



Safety Alert

Lift Table Collapse – Near Miss

June 13, 2014

On June 3, 2014, a near miss occurred when two researchers were utilizing a hydraulic lift table to position an approximately 1000 pound shielded target at the Building 211 accelerator. The lift table was in a static state with the table raised when a hydraulic hose suddenly failed at a crimped fitting connected to the piston. There was a loud pop and subsequently hydraulic oil sprayed out of the fitting causing the table to collapse instantly. No one was injured; however, one of the researchers had just finished a task, which required his arms to be positioned under the table. It should be noted that this work effort was a dry run that did not involve the use of any radioactive materials. The extent of the lift table damage appears to be minor, but the equipment is still being evaluated. The lift table has been taken out-of-service.

Actions Taken: Work was stopped, the lift table taken out-of-service and a fact-finding meeting was conducted, on the day of the incident. On June 4, 2014 a formal incident investigation team was chartered by the Interim Associate Laboratory Director.

This event serves as a reminder that: 1) hydraulic equipment can fail without warning, so never place any body part under a load/object; 2) obtain, read and understand the owner's manual for hydraulic equipment paying particular attention to safety warnings and information; and 3) always anticipate a hydraulic failure may occur and maintain a safe distance from the equipment and load.

Following the completion of the investigation a formal Lessons Learned Report will be prepared and distributed to share any additional lessons learned from this event.

