dovichi, Rob Connelly, Dan Thomas, Ron Acord | FA EHS | 05/2013 | Dave, Rob, Dan, and Ron worked together to review, procure, and oversee subcontractor service to clean up legacy mercury contamination associated with a lab remodel at B70A. The EHS and Facilities staff worked with the contractor to prevent the spread of mercury contamination beyond the established containment area. |  |
| Marie (Massie) Ballon, Cheryl Chu, Melanie Alexandre | JGI EHS | 05/2013 | This JGI employee team worked together and achieved the second place finalist award at the 2013 Applied Ergonomics Conference Ergo Cup Competition in Dallas, Texas. The entry highlighted part of the JGI's robust and proactive Ergo Program where employees are involved in the process of selecting fully adjustable office furniture and customizing fully adjustable lab benches. Participation in the Ergo Cup has contributed to the JGI's strong safety culture; these team members went above and beyond normal expectations to achieve the outstanding result. | |
| Ken Wilson | ENG | 05/2013 | The floor in B50 4th floor clean room is somewhat slippery due to wax used to protect electrostatic discharge. Over the years, staff have tried different anti-skid covers, but none provided reasonable protection from slipping hazard. Ken was able to find super sticky shoe covers that really work on the slick floor, resulting in a safer work environment in the clean room. | |
| Wayne Stolte | ALS | 05/2013 | Wayne improved safety at LBNL by suggesting an improved pedestrian walkway at the Firehouse. This improvement was implemented and improves the walking safety for many Lab employees every day. |  |
| Stephen Derenzo | LSD | 05/2013 | Steve recommended five specific improvements for pedestrian walkway and worked with the Lab's Traffic Safety Engineer to review each one. One of these improvements at the Firehouse has been completed and improves the walking experience for many Lab employees each day. |  |
| Preston Jordan | ESD | 05/2013 | Preston recommended applying a new kind of paint in the Bevatron Crosswalk that would improve traction for bicyclists. The paint was applied and Preston volunteered to test the paint to ensure its efficacy. His suggestion has resulted in improved bicycle safety at the Lab. |  |
| Jeff Grounds | NERSC | 04/2013 | Jeff found a subcontractor using a grinder without wearing safety glasses. He made sure the subcontractor obtained a pair of safety glasses for the job. Jeff continues to demonstrate a focus on safety and a willingness to intervene when needed. | |
| Kristin Norton | LSD | 04/2013 | Kristin exemplifies excellent radiation safety practices while performing medical isotope tasks, resulting in much improved Total Effective Dose (TED). She is active in teaching colleagues to keep their exposure doses as low as reasonably achievable and in finding ways to streamline radioactive activities. Her experience in working around medical isotopes has helped identify where and how potential exposure can be lowered and minimized. | |

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| Rod Bennett | FA | 04/2013 | Rod recognized a potential hazard associated with work being performed in B88. He took the initiative to purchase rotohammers with built-in local exhaust systems to ensure the workers were adequately protected from quartz silica dust. He applied ANSI/OSHA's hierarchy of controls and effectively reduced workers' exposure risk. Personal air monitoring demonstrated the engineering control was effective. Rod's foresight and efforts support the Lab's mission to protect the health of workers and to ensure we are in compliance with DOE's and OSHA's worker protection requirements. |  |
| Cathy (Sam) Vanecek | AFRD | 03/2013 | Sam goes out of her way to make the Lab a safer place to walk and work. She reports traffic hazards, slip & trip hazards, and worked to make a water leak less dangerous by cleaning up the water in the walkway and suggesting a better way to keep the floor dry until the leak could be stopped. | |
| Kurt Krueger | ALS | 03/2013 | In the past, ALS staff considered the ALS User Machine Shop one of the most likely places where a serious safety incident could happen- Shop equipment users were inadequately trained, and with little guidance. Since taking on its oversight responsibilities, Kurt has conducted well-run and thoughtful trainings, keeping careful track of user training and authorization. He reviews projects one-on-one before any machining starts. He has made the facility much cleaner and better organized. Kurt's efforts and diligence have made the Machine Shop not only functional but much safer for all the users. |  |
