

SITREP 8, January 8, 2012, Day 47 at WSD

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Written at WAIS Divide

I. Passenger movements

A. SCO

1. Jakob Schwander returned to McMurdo, then home.

B. IDDO

1. N/A

II. Cargo Movements

A. Cargo arriving from CONUS

1. N/A

B. Cargo arriving from McMurdo

1. 370 blue ice packs needed in order to pack the core.

III. Camp Activities

A. Current camp population, 37, 8 T-350, 4 I-477, 1 I-122, 2 I-161, 3 I-162, 1 I-168, 1 I-476, 13 RPSC, 4 NANA; All is well.

B. Members of Polenet arrived for a morning to work on upgrades to the seismic station at WSD

C. The Pisten Bully is still being repaired. The D-4 is operational.

D. Access to the Processing-side of the Arch has continued to be a priority. As the snow drift patterns change, constant hand shoveling and snow removal by the 953 is required.

E. The processing-side freezer units are ops-normal.

F. One of our two generators sustained a critical failure Saturday night. Some of the parts necessary for repair have been located in McMurdo. Camp staff, Science Techs and I have put in place a plan for getting the core into the basement in the case of failure of the second generator. We are working to enable an alternative power source for the gantry which would be critical for this evolution. I will work with Camp and McMurdo to enable a cold deck this week instead of next. I am currently sleeping in the Arch Jamesway and have an alarm rigged to wake me if the power goes out. I can also hear the generator from that location. Enhanced radio comms are being kept as well.

G. Jeff Severinghaus presented a talk at our Monday Night Science Series.

H. Dean (Camp Manager) is spending a few days in McMurdo in order to plan the WSD Camp closing and pull out.

IV. Drill Depth and Time

- A. Work has begun to configure the replicate coring drill. No core was obtained.

V. Status of Drilling (# of runs, meters of ice drilled, core quality)

- A. N/A

VI. Status of Borehole Logging

- A. The Borehole loggers finished their repeat logging on Wednesday, on schedule. All three tools (temperature, optical and sonic) were used to log the additional 71 meters of the main borehole.

VII. Other

- A. The Science Techs and I packed 24 boxes of ice core, made up skids and built up AF pallets for retro to McMurdo.
- B. The winds continued this week unabated. Low visibility caused the cancelation or diversion of numerous flights, including the flights that were scheduled to take our borehole logging team back to McMurdo.
- C. Safety continues to be a primary focus of all residents at WAIS Divide. Storm cleanup has become a continuous and most difficult task.
- D. I have started working with Camp Staff to schedule retro of several items; ice core, the winch, and equipment and supplies that will not be needed in subsequent seasons at WSD (for example, triwall boxes of rubber mats and office supplies, and any excess BFC equipment I can find)
- E. The flies for the SCO Arctic Oven Tents have numbered days. Sun damage combined with persistent snow drift have resulted in damage to many of the tent flies. I suspect the sun damage will make it difficult to repair the flies in the field. The tent bodies seem to be holding up, and I have observed no damage to tent poles.
- F. J. Johnson, K. Dahnert, E. Morton, G. Clow and D. Voigt have continued to inspect the worksites at the Arch and Logging Winch to evaluate progress and assess the work environment. Safety concerns have been addressed with the Camp Manager and corrections continue to be made.