

> From: info@afgelocal2617.org
 > To: info@afgelocal2617.org
 > Subject: 5-19-10: Urgent - BOS TSO cancer + radiation safety and health risk concerns
 > Date: Fri, 21 May 2010 09:18:03 -0400

>
 > Dear A.F.G.E. Local 2617 Members:

>
 > Please be advised that your A.F.G.E. TSO union Local 2617 has sent the below
 > e-mail to BOS DFSD Heather Callahan which we can confirm that she has read,
 > a) denoting our concern on TSA Boston's growing number of TSOs working here
 > that have thus far been diagnosed with cancer and b) our concern on TSA's
 > improperly non-monitored radiation threat facing both checkpoint and baggage
 > assigned TSOs.

>
 > To be more direct, I have asked FSD Heather Callahan to please ask TSA Hqs
 > to issue every TSO a radiation monitoring dosimeter device that clips onto
 > your uniform which would periodically be tested by a non-TSA third party
 > medical facility which would track the results over a lengthy period of time
 > and release those results to all of us whom work here.

>
 > My e-mail and requests have been offered on behalf of the many members and
 > co-workers working at Logan International Airport whom continue to report
 > your concerns to A.F.G.E. HQs and to Local 2617.

>
 > If you have any information that you would like to share with me, please
 > call you're A.F.G.E. L2617 Training and Meeting Center office #
 > 617.874.1712. If we are not there, leave a detailed message, including the
 > best number and time to call you.

>
 > We will keep you informed. Thank you for what you do!!!

>
 > In solidarity;

>
 > AJ Castilla, President
 > A.F.G.E. Local 2617
 > 194 Putnam Street
 > East Boston, Ma. 02128
 > Office: 617.874.1712
 > Fax: 617.874.1713
 > www.afgelocal2617.org
 > Serving MA & NH TSOs

>
 > -----Read Receipt-----

>
 > From: Callahan, Heather <DFSD> Sent: Wed 5/19/2010 12:54 PM
 > To: Castilla, AJ
 > Subject: Read: BOS TSO cancer + radiation safety and health risk concerns
 > Your message

>
 > To: Callahan, Heather <DFSD>
 > Cc:
 > Subject: RE: BOS TSO cancer + radiation safety and health risk concerns
 > Sent: 5/19/2010 11:47 AM

>
 > was read on 5/19/2010 12:54 PM

>

> -----Original Message-----

>

> From: Castilla, AJ

> Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 11:48 AM

> To: Callahan, Heather <DFSD>

> Subject: RE: BOS TSO cancer + radiation safety and health risk concerns

>

> Dear BOS TSA DFSD Heather Callahan:

>

> Hope this finds you well.

>

> I was advised by the Boston Safety Action team that you oversee our

> airport's Safety and Health Issues,

> regulatory compliance in this regard, etc.

>

> Quite a few TSOs consistently complain to me [as I am sure they are

> complaining to TSA] about their concern over the growing number of TSOs

> working here that have been diagnosed as having cancer and

> of their concerns that TSA's utilized technology may be to be blame.

>

> I understand that some TSOs whom were diagnosed as having cancer, have

> already left TSA employment

> but that BOS still has an alarmingly high number of cancer afflicted TSOs

> still working here or out while

> trying to address the illness.

>

> Despite TSA management's past assurances, many TSOs here do not feel safe

> from radiation threats

> that may go hand in hand with using x-ray screening technology, especially,

> the newer [installed since

> TSA federalized airport security] technology that has been lesser used in

> our country than much older

> but also feared Rapiscan machines. Having never been issued a dosimeter

> myself in nearly eight years

> of working for TSA, I have empathy with and understand their growing safety

> and health concerns.

>

> These same co-workers have asked me if I can please ask TSA thru you...if

> our agency can please

> purchase or reimburse them for radiation monitoring dosimeters which can be

> worn by TSOs at each

> checkpoint and baggage work location. They would like these dosimeters to be

> periodically sent out to

> a non-TSA third party medical facility for data results gathering which

> could later be periodically released

> to our workforce, going forward.

>

> Whatever you and TSA can do, would be appreciated and would serve to help

> show them that TSA wants its

> employees to fully believe they perform their national security mission in a

> very safe workplace environment.

>

> I am aware that you are currently helping TSA to investigate the local TSA

> BOS employees with diagnosed cancer issue and sincerely thank you and the

> agency for conducting that important review.

