

Stand-upTalk

Day 07.14.03

Audience – all Baltimore P&DC employees

Baltimore BDS Moves to New Phase of Testing, Joins Pre-Production Test in 14 Additional Sites

As you know, we've been testing the prototype Biohazard Detection System (BDS) here at the Baltimore P&DC for more than a year. That testing has helped us to make continual modifications and adjustments to improve the system's operation in preparation for the next phase of testing.

Baltimore will now be joining 14 other P&DCs around the nation in a pre-production test that begins on July 14. During this phase of testing, the BDS equipment will operate in the same configuration, without any additional changes, under normal operating conditions.

Baltimore is the only test site where BDS equipment will operate on all Advanced Facer-Canceler and Flat Canceling equipment. The other sites will test the BDS system on a single Advanced Facer Canceler.

The startup of the test at the 15 sites was postponed for several weeks while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed recommended public health guidelines for emergency personnel and public health and postal officials if there is a positive test result. We'll share more details about those guidelines soon, through another Stand-up Talk.

If there is a BDS alert during the test period, the building's fire alarm will be activated. If that happens, you must evacuate the building and report to the area that has been identified as your rally location. That's where we will receive further direction from emergency and public health officials who will respond to the alarm. If you don't know where you should gather if we have to evacuate the building, please let me know so I can provide you with that information.

Results from the pre-production test will be evaluated and used to help us plan for rollout of BDS equipment to 282 processing facilities nationwide next year.

During every stage of our BDS testing, we have a simple goal in mind – your safety, the safety of our customers and the safety of the mail.