



BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 LABORATORY

THE TEAM

All BSL-3 facilities must abide by extensive guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NIRC's BSL-3 facility is being designed and built to exceed standards from the NIH Design Requirements Manual.

Crump Wilson Architects in a joint venture with national specialists Page/Southerland/Page are the selected design firms for NIRC's BSL-3 lab after a thorough selection process. Crump Wilson is a full-service architectural design and consulting firm located in Baton Rouge with decades of experience designing BSL labs including a multi-story facility for the Louisiana Office of Public Health that features three biosafety level 3 suites. Page/Sutherland/Page are highly skilled consultants in the field of vivarium and biocontainment design and technical implementation.



The Lemoine Company, with 50 years of experience in Louisiana, is the construction company for NIRC's BSL-3 facility. The company has worked on more than 150 educational labs and more than 150 education projects including high Biocontainment facilities.



Brian O'Shea is a national consultant for NIRC's BSL-3 facility. His experience includes designing BSL-3/ABSL-3 along with working in high-containment research facilities both in the U.S. and abroad. He is also managing research operations for Pfizer's BSL-3/ABSL-3 programs.



SAFETY COMPONENTS

NIRC's BSL-3 facility – as required – will have an HVAC system that is completely redundant, with multiple fail-safe safety measures, meaning that it will have 2 complete units with generator backup. If any part of the system goes down or fails there is a secondary unit that automatically kicks in to bring the system back into 100% working condition within seconds. This allow for any maintenance or repairs to be done with zero down time to the center and assures that all safety systems and checks are in place 100% of the time.

All air coming out of the facility will be filtered with multiple high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, preventing the release of potentially contaminated air, even under power failure scenarios. These systems are tested monthly to ensure operation and certified annually to federal standards.

All equipment used and waste created in the BSL-3 facility will be completely decontaminated and verified before removal.

The facility will be monitored continuously by video surveillance, as well as electronic accesses, both inside and outside.

PERSONNEL SAFETY

Personnel trained to work in the BSL-3 lab will have to abide by rigorous rules to protect themselves and thereby the community, with appropriate use of personal protective equipment. This includes the use of Tyvek suits, additional wraparound gowns, lab coats, double gloves, eye protection, face shields, and powered air purify respirators.

Work conducted in the BSL-3 facility will be highly controlled at the federal, state, local and facility level. Only trained personnel with controlled access will be allowed into the BSL-3 lab.

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