>

> Regards:

>

- > AJ Castilla, TSO
- > Logan International Airport
- > Boston, Ma
- >

Hotmail has tools for the New Busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Learn more.](#)

bb
 Cc: [REDACTED]@dhs.gov
 Subject: Re: Workforce health concerns

Good day [REDACTED]
 I write to acknowledge your message. Subject: Workforce Health Concerns. I do want you to know this matter has been raised for response which will be directed to your attention. Thank you.
 MVLB

Mary V. Leftridge Byrd
 Federal Security Director
 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Direct Line - 404-460-[REDACTED]
 General Telephone: 404-460-2280
 Cell: [REDACTED]
 Fax: 404-209-1078
 24/7 Coordination Center - 404-763-7437

Message from Blackberry

From: [REDACTED]
 To: Leftridge Byrd, Mary bb
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Wed Apr 28 15:42:07 2010
 Subject: Workforce health concerns

Following the influx of TSA employees falling victim to various forms of cancer, strokes and heart disease; the Atlanta workforce is concerned about radiation levels we are being exposed to on a daily bases. I, Lead officer [REDACTED] have expressed my concerns of radiation exposure to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] bb

The workforce should don protective gear when performing various aspects of the job. Goggles should be worn while handling the acid associated with the Color Metrics as well as protection from the laser of the Bottle Liquids Scanner. Led shields should be provided to protect vital and reproductive organs from radiation exposure while operating the Cast scope, AIT, X-ray and Itemizer DX.

I explained to [REDACTED] that the orientation of the X-ray operators seat in relation to the exit tunnel on the X-ray machines needs to be behind the shield per the manufactures recommendation. The X-ray machines are NOT equipped with interior led shields to protect us from the possibility of radiation exposure nor have we been provided dosimeters used to track radiation levels.

I along with TSO [REDACTED] and TSO [REDACTED] are requesting a meeting with you to discuss workforce safety options. bb

Respectfully,

Lead Officer [REDACTED]

<TSA OCC>

bb

From: Segraves, Jill
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 2400.8.1 RE: Workforce health concerns

Here is the ATL employee response.

Feel free to comment.

Jill

From: Segraves, Jill
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 6:40 PM
To: [REDACTED] bb
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 2400.8.1 RE: Workforce health concerns

Dear [REDACTED]

I was provided your email via Ms. Mary Leftridge Byrd, FSD ATL. I would like to take this opportunity to address each of the safety and health concerns expressed in your email.

TSA Technology Overview

Prior to deploying any technology to the field, TSA ensures that each technology is designed and tested to meet regulatory safety and health requirements, to include radiation. Manufacturers are required to meet established technical requirements and to submit third party testing results that are reviewed and approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Transportation Security Laboratory (TSL). In some cases, TSA may perform additional testing and evaluation via independent authorities, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) (formerly the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine), and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL). As part of equipment installation at each location, TSA performs a Site Acceptance Test (SAT). This test must be completed prior to system operation to, again, ensure that all safety and health standards are met. Once the system is in operation, TSA ensures that the required periodic preventive maintenance is performed. Because TSA systems comply with Federal regulations, the increased risk of developing radiation-induced cancer later in life is extremely small, no greater than other risks people routinely accept in their daily lives.

Concerns with exposure to radiation

TSA uses several systems that either contain or produce ionizing radiation. A good reference source for radiation safety as it applies to TSA, is the OLC Course, Radiation Safety Awareness (SCR-ALL-RADSAFETY-001). The following provides an overview of each system and the steps TSA takes to ensure that exposure risks are as low as feasible.

Checkpoint and Checked Baggage X-ray Systems

The checkpoint x-ray systems and the checked baggage explosives detection systems (EDS) are classified as cabinet x-ray systems and must meet the requirements of Federal regulations, specifically Title 21,

Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1020.40, Cabinet X-ray Systems. This regulation sets the emission levels to 0.5 milliRoentgen in any one hour two inches from anywhere on the system's surface. In addition, the TSA cabinet x-ray systems include the following design features that limit radiation exposure:

- The primary beam in a TSA cabinet x-ray system is not nearly as intense as the primary beam in industrial x-ray systems.
- The primary beam in TSA cabinet x-ray systems is located such that no part of the body may be inserted or exposed to it. You must crawl or reach well into the system to be positioned in the primary beam.

The measured levels are extremely low, and personnel monitoring is not required by Federal regulations for operators of cabinet x-ray systems. In addition, because radiation becomes less intense the farther from the source one gets, and because employees do not generally work two inches from the systems where the exposure is measured—instead rotating positions throughout their work shift—the actual exposures to employees are even lower than the measurements obtained. The Food and Drug Administration published frequently asked question concerning these systems. Finally, the systems undergo a radiation survey at installation, annually, and anytime the system is re-located or maintenance is performed on the radiation shielding components to verify that the emission levels have not changed. A radiation survey sticker should be mounted to each cabinet x-ray system that provides the date of the survey.

TSA has established an agreement with the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) to provide radiation protection consultation services, which also includes performing independent radiation surveys of TSA's x-ray systems. Health Physicists (radiation safety professionals) from the Army have performed these surveys since April 2008. As of May 2010, Army Health Physicists have performed surveys at 28 airports and evaluated 339 cabinet x-ray systems. These surveys are performed during actual screening operations, to include placing survey meters at the entrances and exits of the systems where the operator station may be positioned. All cabinet x-ray systems surveyed to date have been found to be in compliance with the radiation emission limits of Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1020.40. Similarly, the survey results specific to the Advanced Image (AT) Checkpoint X-ray systems also reveal that the levels are well below the 0.5 mR in any 1 hour—usually around 1/10 of the value, like all the other cabinet x-ray systems, including areas at the entrance and exits. Due to the very low levels that have been measured, the need for additional interior lead shields is not supported. If requested, my office would be more than happy to perform these independent surveys at TSA ATL.

