



Physics Division ESH Bulletin 03-1

ABNORMAL EVENT RESPONSE

Reference ORNL Program Description: Abnormal Event Response

The expectation of ORNL management is a bias toward identifying and reporting all abnormal events, even small, seemingly insignificant or low-level events or conditions. Fixing lower level events can identify potential precursors or break a chain of small events that might lead to serious occurrences or accidents. Identifying and evaluating all events allows us to learn from our experiences.

Abnormal Event Types

DOE-reportable occurrences

Non-routine events (events that do not meet occurrence reporting requirements)

Incidents, accidents, and injuries

Radiological events (RERs)

Nonconforming items, materials, or services

Abnormal environmental events

Incidents of security concern

P-AAA noncompliances

Each of the different abnormal event types follows a common process involving steps to **identify, respond, notify, evaluate, report, and track** them.

Identify

- IF imminent danger, THEN stop work.
- IF significant consequences (ESH or otherwise), THEN consider stand down
- IF significant uncertainty, THEN consider stand down
- Make note of the situation and all details

Evaluate

- Critique, P-AAA screen, root cause analysis - as soon as possible after the event.
- Determine what went wrong and why
- Determine corrective actions
- Share information - minimum requirement is to inform responsible Line Manager, Facility Operations Manager and Division Operations Manager.

Report

- Occurrence reporting
- P-AAA internal and/or external reporting
- Report results of evaluation to Physics Division staff and support personnel (crafts)

Track

- Enter abnormal event in ATS
- Enter corrective actions in ATS
- Collect feedback on event and/or corrective actions
- Analyze events for trends periodically

What is the difference between a "self-disclosing event" and "voluntary disclosure?"

A self-disclosing event is one that happens and is discovered when it is reported via an occurrence report, RER, or similar mandatory report. Voluntary disclosure refers to events that we find and report through proactive performance assessments. Voluntary disclosure implies that we have systems in place to anticipate and prevent self-disclosing events. The distinction is slight, but has been used to mitigate fines and penalties for regulatory violations in environmental law and P-AAA.