



Sweeping away hazards

Sanford Lab's Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) Department follows integrated safety management principles to support the design, construction and operation of the facility. It relies on multiple sources, including OSHA, MSHA and the EPA to continuously improve a best-practices safety program.

More importantly, however, ESH recognizes the value of employee involvement to ensure safety is not just talked about, but practiced at every level.

"We do routine inspections, both in our surface and underground operations," said Noel Schroeder, ESH director. "But we also incorporate safety sweeps that focus intensely on a particular area."

Safety sweeps help identify and correct situations that could cause injury to people, damage laboratory infrastructure or harm the environment.

Although routine inspections have the same goals, they include only knowledgeable persons. For example, on an annual level inspection, only those very familiar with the underground environment would be involved.

"A safety sweep brings together a diverse group of people from throughout Sanford Lab who might see things from different perspectives and offer new safety solutions," Schroeder said. "It encourages staff members to contribute to and better understand our safety culture."

Safety sweep inspections are organized by the Safety Committee and may include the examination of equipment, process safety, hazardous substances and materials, emergency planning and response, health, personnel safety and safety administration. They always include persons

of knowledge, an ESH specialist, a member of the safety committee and area employees.

Participants look for a variety of hazards, including slips, trips and falls, and personnel safety practices. Committee members also offer support to employees on performing routine duties in a safe manner.

Each year prior to Neutrino Day, Sanford Lab volunteers walk between the Ross and Yates Headframes to clean up the roadways and prepare for the numerous site visitors.

"First impressions are great impressions," said Peter Girtz, safety tech support lead. "When people come here, they see it's a clean, well-maintained area. And when we walk through the residential areas, neighbors see we are involved in the community and that we care about the community."

Upcoming safety sweeps

To find out how you can participate in safety sweeps, attend one of the Safety Committee meetings, or contact Michelle Andresen at mandresen@sanfordlab.org

- February 22: Waste Water Treatment Plant
- April 26: Ross Yard and Warehouse area

Upcoming safety committee meetings

- March 29: 7 a.m., Ross Dry
- May 31: 7 a.m., Ross Dry



December Safety Performance

While installing pipe and plumbing for a water pressure break tank on the 4100 Level, members of a Ross Shaft crew realized the water pressure was elevated. They stopped work, assessed the situation and mitigated the hazard by safely plumbing the pressure break tank.

From left: Derek Lucero, lead man, Kirby Cleland, Clint Morrison and Josh Quenzer were recognized for their Top Safety Performance by Sanford Lab's Safety Committee.

"This task was very critical. The entire crew deserves credit for going above and beyond," said George Vandine, Ross Shaft foreman (far right).