| Heino Nitsche Deborah Wang Daniel Olive (Guest) | NSD | 03/2013 | After experiencing a distillation apparatus Low Conductivity Water (LCW) leak, Heino, Deborah, and Daniel conducted a thorough investigation and identified two causes of the leak. They then developed and tested a few safety mechanisms as corrective measures to prevent recurrence, documenting their findings in a detailed report. The group's effort exemplifies the ISM principles of "Analyze the Hazards", "Develop and Implement Hazard Controls", and "Provide Feedback and Continuous Improvement". |  |
| Paul Trapani | EHSS | 03/2013 | Paul worked closely with the Waste Management personnel and researchers to coordinate waste activities related to the lab moves from buildings 70 and 70A to B74. Paul demonstrated a proactive attitude and a willingness to jump in to assist and ensure efficient, successful and expedient waste pickup and collection. | |
| Joe DeMello | NERSC | 03/2013 | Joe noticed what looked like a capped diabetic syringe in the garbage and brought it to the attention of line management. Although the syringe turned out to be non-biohazardous because it was full of lubricant with no needle attached and was used for equipment installation, Joe is to be commended for recognizing and for bringing to the management attention a potential safety hazard. | |
| Charles (Chuck) Horton | FA | 03/2013 | Upon noticing yellow and black radiation trefoils affixed to two instruments rendered for shipment, Chuck contacted Radiation Protection Group (RPG) for assistance. The two instruments were found to each have a 1uCi Cs-137 source taped inside the plastic cover and were labeled as "Radioactive Material". Chuck's alertness resulted in the controlled radioactive material being removed and the instruments re-offered for shipment. | |
| David Hanifi | MSD | 03/2013 | When he noticed the house nitrogen gas (N2) flow was very low, David immediately notified the division safety officer, building manager, research advisor, and affected researchers. The safety officer checked the tank and fixed the flow issue. The incident happened during off hours, had it not been for David's alertness and prompt action, the consequence could have been significant since many equipment and operations are highly dependent on adequate N2 supply. | |
| Marty White, Mike Wisherop, Mike Johnson, Thorsten Weber, Joni Mott, Prabir Roy, Bob Mueller | EHSS/EHS S/NSD/Chem/LSRD/AF RD/ EGD | 03/2013 | This team of scientists and safety professionals worked long and hard for nearly two years on the LBNL 'Area PPE Requirements' policy revision, navigating through many complex and challenging tasks and processes. The team communicated with a wide-range of stakeholders at the Lab to spread the safety culture message through strengthening line management responsibilities and tightening the link between hazards and controls. | |

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| Bun Pa Lim | EGD | 03/2013 | Bun Pa used the ISM principle of analyzing the hazards and realized that a Bridgeport power feed modification caused a pinch-point that could break a wrist. Bun Pa brought this potential hazard to the attention of the maintenance department which started the process of replacing the handle with a different style. | |
| Craig Wray, Melissa Lunden | EETD | 02/2013 | Craig and Melissa worked proactively and closely with EH&S staff to develop guidelines for electrical safety of Lab-fabricated data-gathering equipment for field studies. | |
| Laura Kirkendorfer | HR | 02/2013 | Laura noticed a large puddle of water on the hallway floor and took the initiative to clean up the water by using paper towels. Laura's alertness to a potential slipping hazard prompted her to take the extra steps to eliminate the hazard for her colleagues. | |
| William Tschudi | EETD | 02/2013 | Bill submitted a safety concern that the new black Grizzly Gate was difficult to see at night. The reduced visibility increased the probability of an accident. Reflective tape has been added to the gate to improve its visibility at night, resulting in improved safety for Lab staff exiting the gate in the evening. |  |
| Steve Wyrick, Joerg Meyer | IT/CRD | 02/2013 | Steven and Joerg submitted a safety concern that the crosswalks between B2 and the cafeteria on Lawrence Road do not provide adequate protection for pedestrians because there was no clear distinction where the road starts. The Lab installed a painted limit line on the crosswalk to highlight where the road starts, improving the safety of one of the busiest pedestrian walking areas at the Lab. |  |
