

# 11. The Division of Health and Safety Promotion

The Division of Health and Safety Promotion is devoted to preventing work-related accidents, to ensuring safe and sound operation of machinery and equipment, and to maintaining a safe and healthful environment for researchers, technical staff, co-researchers, and students. This division consists of ten offices, and various subjects related to health and safety are discussed by office chiefs once a month.

## 1. Environmental Safety Control Office

This office has the responsibility to maintain a safe workspace and environment.

- A) Management to solve problems pointed out by the safety and health committee.
- B) Maintenance of a card-key system for the gateways of controlled areas.
- C) Maintenance and management of the vehicle gate at the entrance of the experimental zone.
- D) Maintenance of the fluorescent signs of the evacuation routes and the caution marks.
- E) Management of sewage drainage from NIFS.
- F) Monitoring of discharging water to prevent water pollution.

## 2. Health Control Office

The main role of this office is to keep the workers in the institute healthy, including co-researchers and students.

- A) Medical checkups both for general and special purposes and immunization for influenza.
- B) Mental health care services and health consultation.
- C) Accompany the inspections of the health administrator and the occupational physician.
- D) Maintenance of AEDs.
- E) Alerts and response to COVID-19.

Various lectures were held for physical and mental health. An online stress-check was held in October 2021.

## 3. Fire and Disaster Prevention Office

The main role of this office is to prevent or minimize damage caused by various disasters.

- A) Making self-defense plans for fires and disasters, and implementation of various training.
- B) Promotion of first-aid workshops and the AED class.
- C) Maintenance of fire-defense facilities and attending on-site inspections by the local fire department.
- D) Review and update disaster prevention rules and disaster prevention manuals.

All workers must attend disaster prevention training held every year, and a disaster simulation exercise is also held. Figure 1 shows fire extinguisher training in LHD.

## 4. Radiation Control Office

The main role of this office is to maintain radiation safety for researchers and the environment. Legal procedures for radiation safety and regular education for the radiation area workers are also important roles of this office.

- A) Maintain radiation safety for workers.
- B) Registration and dose control for radiation area workers.
- C) Observation of radiation in radiation-controlled and peripheral areas.
- D) Maintenance of the radiation monitor.
- E) Applications for radiation equipment to the national agencies and local governments.
- F) Revise official regulations and establish new rules.



Fig. 1 Fire extinguisher training in LHD

An educational lecture for radiation area workers was held on March 18, 2022. We provided an opportunity to view a DVD of it for absentees. Non-Japanese workers were educated and trained in English.

#### 5. Electrical Equipment and Work Control Office

The main role of this office is to maintain electrical safety for researchers, technical staff members and students.

- A) Check and control the electrical facilities according to technical standards.
- B) Safety lecture for researchers and workers.
- C) Annual check of the electric equipment in case of a blackout.

The annual inspection of the academic zone was carried out on May 23, 2021, and that of the experimental zone was carried out on June 12 and June 13, 2021.

#### 6. Machinery and Equipment Control Office

The main role of this office is to maintain the safe operation of cranes. The tasks of this office are as follows.

- A) Inspection and maintenance of cranes.
- B) Management of the crane license holders and safety lectures for the crane users.
- C) Schedule management of crane operations.

#### 7. High Pressure Gas Control Office

The main role of this office is for safe operation and maintenance of high pressure facilities with cooling system such as LHD.

- A) Safe operation and maintenance of high-pressure gas handling facilities in NIFS.
- B) Daily operation, maintenance, system improvement, and safety education according to the law.
- C) Safety lectures for researchers and workers.

#### 8. Hazardous Materials Control Office

The main role of this office is management of the safe treatment of hazardous materials and maintaining safety for researchers against hazardous events.

- A) Research requests for hazardous materials and their storage status.
- B) Management to ensure safe storage of the waste.
- C) Implementation of a chemical substance risk assessment.

#### 9. New Experimental Safety Assessment Office

The main role of this office is to check the safety of experimental devices except for LHD. For this purpose, researchers who want to set up new experimental apparatus must apply for a safety review. Two reviewers are assigned from members of this office and other specialists to check the safety of these devices.

- A) Examine new experiments for safety problems and advise on safety measures.
- B) Improve safety in each experiment and reinforce a safety culture at NIFS from annual reviews by NIFS employees.

#### 10. Safety Handbook Publishing Office

The tasks of this office are to publish the Safety Handbook in Japanese and in English, and it is updated every year. Regular safety lectures were held on May 13, 2021. All workers, including co-researchers and students, must attend this safety lecture every year.

(S. Sakakibara)