



SELLS



Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing

November 2002 The SELLS Quarterly Newsletter

Co-Chair Corner

Another SELLS conference has concluded. Thanks to Tom Rotella and Chris Coccagna for their outstanding contributions to the success of the conference, and for their development of a new SELLS display. Tom's term is ending this year on the Executive Committee. Thanks for your guidance. We also thank Mike Smith and Jenny Roddy for helping us to stay on course with weekly agendas and conference call minutes. Mike and Jenny are also helping us preserve our history by collecting various historical SELLS documents. Thanks to Meredith Brown for her development of the mentoring guidance. Thanks to Joe Marek and John Bickford for their work on the SELLS membership list. Thanks to John Bickford (again) for his continued efforts to help us smoothly transition from one list server to another. John is not an Executive Committee member this year, which makes his assistance even more appreciated.

The Executive Committee has revised the SELLS Charter and Strategic Plan, developed mentoring guidance, and a change notice for the Lessons Learned Standard. It has been a year of tremendous accomplishment for SELLS and we

thank all the Executive Committee members for their support in making this a successful year!

In Memorial

Bruce Breslau passed away on November 16, 2002, after a 5-month battle with malignant mesothelioma. Bruce was a stalwart champion of SELLS from its inception. His tireless efforts to improve safety and efficiency through the use of lessons learned throughout the DOE complex have had long-lasting and far-reaching positive effects. His expertise and sense of humor will be sorely missed.



Bruce Breslau at the SELLS 2001 Spring Conference

New Initiatives

John Bickford and Dawn Starrett have been chosen as SELLS representatives to upcoming meetings to establish a new focus for

the lessons learned program with DOE. A brainstorming session was conducted during the SELLS Fall Conference to address the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities SELLS can offer this team.

New Resources

Check out the SELLS 2002 Fall Conference proceedings at the following web site:
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/II/proceedings/proceedings1002/proceedings1002.html>

Request for Assistance

Linda Collier of Los Alamos National Laboratory requests that SELLS members send her information about programs, processes, procedures that involve the worker in developing lessons learned at: lcollier@lanl.gov.

Improving Alerts

Beginning January 2003, mentors will begin selecting lessons learned alerts issued on the DOE Lessons Learned List Server. Mentors will review two randomly selected alerts per month and distribute an evaluation for each reviewed alert in accordance with the author's preference. All alert reviews will include the reviewer's name and contact

information. If you are interested in having your lessons learned reviewed, indicate that on the lessons learned submitted. The review option is a new field on the revised lessons learned template being proposed for the change notice to standard 7501-99.

Pinch Point Fatality



On September 23, 2002, a worker was fatally injured while operating a backhoe attachment on a Bobcat loader. It appears that the backhoe attachment rotated backward pinning the upper chest of the operator between a handrail on the backhoe frame and the cab surrounding the normal operating position of the loader.



Operator caught between backhoe handrail and cab enclosure

The following observations were made.

- The levers for locking pins appeared operational and the locking pins did not appear to be damaged.
- The safety chain was not broken. It was found to be secured only around the backhoe instead of both the backhoe and tool bar.

Actions to take:

- Emphasize pre-use inspections to confirm proper installation and condition of equipment
- Re-emphasize in training the need to properly engage and secure attachments and safety devices
- Abide by manufacturer’s warning labels and instructions for safe operation of equipment



Close-up of pinch point

Upcoming Events

April 28 - May 1, 2003
DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop in Amarillo, TX

April 8 - 10, 2003
SELLS 2003 Spring Conference in Denver, CO

Next SELLS Meeting

We are planning the agenda for the April meeting in Denver and are currently looking for speakers who can share their lessons learned metrics or program challenges and successes. If you would like to be a conference presenter, contact one of the SELLS Co-Chairs.

Want to share a lessons learned? Contact your organization’s Lessons Learned Point of Contact.

SELLS Member Profile

Mike Smith is the designated contact for lessons learned at Oak



Ridge Operations Office. Mike usually works behind the scenes in his capacity as a Secretary for SELLS

to post agendas and meeting minutes each week, with the assistance of Jenny Roddy. Mike has been a member of the SELLS Executive Committee for the past year. He will be overseeing the upcoming elections. Our appreciation for all your efforts Mike!

Recurring Theme

Lock Out/Tag Out of electrical applications is recurring at some sites.

Quote

The illiterate of the 21st century
will not be those who cannot read
and write, but those who cannot
learn, unlearn, and relearn.

- Alvin Toffler

Let us know about anything new
happening with lessons learned at
your site! If you have any ideas to
add to this newsletter, contact
Dawn via e-mail at
starred@nv.doe.gov