CastScope™ Systems

One of TSA's top priorities prior to the deployment of the CastScope™ was to ensure the device was independently evaluated for compliance with current radiation safety standards. Part of this evaluation was to determine the potential radiation doses to the individuals being screened, the system operators, and bystanders from the operation of this device.

The FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) performed this independent evaluation for TSA. The measured radiation doses were compared to the dose limits specified in existing radiation

safety standards, particularly American National Standards Institute (ANSI) N43.17, "Radiation Safety for Personnel Security Screening Systems Using X-rays." The ANSI standard specifies that the effective dose to a screened individual shall not exceed 0.00001 rem at a distance of 30 cm from the scanning face. This is equivalent to the exposure a person receives in about 30 minutes from natural background radiation or about eight minutes of airplane flight at altitude. The measured radiation doses from the CastScope™ were found to be well below the dose limits specified in the ANSI standard for individuals being screened, operators, and bystanders.

Advanced Image Technology (AIT)

The L-3 ProVision™ AIT is currently deployed to the TSA ATL. This system uses non-ionizing radio frequency energy in the millimeter wave spectrum to generate a three-dimensional computer image of the body based on the energy reflected from the body. The energy projected by millimeter wave technology is thousands of times less than a cell phone transmission.

TSA Radiation Safety Initiatives

- A year-long dosimetry study is ongoing at six airports. The study includes both personnel dosimetry and area monitoring. Results to date, based on 4 months to 10 months of data, are well below the limits that would require TSOs to wear personnel dosimeters.
- For the personnel dosimetry portion of the study, dosimeters have been issued to TSOs and are worn a designated time period, either one month or one calendar quarter (3 months). A total of 1174 TSOs were selected to participate, and 1155 have had one or more dosimeter returned and processed. TSOs wear their personnel dosimeter while they are working at the airport.
- For the area monitoring portion of the study, dosimeters are mounted near the entrance and exit of TSA x-ray systems for the designated time period. A total of 159 area monitors have been placed at the six airports. As expected, the area monitoring results are higher than the personnel monitoring results because the area dosimeters remain in place for the entire monitoring period (24-hours a day, seven days per week), whereas, the TSOs work 8 to 10 hour shifts. The area dosimeters are usually mounted closer to the x-ray system entrance or exit than where TSOs are located while working at the system. Results from all the area monitoring dosimeters are also well below the limits that would require TSOs to wear personnel dosimeters.

Colorimetric Testing

TSA performed a hazard analysis of the Colorimetric Testing process in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The standards also require the review of the material safety data sheets (MSDS) supplied by the manufacturer for chemical products. According to the MSDS provided with the colorimetric solutions, Dropex A and Dropex P, "The volume of material in the individual dropper bottle, used as directed, is not sufficient to require protective gear to be worn." These MSDS can be accessed through links provided in the March 18, 2010, safety and health bulletin, [OSHE-OS-](#)

B10-002, "Safe Handling of Colorimetric Detection Kit Reagents." This bulletin and the TSA Colorimetric Testing Standard Operating Procedures both emphasize taking steps to prevent the solution from contacting the eyes, such as keeping the bottles at arm's length away from the body while dropping the reagent solutions onto the test materials and ensuring that the solution is not spilled onto the gloves where it might be transferred to the eyes by touching or rubbing. If the solution accidentally contacts the eyes, flush the eyes with plenty of water and see a physician, if necessary.

Itemiser DX Explosives Trace Detector (ETD) and Sabre Bottled Liquid Scanner (BLS)

The Itemiser DX Explosives Trace Detector (ETD) and Sabre Bottled Liquid Scanner (BLS) contain a very small amount of Nickel-63, which is a radioactive source that emits beta radiation. The source is completely sealed and shielded to prevent exposure to system operators. The housing undergoes a periodic wipe test to verify the source has not been damaged.

Smiths Responder™

It is my understanding the TSA ATL will be receiving the Smiths Responder™. As mentioned earlier, TSA has established an agreement with the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) to provide radiation protection consultation services. At our request, they evaluated the potential health hazards associated with the optical radiation emitted by the soon-to-be-deployed Smiths Responder. They classified the device as a Class 3B laser system in accordance with ANSI Z136.1-2007, "Safe Use of Lasers," and recommended that when the Smiths Responder™ laser is used in public areas like security checkpoints, the laser is only operated when it is attached to the laser protective enclosure and its lid is closed. Because of the possibility, however, that the enclosure lid may be opened during the measurement process, they recommended that a cautionary label be added on the top and sides of the enclosure, stating that the lid must be kept closed during measurements. Laser safety eyewear is not required because the laser beam is contained in the enclosure.

I hope you find this information helpful to address your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Jill M. Segraves, CSP
Director, Office of Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment

From: Leftridge Byrd, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 11:35 PM
To: [REDACTED] b6