| Cathy (Anna) Ngeth | PBD | 02/2013 | Wearing gloves to unpack a sulfuric acid bottle from a packing box, Anna noticed signs of leak inside the box. She immediately called EH&S for advice and was instructed to put the box in a secondary container and place it in a chemical hood to prevent further leakage. Anna's safety precaution of wearing gloves to open packages and quick action after finding the leak prevented a potential chemical spill. | |
| Donald Mauritz | EETD | 02/2013 | Concerned about several near misses from an office door opening to a busy hallway lined with file cabinets, Don reminded colleagues to exercise caution when exiting the office. He placed a caution sign on the door and requested to have a mirror installed to enhance hallway safety. | |
| James Swanson | AFRD | 02/2013 | When tasked with operating an oven he was unfamiliar with, Jim found an electrical defect that had gone unnoticed for years. Additionally, Jim took the initiative to fix the problem and write up an excellent description of the incident so others could benefit from his experience. | |
| Henry Coles | EETD | 02/2013 | Henry submitted several safety concerns and recommendations that resulted in improved safety at LBNL. These included issues relating to shuttle buses, pedestrian walkways, traffic signage, and safety concern system processes and form enhancement. | |
| Ali Belkacem | CSD | 02/2013 | After learning of an accident in another laboratory, Ali volunteered to share his knowledge and experiences in selecting the right tools and parts to improve the safety of maintaining and setting up laser vacuum systems. |  |
| Janey Lee | JGI | 01/2013 | Janey serves as an Area Safety Leader for her technical lab and represented JGI in a recent LBNL EH&S Safety Training video about general lab safety and proper fume hood usage. | |
| Charles (Chuck) Axthelm | OCFO | 01/2013 | After noticing water trickling down underneath a wall surface, Chuck alerted line management right away. Within an hour, a broken water pipe was discovered and an emergency crew assembled to repair the leak. Chuck's quick action prevented possible extensive water damages to the facility and equipment. | |

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| Dan Martin | CRD | 12/2012 | Dan noticed that sand and gravel from the CRT project was accumulating on the roadside outside of the Lab's gate, causing hazard for cyclists. His observation and suggestion resulted in regular sweeping of the area to keep the roadway and street intersection free of debris - safer for cyclists, and promoting goodwill with neighbors. | |
| Steve Blankinship, Art Carrion, Brent Pene | FA | 12/2012 | While working at FlexLab project, the three Overaa subcontractors noticed several Lab personnel standing near the edge of the B90 roof without fall protection. Recognizing potential hazard, they took a picture and quickly notified LBNL line management. As a result, building occupants were made aware of the potential fall hazards and EH&S installed additional access controls and warning signs on the B90 roof. | |
| Seana Summers | HR | 12/2012 | Seana noticed that wind had blown off the plastic sheet covering a portion of the hillside exposing it to the wet weather and that a large section of the hill was about to break off. She alerted Facilities personnel, enabling them to take timely mitigation measures to secure the area. | |
| Matt Rodriquez | Walters & Wolf/Sub-contractor | 12/2012 | Matt started B33 construction work at LBNL in May, 2012. In his homemade rap video, Matt name checks ISM, mountain lions, JHA, Alameda Whipsnakes, and PPE like he had been employed at LBNL for years. Matt was recognized for his video that advocates effective safety culture at LBNL through his lively rap rendition of what it means for a construction subcontractor. | https://commons.lbl.gov/display/sc/2012/12/19 |
| Wayne Lukens | ChSD | 11/2012 | When Wayne punctured his finger while handling radioactive material solution, he called Radiological Control Technician right away. The EH&S Radiation Protection Group was able to provide immediate assistance which allowed for prompt medical treatment and prevented possible loss of radiological control. | |
