Ohio University
Lab & Rad Safety Newsletter

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Required

Optional

www.ohio.edu/riskandsafety/radiationsafety
ODH Safety Culture Policy Statement

Traits of a Positive Safety Culture
Experience has shown that certain personal and organizational traits are present in an organization that promotes a positive safety culture. The following are traits of a positive safety culture:

Leadership Safety Values and Actions
Leaders demonstrate a commitment to safety in their decisions and behaviors.

Problem Identification and Resolution
Issues potentially impacting safety are promptly identified, fully evaluated, and promptly addressed and corrected, commensurate with their significance.

Personal Accountability
All individuals take personal responsibility for safety.

Work Processes
The process of planning and controlling work activities is implemented so that safety is maintained.

Continuous Learning
Opportunities to learn about ways to ensure safety are sought out and implemented.

Environment for Raising Concerns
A safety-conscious work environment is maintained where personnel feel free to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation, intimidation, harassment, or discrimination.

Effective Safety Communication
Communications maintain a focus on safety.

Respectful Work Environment
Trust and respect permeate the organization.

Questioning Attitude
Individuals avoid complacency and continuously challenge existing conditions and activities in order to identify discrepancies that might result in error or inappropriate action.

Ohio Department of Health Mission
“To Protect and improve the Health of All Ohioans by Preventing Disease, Promoting Good Health and Assuring Access to Quality Health Care”

The Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP) supports the ODH mission through the regulation of the many medical, academic, industrial and research uses of radioactive materials and radiation generating equipment in Ohio. BRP program staff work to ensure that the possession, use, handling, storage and disposal of these beneficial materials and equipment is accomplished in a safe and secure manner that will protect the health of all Ohioans.

For additional information, please contact:
Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Radiation Protection
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-644-2777
Fax: 614-466-0381

Email: BRadiation@odh.ohio.gov

This brochure is based in part on U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission publication NUREG-0950, June 2011. TO GET MORE INFORMATION FROM THE NRC: www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html

www.ohio.edu/riskandsafety/radiationsafety
The policy statement applies to all radioactive material general and specific licensees, radiation-generating equipment registrants, individuals licensed as radiation-generating equipment operators or nuclear medicine technologists, and all other personnel involved in the possession, use, handling, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and radiation-generating equipment in Ohio.

**Regulation of Radioactive Material and Radiation-Generating Equipment in Ohio**

ODH is the agency responsible for the regulation of the many medical, academic, industrial, and research uses of radioactive materials and radiation-generating equipment in Ohio. Radioactive materials oversight was granted to Ohio as an Agreement State in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act provision allowing such arrangements between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the states. Radiation-generating equipment is regulated in accordance with rules adopted under Chapter 3748 of the Ohio Revised Code and through contractual agreements with the US Food and Drug Administration.

**Background**

The 1986 nuclear accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine revealed the importance of safety culture and the impact that weaknesses in safety culture can have on safety. Since then, the importance of a positive safety culture has been further demonstrated by a number of significant events around the world involving radioactive materials and radiation-generating equipment. Assessments of these events revealed that safety culture weaknesses were an underlying cause or increased the severity of problems.

The NRC previously issued two policy statements related to safety culture. The “Policy Statement on the Conduct of Nuclear Power Plant Operations,” released in 1989, applies to all individuals and activities at nuclear power plants. The 1996 “Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry to Raise Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation” policy statement applies to all NRC regulated activities. It provides the expectation that licensees establish and maintain work environments in which employees feel free to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation. Ohio regulations provide similar protections to individuals applicable to activities carried out in this state, in accordance with rule 3701:1-38-09 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

In March 2011, the NRC approved their Safety Culture Policy Statement for those radioactive materials licensees subject to NRC oversight. Development of that policy statement included extensive outreach with a broad range of stakeholders. ODH has modified the NRC policy statement to address the importance of safety culture for both radioactive materials and radiation-generating equipment used in Ohio. The ODH Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP) views safety and security as primary pillars of any radiation protection program and as underlying principles of this Safety Culture Policy Statement.

