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Nuclear Safety Culture

NET Academy

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What is a Culture?


A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

- It is NOT a set of procedures or policies
- It is NOT the management flavor of the day
- It is NOT something that can be changed quickly with some “training”
- It IS how we collectively behave (even when no one is watching) because of our core values
- We have different cultures between TAs, facilities, divisions, work groups, etc.

Why Do We Need a “Nuclear Safety” Culture?

- You work in a very unique and hazardous environment
- Significant consequences could result from not following procedures and policies (radiological uptake, equipment/facility damage, environmental insult, dose to the public, nuclear criticality)
- Public Trust

The Battle for Public Opinion is Waged in the Media

 Guest Columns

Why should anyone trust LANL on nuclear safety?

Report: Triad had serious deficiencies in first year running Los Alamos lab

Nuclear Winter May Bring a Decade of Destruction

Beyond Nuclear Fears New Mexico
Being Targeted For Permanent
High-Level Nuclear Waste Dump

MY VIEW

‘Aura of apartheid’ at LANL offers false hope

Plutonium found in glovebox during cleanup

Secrecy News

NNSA Moves to Expand Plutonium Pit
Production

DNFSB Resident Inspectors At
LANL Report Waste Shipments
Briefly Suspended In November

DOE Report: Los Alamos National
Laboratory Mismanaged Deadly
Controlled Substances

LANL’s seismic safety questioned; lab says
improvements are being made

Report: National laboratory lost track of nuclear waste
(Associated Press)

 THE Los Alamos
REPORTER

Letter To The Editor:
No Environmental Review
For LANL Expansion

So What?

- People are watching what happens here and are ready to pounce whenever the opportunity arises
- We work for the government – our missions and funding are dependent on support from Congress
- Our elected officials care about public opinion!
- Your livelihood depends on the Lab's reputation

Traits of a Healthy Nuclear Safety Culture (From INPO)

- Personal Accountability
- Questioning Attitude
- Effective Safety Communication
- Leadership Safety Values and Actions
- Decision-Making
- Respectful Work Environment
- Continuous Learning
- Problem Identification and Resolution
- Environment for Raising Concerns
- Work Processes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acpz3CG1xi4>

Tokaimura

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFYbe91tPJM>

Chernobyl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xQeXOz0Ncs>

Three Mile Island