| Philip Mudder | NSD | 11/2012 | Using the after-hour urgent assist phone line, Philip contacted Radiation Protection Group to report lab coat contamination and potentially contaminated personal clothing and the floor. Philip's situational awareness enabled him to notice a small splash onto his lab coat and utilize information from his training to prevent further contamination to himself, others, and the lab space. | |
| Richard Kadel | Physics | 11/2012 | Richard notified a health physicist that he obtained an abnormal reading on his alpha counting system which was an indication that his sealed source has lost its integrity. His keen observation and prompt notification prevented further degradation of the situation, ultimately resulting in further protection of other personnel, environment, and the public. | |
| Cliff Ng | LSD | 11/2012 | After business hours, Cliff called the RPG's Radiation Protection Group urgent assist number to report he had found radiological contamination on his left shoe while checking out of his Dielectric Wakefield Accelerator DWA. By calling RPG promptly, Cliff prevented spread of contamination to other areas and public spaces. | |
| Deborah Miller | HR | 11/2012 | During the badge office staff move, Deborah noticed that staff members were navigating and stepping around some boxes while trying to help a high volume of new hires and affiliates, one almost tripped. Deborah took the initiative to step in and help move the boxes aside to mitigate the potential trip hazard. |  |
| Pat Thorson | EH&S | 10/2012 | Working closely with the Lab's Chief Sustainability Officer and others, Patrick ensured that the 2012 Open House was a zero-waste event, a historical first. He coordinated and determined the number and placement of recycling and compost bins after identifying the items belonging to each, and organized volunteers to assist with the bins. Through Patrick's efforts and leadership, the event with more than 6000 guests achieved 99.98% recycling rate. | |
| Thorsten Weber, Melanie Alexandre | CSD/EH&S | 10/2012 | Thorsten worked with ergonomist Melanie Alexandre to develop devices that helped to relieve potential strain on his lab colleagues. They assessed the situation and customized several platforms and other working tools that dramatically improved working comfort. | |
| Teresa Pick | MSD | 09/2012 | Teresa noticed Liquid Nitrogen LN spewing from a joint, signifying a leak in an ice/frost covered secondary valve of the LN tank. She immediately notified all relevant parties and the problem was promptly diagnosed. Her quick action prevented a significant flow of gas or liquid that would have presented a serious safety hazard. | |

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| Deepti Tanjore | PBD | 09/2012 | Deepti noticed an inherent risks associated with a door that opens to a hallway but has no handle on the outside. It is not obvious that it is an outward-opening door. She suggested installing caution signage for staff to open the door slowly and for passers-by to keep a distance from the door, reducing the risk of staff being struck by a fast opening and poorly identified door. | |
| Ahmet Pekedis | EGD | 09/2012 | When colleagues attempted to obtain nitrogen gas from another building, Ahmet reminded them of the safety rules regarding transporting gas cylinders in shop trucks. His colleague then took the additional step and verified with the division safety coordinator about applicable rules. | |
| Eugene Flor | EGD | 09/2012 | When coworker Ahmed reminded colleagues of rules regarding transporting Nitrogen gas, Eugene took the additional step and verified with the division safety coordinator on the applicable rules for proper transportation of Nitrogen gas. | |
| Stephen King | EGD | 09/2012 | Stephen saw a potential safety issue with a loose step leading to B46 and took the initiative to make the simple repair right away. He used a screw and cordless drill to make the stair tread safe for his teammates. This is an example of putting safety first. | |
| Chris Redding | EGD | 08/2012 | Chris was observed sweeping and cleaning the area outside the ultra high vacuum cleaning facility, a task he voluntarily took on to keep the roadway around the facility clean. Good housekeeping plays an important role in safety. Chris demonstrated the right attitude of trying to make the workplace safe for all. | |
| John Kadyk | Physics | 08/2012 | While showing an intern a newly added radioactive material stored in a safe, John noticed the field was higher than expected. He immediately notified the responsible PI and the Radiation Protection Group RPG. RPG personnel removed the source and returned it later in a lead shielding. John's prompt action resulted in timely resolution of a safety issue while providing a best practice lesson to the intern. | |