**Importance for Regulated Entities**

Industry experience has shown the value of establishing and maintaining a positive safety culture for programs utilizing radioactive materials and radiation-generating equipment. ODH believes that this value will become increasingly apparent through continued outreach activities focused on enhancing safety culture.

It is important to remember that individuals and organizations performing regulated activities bear the primary responsibility for safety and security. BRP does monitor and review trends in the performance of individuals and organizations to determine compliance with regulatory requirements and licensee commitments. This information may serve as an indicator of possible problem areas in an organization’s safety culture.

However, BRP does not monitor or trend the traits described in this policy statement. The Safety Culture Policy Statement is not a regulation; therefore, it is the organization’s responsibility, as part of its radiation protection program, to consider how to apply the information in the Safety Culture Policy Statement to promote and enhance a positive safety culture throughout its regulated activities.

**Moving Forward**

As the focus on a positive safety culture in radiation protection programs enters the next phase, BRP staff will continue efforts toward outreach, cooperation, and interaction with stakeholders. During this phase, BRP staff will engage affected organizations and individuals and members of the public in dialogue to:

- Reinforce the importance of a positive safety culture in their specific activities.
- Seek out feedback on the ability of stakeholders to use the policy statement in those activities.
- Determine whether there are areas in the policy statement where changes may be appropriate.

[Image of a chest x-ray]
Did You Know?

When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934...some fans wondered why...”a third-string ball catcher named Moe Berg” was included. Although he played with five major-league teams from 1923 to 1939...Moe was a very mediocre ball player. But Moe was regarded as “the brainiest ballplayer of all time.”

In fact,.Casey Stengel once said: “This is the strangest man ever to play baseball”.

When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them and many people wondered why he went with “the team” Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth. The answer was simple: Moe Berg was “a United States spy” working undercover with the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor of today’s CIA). Moe spoke 15 languages...including Japanese. And he had two loves: “Baseball”...and...”Spying”.

In Tokyo...garbed in a kimono...Moe Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke’s Hospital...the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof...and filmed key features: the Harbor, Military installations, Railway yards, etc. Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Moe Berg’s films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.

His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School...Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers everyday.

He graduated ‘Magna Cum Laude’ from Princeton...having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne in Paris, in Columbia Law School...he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian: 15 languages in all...plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University...Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin...or Sanskrit.

During World War II...Moe was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshal Tito’s forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajovic’s Serbians.

The parachute jump...at age 41...undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year. Moe Berg penetrated German-held Norway...met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy-water plant...part of the Nazis’ effort to build an atomic bomb. Moe Berg’s information...guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy that plant. The R.A.F. destroys the Norwegian heavy water plant targeted by Moe Berg.

There still remained the question...of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Moe Berg (under the code name ’Remus’) was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate lecturer...and to determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium...posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill.

If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon. Berg was to shoot him...and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe...sitting in the front row...determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal so he complimented Mr. Heisenberg on his speech...and walked him back to his hotel.

Werner Heisenberg - he blocked the Nazis from acquiring an atomic bomb. Moe Berg’s report was distributed to Britain’s Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and key figures in the team... developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: “Give my regards to the catcher.”

Most of Germany’s leading physicists had been Jewish...and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States. After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom - America’s highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept it because he couldn’t tell people about his exploits.

After his death, his sister accepted the Medal. It now hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame...in Cooperstown. Presidential Medal of Freedom: the highest award given to civilians during wartime. Moe Berg’s baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington, DC. So, “Now you know!”
What’s the Deal with Microwaves?

Go here to watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--jW0xnpmw7Dk

Click here to read about the 50th Anniversary of microwaves: http://theconversation.com/hot-food-fast-the-home-microwave-oven-turns-50-74249

Who you gonna call?

Radiation Safety Contacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
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