



# Centrifuge Incident at Weapon Evaluation Test Laboratory (WETL/Pantex)

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Sandia Site Office Facility Rep



# Incident Description

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- Occurred on Saturday, December 11, 2004 at ~9:00 am
- at the NNSA/DOE Pantex, WETL Facility
- on the large centrifuge
- Operator was getting ready to run a W80-1 Simulator
- Operator completed the safety checks and was re-enabling the controllers



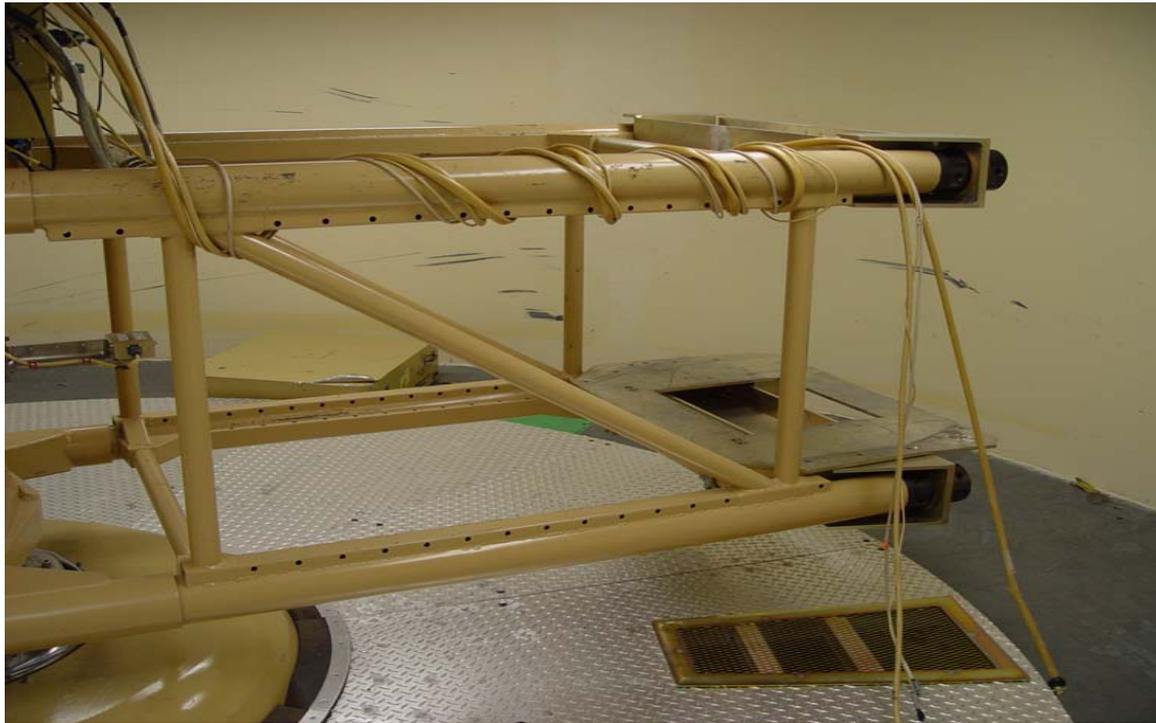
# Incident Description Continued

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- Enabling the 5<sup>th</sup> Controller the centrifuge accelerated (ran away) in the reverse direction
- W80-1 Simulator package was thrown off the centrifuge arm while in reverse run
- Operator activated the emergency stop sequence