| Elizabeth Moxon, Lori Tamura | ALS | 08/2012 | Lori and Liz created the winning graphic design and the phrase "Safety is Elemental" for the Lab wide safety culture catchy phrase competition. The phrase will be the center of a safety culture campaign and of a new website aimed at improving safety at LBNL. | |
| Chris Redding | EGD | 08/2012 | Chris took the initiative to find a less hazardous chemical to replace the highly toxic chromic acid and implemented its use at his facility. The removal of chromic acid usage not only eliminated its environmental hazard for his facility, it also resulted in cost saving for LBNL in water treatment. The new environmentally friendly chemical reduced the Lab's liability for exceeding EBMUD's limits. |  |
| Aaron Thomas | CRD | 08/2012 | Aaron noticed that computer room temperatures had been rising all afternoon, and were in the 90's in the back of some computer racks and voiced his concern to area safety staff. As a result, Facilities personnel identified the causes and resolved the issues before any damage was done to the computers. | |
| Eric Roman | CRD | 07/2012 | Eric noticed that two unattended variable frequency drive VFD panels in a computer room were left open with exposed wiring. He placed barricades in front of the panels to prevent access and contacted the division safety coordinator. One of the wires turned out to be 208 Volt. Eric's quick action prevented a potential hazard exposure and resulted in the development of a safety procedure for electrical panel work. | |
| Janet Leong | OCFO | 07/2012 | Janet created an ergo-centric process solution to automate a monthly 1,000+ journal lines related to asset capitalization. This solution reduced keystrokes and decreased the transaction process effort-hours from several weeks to a few hours. The improvement also lessened manual typing and the potential for input errors. | |
| Tevye Kuykendall, John Romankiewicz, Massie Ballon | MSD, EETD, JGI | 07/2012 | Tevye, John, and Massie are the first, second, and third place winners of the LBNL second annual Safety Video Award contest. | https://sites.google.com/a/lbl.gov/ehs-video-contest/ |
| Nicholas Matlis | AFRD | 07/2012 | During group meetings and in larger settings, Nicholas shared his personal story of laser eye injuries. He is one of the strongest advocate for laser safety in AFRD and LBNL. Nicholas is willing to recount his personal errors in order to drive home the laser safety message so others won't repeat the same mistake. | |

| Safety Spot Award Recipients | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------|--|------------|
| Recipient | Division | Date | Award For | (Pictures) |
| Matthijs Mentink | AFRD | 07/2012 | During a training course, Matthijs not only actively participated in the exercise but also raised thoughtful questions and provided well conceived feedback regarding PPE requirements at differet stages of circuit breaker LOTO process. | |
| Christine Naca, Melanie Alexandre, Cheryl Chu, Gigi Pang, Marie Ballon | JGI, EH&S, JGI, JGI, JGI | 07/2012 | The JGI employees worked with the ergonomist and were awarded second place in the 2012 Applied Ergonomics Conference International Ergo Cup Competition. The participation in the competition has contributed to the JGI's strong safety culture which has resulted in reduction of the severity and number of injuries over the last several years. | |
| Ted Aguilera | EGD | 07/2012 | While performing his duties as an electrical equipment inspector, Ted discovered 120 volt relocatable power strips with questionable Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory NRTL marks and contacted the LBNL Electrical Safety Program Manager. The items were laer determined to be Suspect/Counterfeit items. If allowed in service, those items could have caused equipment damage and possible employee injury. | |
| Tennessee Gock | ALS | 07/2012 | Tennessee was the project manager for the LBNL 2012 Road Safety Day. She coordinated the organization, preparation, and the set-up for this event, including videos, posters, gifts, and volunteers. The event was very well received and represented a significant improvement in the LBNL safety culture in addressing traffic and pedestrian safety. | |
