

# News from Savannah River National Laboratory

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNL: Safest National Laboratory

AIKEN, S.C. (April 09, 2015) – The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is continuing its impressive record for safety. SRNL's safety record for 2014 once again places the laboratory as the safety leader in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) network of National Laboratories. The lab, which regularly handles a variety of nuclear materials and hazardous chemicals, has been the safest laboratory in the Department of Energy's laboratory complex for ten of the past 11 years.

"This outstanding record speaks to our dedication to safety at the Savannah River National Laboratory. It also speaks to the hundreds of men and women at the lab who recognize that safety comes first," said SRNL Laboratory Director Dr. Terry Michalske. "Our people are the ones who make this lab a success. They complete complex and hazardous tasks every day. Their dedication to safety ensures that each and every one of us can go home safely at the end of the day. Our laboratory receives many recognitions, this is the one of which I am most proud."

During the 2014 calendar year, SRNL had a rate of just 0.1 for the number of safety incidents resulting in lost or restricted days on the job due to work related injuries or illnesses. It also had a rate of just 0.3 for the number of incidents



*SRNL researchers Luke Olson (left) and Joshua Gray (right) practice stringent safety protocols while using a glovebag in their research on used nuclear fuel.*



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involving treatment from a physician or qualified medical professional. This data is included in the Occupational Injury and Illness Summary Report issued by the DOE Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security. The safety record is in comparison with 15 other laboratories in the DOE complex.

“These rates translate into one lost workday accident and three injuries requiring medical treatment for the year. Even these numbers are unacceptable,” explained John Miller, SRNL Safety and Assurance Programs Manager. “For the 900 plus employees at SRNL, our objective is zero.”

As part of the safety culture at the SRNL, every employee, regardless of rank, is empowered to stop work and call a “time out” if something seems amiss. This allows work to be reviewed in an effort to ensure that safety is the number one priority. SRNL also engages in Behavior Based Safety and Human Performance Improvement programs that encourage workers to observe their peers and have open dialogue about safety habits.

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation’s environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>

SRNS2015 - 330