

# **BSL-2, -3, -4 Laboratories BSL-4 Training Simulator**

*Emerging Infectious Diseases Research for the Local, National and Global Good*

# Research Transparency: The Big Picture

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At the highest level of the institution (i.e, the President), it was decided that Boston University will never engage in any classified research. All research at the NEIDL must be able to be published.



We won't accept any publication restrictions for NEIDL research!



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# Research Transparency: Operational Safety

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## Starts with our people and our culture!

- Personal Suitability and Reliability Policy provides a safe environment and includes:
  - ✓ Options for opting out of work
  - ✓ Direction for reporting safety and behavioral concerns
  - ✓ Initial and annual clearances including credential, financial, criminal records checks, medical, behavioral and drug test clearances, training compliance and competency.
  - ✓ A Personal Suitability Review Team that meets regularly to address issues and insure the culture of safety continues.

Information regarding the NEIDL Personnel Suitability Reliability Policy can be found at <https://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/forms-policies/personnel-suitability-and-reliability-policy-national-emerging-infectious-diseases-laboratories/>

# Research Transparency: Oversight & Compliance

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Institutional  
Biosafety  
Committee  
(IBC)

- Protocols require IBC review and approval. IBC includes members of the public.

Boston  
Public  
Health  
Commission  
(BPHC)

- Approved IBC protocols are submitted to the BPHC for review and approval

City of  
Boston

- Once approved by the BPHC, 30 days notice is provided to the BPHC Executive Director and the Boston City Council.

# Research Transparency: Operational Safety

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- Ongoing inspections and monitoring:
  - BPHC announced and unannounced inspections
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced and unannounced inspections
  - Other local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ)
    - Boston Fire Department
    - Boston Water & Sewer Commission
    - Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
  - Internal daily safety checks
  - Laboratory specific inspections
- Monthly meeting between NEIDL research safety management and BPHC to facilitate information sharing and communication

# Research Transparency: Information Sharing

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- IBC Minutes at <https://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/compliance/ibc/about-the-ibc/ibc-meeting-minutes/>
- Agent Specific Information at <http://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/safety/rohpa/agent-information-sheets/>
- NEIDL-specific Incident Reports at <http://www.bu.edu/neidl/neidl-quarterly-incident-reports/>
- NEIDL Annual Reports at <http://www.bu.edu/neidl/research/neidl-annual-reports/>

# Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

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Maintaining transparency and informing the community of NEIDL activities through communications with the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), monthly meetings addressing operations, and scientific direction and safety.

For more details on CLC please see

<http://www.bu.edu/neidl/community/clc/>

- ✓ 14 member Committee - promotes public participation
- ✓ Outreach/feedback to effectively facilitate communication & information flow between the NEIDL and the community
- ✓ Plays vital role in ensuring transparency in NEIDL operations and activities



# Research Transparency: Community Safety

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- The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) includes commitment to perform three exercises a year and provide training to all internal and external responders.
  - NEIDL exercise program requires that responses to security, building and biosafety events be tested.
    - 2018 included suspicious package, activation of medical unit and evacuation of NEIDL – specifically BSL-4 lab due to system failures.
    - 2019 included workplace violence, potential exposure and a fire event
    - Members of the NEIDL Community Liaison Committee are invited to attend

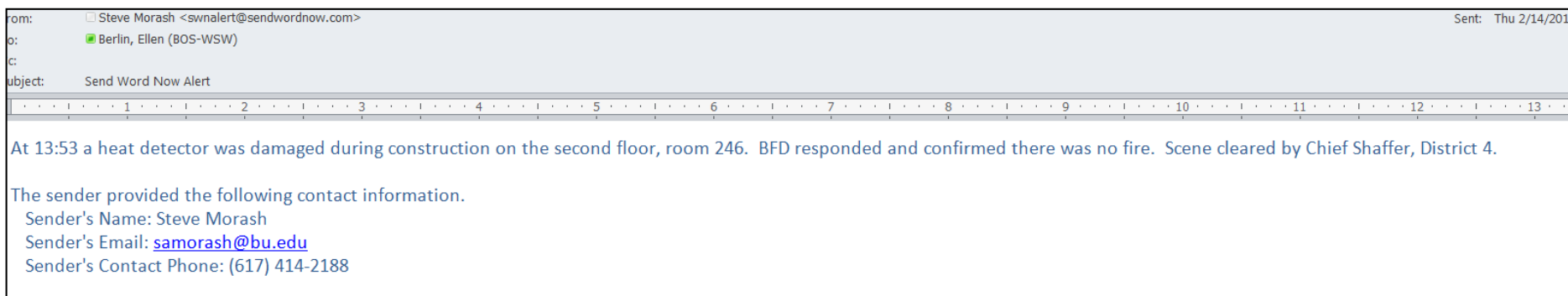


# Research Transparency: Communication

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## ✓ Send Word Now:

- An alerting service for emergency communication
- Fast, effective, communication in real-time with any device



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# Research Transparency: Communication

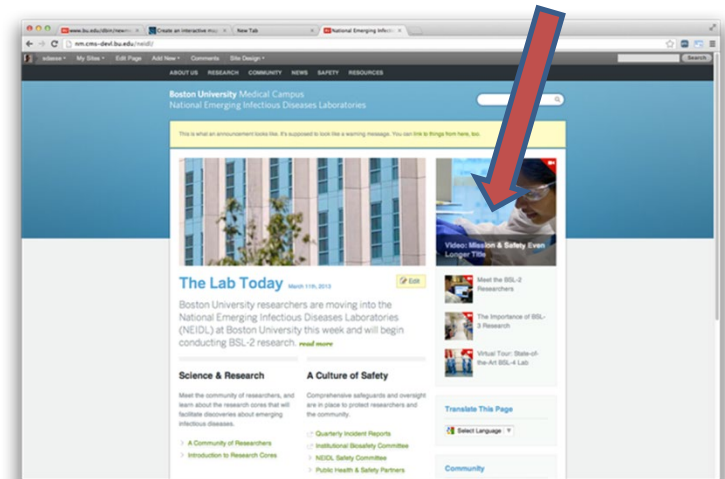
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- Inform Community Liaison Committee
- Post information on web site
- Contact community leaders/neighborhood organizations

## Emergency Drill Planned for BU Biolab

December 5th, 2012 in [press releases](#)

For Immediate Release December 4, 2012 Contact: Valeda Britton, 617 638 1911 Ellen Berlin 617 520 7115 Emergency Drill Planned for BU Biolab Exercise to simul medical incident involving a researcher (Boston) – On Tuesday December 11, 2012 Boston University will be conducting a discussion-based exercise at the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) as... [more](#)



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# Research Transparency

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We have learned that transparency is beneficial not detrimental; our relationship with the city of Boston has improved significantly with this approach.

## Community Relations

- NEIDL notifies the surrounding community in advance of all drills and exercises
- Post incident notification is done via the Boston Public Health Commission.
  - We do not reach out directly to the community during an incident, we rather share details that the city officials can share
- BU Public Safety is made aware of threats and assess them appropriately

## What we won't share

- Building Automation System (BAS) monitoring info
- Protective Measures (e.g. thickness of walls, security fence rating)
- Specific details regarding transportation and shipping
- Room numbers, floors or other specific locations
- Agent Inventory