| Erica Hall | MSD | 06/2012 | Among Erica's several roles at the Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis, one is to receive, unpack and distribute chemicals. When she unpacked some damaged shipments with leaking bottles, she was able to avoid injury and spill due to her strict adherence to personal protective requirements and engineered controls. | |
| Dominik Ziegler | MSD | 06/2012 | Dominik observed that a Nanofabrication Facility user had improperly packaged hazardous waste in a glass bottle that consisted of a mixture of potentially incompatible materials. He documented the problem and repackaged the waste into proper storage containers and informed people involved so that the problem would not recur. | |
| Kathy Bjornstad | LSD | 06/2012 | Confronted with slipping hazard from liquid CO2 concentration during cylinders and dewars change-out, the landlord offered a solution that only made the situation worse. Kathy found, ordered, and installed a secondary containment vessel designed specifically for CO2 dewars, thereby eliminating the slipping hazard. | |
| Jeff Beeman | MSD | 06/2012 | During a City of Berkeley COB inspection, Jeff clearly demonstrated that the solvents used in the laboratories under his charge were not discharged to the sinks draining to the Fixed Treatment Unit FTU. Jeff's diligence ensured that the inspectors found the labs well operated and meet all FTU and SAA requirements. | |
| Alex Gavidia, Chris Hernikl, Monroe Thomas | EGD | 06/2012 | Alex, Chris and Monroe identified and reconfigured the roof block railings at the ALS so that the rails don't block the sight lines of survey/alignment group any more, eliminating the need to move the rails during surveys. This allowed the surveys to be done more efficiently and more safely. | |
| Phil Weiss, Linda Brown | OCFO | 06/2012 | Phil and Linda developed a safety program for OCFO employees during the move to offsite Bldg. 971. It included mandatory safety walk-arounds, a fully equipped emergency box, food/water/blanket box, and a full-scale building emergency evacuation drill that was communicated with other non-LBNL tenants. | |
| Thomas Johnson | EGD | 06/2012 | While on assignment at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota, Thomas recognized a deficiency in a heavy overhead load support . The deficiency was subsequently verified and corrected. He also insisted upon the use of secondary supports during use of electrical winch which actually later failed on one occasion. His foresight prevented damage to a critical scientific component. | |
| Debjani Mitra | PBD | 06/2012 | Debjani noticed and reported that the fume hoods were out of routine inspection compliance. These inspections are important in ensuring worker safety by minimizing chemical exposure and providing protection from inhalation of hazardous vapors, mists, and particulate matter. | |
| Nina Kamennaya | ESD | 06/2012 | In response to ESD's encouragement for staff to evaluate recycling of lab items, Nina inquired about how to recycle the ice packs shipped with frozen samples. EH&S advised that the uncontaminated ice packs can be poured into the drain because the gel inside the ice packs is not hazardous and the bag can be recycled as #4 plastic. | |

Safety Spot Award Recipients

| Recipient | Division | Date | Award For | (Pictures) |
|---|-----------------------|---------|--|------------|
| Martin Boswell, David Wilson | LSD | 06/2012 | Martin and David researched, selected, tested, and obtained appropriate EH&S approval to establish a remote, web-based audio/visual-monitoring system to provide required oversight of activities in a small mechanical shop in Bldg. 55. This approach may have Lab-wide applications and was shared with the LBNL Safety Advisory Committee. | |
| Marion Russell | EETD | 06/2012 | Marion contributed significant improvement in safety for her colleagues by providing safety training to students and visitors. She also identified potential hazards and took actions to solve those problems according to EH&S safety rules. | |
| Ken Sihler, Don Syversued | EGD | 06/2012 | When two enclosed beam tubes had to be used instead of one because of the the lab space constraints, Don and Ken took the initiative to design and fabricate a support and a tube connection device with shutters, providing additional safety features to the beam tubes. | |
| Stephanie Daglia, Marcia Ocon | HR | 05/2012 | Stephanie and Marcia volunteered to lead the HR Safety Culture program. They developed a list of safety activities for the year that included speaker series and required safety training for HR staff. | |