# Incident Description continued

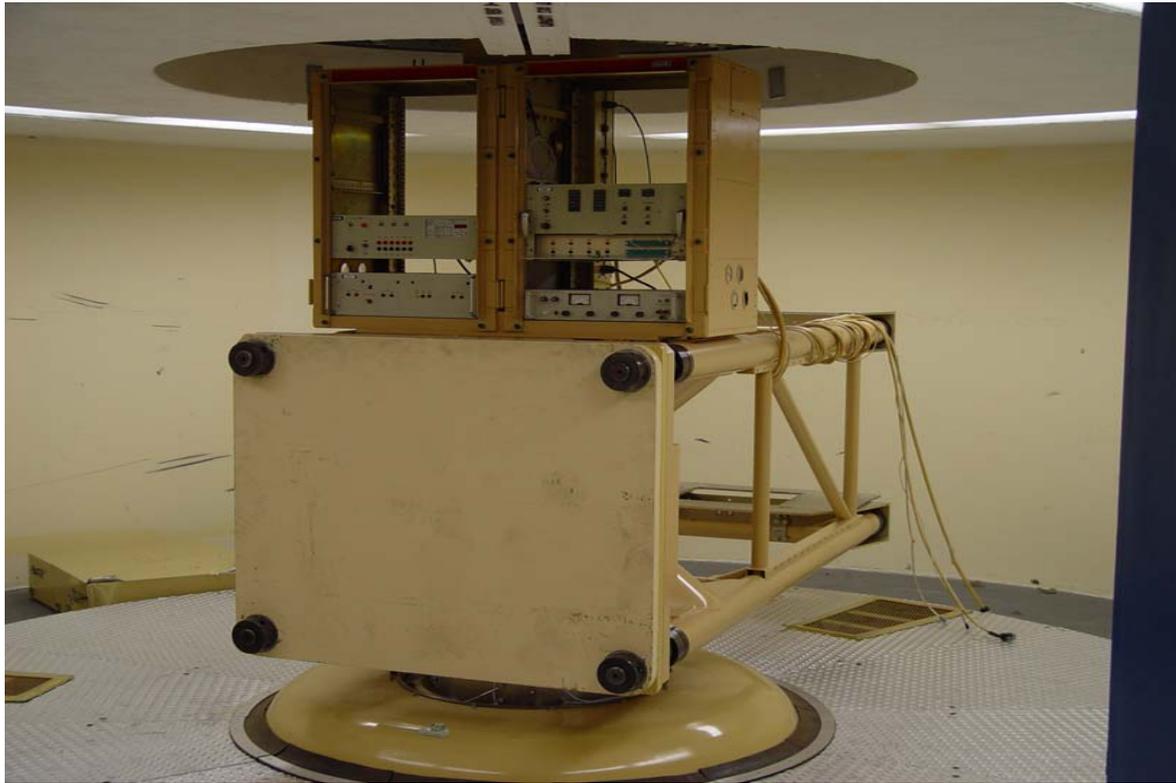
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- All of the debris from the incident was contained in the centrifuge containment room

# Incident Description continued

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- Minor damage to the containment room and centrifuge

# Incident Description continued

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- Simulator box and small amounts of debris

# Incident Description continued

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- Close up of one of the sheared bolts



# Immediate Actions Taken

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- Shutdown equipment and applied LOTO
- Secured the area
- Notified BWXT EOC/ SNL ES&H Coordinator/ SSO Duty Officer
- Notified Facility Rep
- SNL formed an investigation team



# Occurrence Reporting

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- Incident was categorized as SC3 under G10-Management Concerns, and
- SC4 under Facility Status/SG-B Operations (5)
- 6 Corrective Actions (closed)
- A3B1C02: Human Performance LTA
- A3B1C07: Omission/repeating of steps due to assumptions for completion



# Lessons Learn

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- Add additional checklist for running manual, non-WR profile test runs, and for verifying pretest system checks.
- Employ an engineering control to detect and prevent the centrifuge spinning in the counter-clockwise direction.



# Lessons Learn continued

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- Video record centrifuge test runs.
- Develop a mechanical inspection requirements and procedures to be used on mechanical fixtures before installing on the centrifuge for test activities.
- Formalize reporting procedures or any perceived problem related to running the centrifuge.
- Develop an inspection procedure to inspect test fixtures previous prior to installing on centrifuge.



Sandia Site Office  
Facility Rep Program

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***The End***