

Date: Fri, 15 Jan 1999 14:54:57 -0600
From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>
Subject: Blue Alert: Speeding Solution

TITLE: Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer Solves Speeding Problem

IDENTIFIER: 1999-LA-LANL-ESH7-0001 DATE: January 15, 1999

LESSONS LEARNED STATEMENT: Workplace safety is often focused on chemical and radiological hazards but speeding automobiles can also cause problems in areas with high pedestrian traffic. Radar display equipment may offer an effective means of reinforcing speed limits without incurring the expense of road modifications (e.g., speed bumps) or traffic control signals.

DISCUSSION: Because Laboratory property is government-owned, the county police do not have jurisdiction to patrol and ticket speeders. However, approximately 20% or more of the vehicles travelling through the administrative areas at the Laboratory's Solid Waste Operations site were driving at dangerously high rates of speed given the high volume of pedestrian traffic in the area. The speed limit is clearly marked at 20 miles per hour but some people were going as fast as 35 miles per hour.

A stop sign was placed at the gate leading to the site to alleviate the speeding problem. It did -- but only a little, so resident managers decided to seek another solution. The Facility Operations Review Committee, which also functions as the Facility Safety Committee, considered several options including speed bumps, local police involvement, road rivets, and trenches. However, these options either cost too much or posed logistics problems. The facility manger, who had seen a speed monitoring awareness radar trailer (SMART) at the Albuquerque airport, decided to purchase a SMART. The \$15,000 SMART is a portable, self-contained speed display trailer that clocks the speed of approaching cars. Motorists can see their speeds in foot-high figures on the trailer's digital display. The unit displays the speed in bright yellow if drivers are driving at the posted speed limit or below and in flashing red if they are driving even one mile per hour too fast. Since implementing the SMART, the number of complaints of cars speeding through the area has decreased dramatically.

The program has been so effective that area residents have requested that the unit be moved to other locations to slow down speeding vehicles. The site is also considering buying another SMART so traffic can be monitored from both directions simultaneously.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Department of Energy sites experiencing speeding problems in areas with high pedestrian traffic may want to consider purchasing or leasing a system like SMART, which was purchased from Kustom Signals, Inc.

Kustom Signals, Inc
ATTN: Donna Berger

99325 Pflumm
Lenexa, KA 66215-3347
800-458-7866
913-492-1400
Fax 913-492-1703

ORIGINATOR: Los Alamos National Laboratory
CONTACT: Michael Chochoms, 505-667-8959 or mchocho@lanl.gov
AUTHORIZED DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER: Meredith Brown, 505-667-0604
REVIEWING OFFICIAL: Tony Stanford, Group Leader/Facility Manager Solid Waste Operations
DOE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: Safety
KEYWORDS: speeding, radar, SMART
REFERENCES: LANL NewsBulletin, Issue 121798

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of this report, please contact the originator of significant action(s) taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is appreciated.

Meredith Brown
ESH Lessons Learned Program Manager
505 667 0604