| Cody Rotermund | NERSC | 05/2012 | When an employee complained about dust at work space and asked for a tissue to wipe the eyes, Cody remembered that tissue was not recommended for eye use. Instead, he provided the employee with a bottle of 200 mL eyewash from the first aid kit and restocked the kit with new eyewash. | |
| Erin Gantz | NSD | 05/2012 | Erin regularly inspires safety and safety consciousness for all the people that she works with. Her rigorous and continued effort in bringing about a safety culture is commendable. | |
| Chelsea Preble | EETD | 05/2012 | Chelsea proactively and significantly contributed to improving workspace efficiency while also maintaining appropriate levels of safety controls in the labs. She improved the process for receiving, organizing, and storing thousands of samples by identifying potential hazards and mitigating risks according to EH&S safety rules. | |
| Roberto Morelli, James Gagliardi, Scott Mason | Scientific Networking | 05/2012 | After noticing anomalous power consumption metrics and a electric shock event, Roberto, Jim, and Scott discovered a manufacturing defect in the AC/DC power distribution panels used widely at many Lab locations. They worked with the vendor to correct the design and negotiated a cost-neutral replacement of all the flawed units. Their effort resulted in safer working environment, reduced service outages, and elimination of panel fire risk. | |
| Bob Gassaway | EGD | 05/2012 | Bob developed a simple and effective modification to the ALS portable toxic gas cabinets, enabling quick installation of gas leak detectors and solenoid interlocks. The improvement allowed ALS to meet the needs of diverse user communities that work with a broad array of toxic gases at many different beamlines in a safe and reliable way. | |
| Arturo Magana | EGD | 05/2012 | During daily high power laser systems operations, Arturo performs every task and modification with great care, ensuring safe operation while maintaining good communications. During special system activities and building-wide electrical shutdowns, Arturo always serves as a great role-model for the whole group with his dedication to safety. | |
| Bob Glaeser | LSD | 05/2012 | Bob recognized that an LBNL safety policy regarding PPE during cryogen handling could actually increase the hazard under certain circumstances. He brought this observation to the Lab safety professionals and proposed a modification which has been adopted into Lab's policy. Bob's safety concerns resulted in safety program improvement by providing an alternative procedure when specific conditions arise . | |
| Steve Fournier | EGD | 05/2012 | Steve took on the task of developing a work control process and scheduling tool to cope with the increase in workforce and activities. The process and tool not only makes operations run more smoothly, but will also enhance the safety of both LOASIS and BELLA operations. | |
| Anthony Gonsalves | AFRD | 05/2012 | During on-the-job training session in BELLA laser lab, Tony noticed and raised the question of a laser safety concern that had been missed up to that time. | |
| Jil Geller, Sharon Borglin | ESD | 05/2012 | Jil and Sharon were assigned to perform the monthly walkthroughs of their labs. They did an excellent job identifying and documenting in detail issues related to those labs. | |
| Ron Woods | ESD | 05/2012 | Ron exhibits extreme diligence and professionalism supporting Earth Sciences Division's environment, safety, and health ctivities both in the labs and in the offices. He proactively addresses ESD staff's concerns and has made the Division's labs and offices safer for all. | |
| Laurel Davis, Joy Fleming | EH&S | 05/2012 | Laurel and Joy exhibited diligence and professionalism during an evaluation of eyewash/showers placement in the newly renovated labs in B74. Besides evaluating the specific lab under question, they went through all the labs in B74, measured the distances, reviewed the codes and requirements, and provided a list of the locations that require eyewash/showers. This is going beyond the scope to serve the customers. | |

| Safety Spot Award Recipients | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|--|------------|
| Recipient | Division | Date | Award For | (Pictures) |
| Yuyi Li | EETD | 05/2012 | To address the B62 gas cyclinder overcrowding issue, Yuyi developed an inventory management process for ordering EETD gas cylinders. By implementing a check-out procedure for shared inventory that Yuyi regularly monitors and restocks, the gas cylinder area is no longer overcrowded and is fire safety compliant. | |
| Weyland Wong | EGD | 05/2012 | Weyland has provided outstanding and steadfast leadership to the LBNL Division Safety Coordinator Committee for over seven years, helping to make the Lab a safer work environment for all employees and visitors. | |
| Ann Tomaselli, Allen Tsui, Bill Mattson | IT, EH&S, Facilities | 05/2012 | Ann, Allen, and Bill tirelessly worked to make B50B-1275 fire protection system project prioritized and completed. Through persistent communication and timely review, the room now has a fire protection system. | |
| Gary Smith | EGD | 05/2012 | Gary reported a potential problem when he observed a subcontractor on a scissor lift troubleshoot a radio remote control of a 10-ton crane at the trolley control panel. The subcontractor was not in possession of the radio remote control for a second crane that is powered on the same bus and running on the same rails. Gary's safety awareness averted a potentially dangerous work condition. | |
| David Hanifi | MSD | 04/2012 | David observed and reported that a temperature sensitive, highly flammable, and air reactive chemical had been inappropriately signed for, delivered to, and stored in an office area. Due to David's alertness and prompt action, the material was properly stored before there were any problems. | |
| Sandra Miarecki | Nuclear Sciences | 04/2012 | A small package containing a hazardoud material Samarium foil was lost during an office move. Several weeks later, while collecting recycled packing peanuts, Sandy found a small box marked as hazardous Samarium foil. The box had the name of the shipper, but not the recipient. She contacted the shipper and returned the package to the owner for proper storage. | |
| Ee-Been Goh, Josh Heazlewood | PBD, PBD | 04/2012 | In addition to diligently manage their Satellite Accumulation Area SAA according to hazardous waste management rules, Ee-Been and Josh are always willing to help coworkers. They will go out of their way to obtain science protocols to ensure that all hazardous waste calculations are done properly for the safety of researchers and the laboratory. | |
| Margie Wylie | CSD | 03/2012 | Margie noted and reported that the grill in the cafeteria wasn't vented properly - thick smoke was visible, and workers were coughing. Facilities later found that the exhaust fan was not working and fixed it. Margie helped to improve the work environment for the cafeteria employees. | |
| Rei Lee | NERSC | 03/2012 | Rei spotted a significant amount of water leaking on 20th Street outside of the Oakland Scientific Facility and investigated. He notified EBMUD and they discovered that a water pipe was leaking severely. Rei acted with safety and environmental concerns on his mind. His extra effort averted a major water pipe break event. | |
| Seanna Summers, Maria Maroudas | HR | 03/2012 | A stranger visited the HR Service Center and asked about a Lab employee. He was in possession of her driver's license. Seana and Maria suspected a questionable situation and notified supervisor and Site Access Security, who in turn alerted UCPD. | |
| Ben Ortega, Larry Guo and Lorraine Dowling | HR, HR, & EH&S | 03/2012 | Ben, Larry, and Lorraine recognized that a colleague needed emergency care and contacted the appropriate emergency response personnel. Their safety awareness, quick thinking, and compassion helped a coworker in distress. | |
| Simon Morton | PBD | 03/2012 | Simon contributed significantly to improving the process for declaring and receiving research samples containing ultra low levels of uranium. His efforts resulted in a much more efficient process while maintaining appropriate levels of safety controls. Users and staff also gained better understanding of and are able to better support the safety program. | |
| Gino Picchi | EGD | 03/2012 | Gino removed from service a piece of equipment that had become hazardous and notified his supervisor of the defective equipment. The equipment defect was communicated to shops performing similar activitie. The information was the basis of an LBNL lessons learned on the importance of inspecting equipment prior to use. | |
| Tony Marquez | OCFO | 03/2012 | Tony witnessed a near miss at Sally's Alley where someone was almost hit while entering into the crosswalk. He immediately notified his division safety coordinator and e-mailed safetyconcerns@lbl.gov. As a result, a reminder of the 10 mph speed limit was published in TABL. | |