

MDRS Crew 148
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Commander Report
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The sun has come back today but it still is very muddy outside. Also the whole crew has prepared lots of nice attentions for me because it is my birthday. Since today is Saturday and that everybody was getting very tired, we decided to sleep in a little and start the day at 9am instead of 7am. And tomorrow will be a no-EVA day to give everybody some time to work on data analysis and personal projects. This way we can start the second week fully rested and prepared.

1 – Emergency fire simulation

We had a level 1 fire in the hab today at 13:00. Duarte was the moderator and coordinated the drill. The rest of us fought the fire and managed to stop it, although it took us a little over 8 min to find it! It was the autoclave oven in the science lab. Everyone did a great job and our procedures are getting better every day.

2 – EVA of the day: engineering check

At 15:00, Duarte, Louise, Florence and I exited the airlock for a short EVA. Initially Nuno was supposed to come instead of Florence but he preferred to stay inside. Although we were supposed to go North, Tiff asked us to explore one site South of the hab, so we started with that. It turned out that they had prepared a small treasure hunt for me!! So we did that at the same time as finding new potential sites for the PED and Loss of Coms experiments. We then did some PR photos for families and sponsors. And we ended the EVA with an engineering check. We did not have time to go North because walking in this mud slowed us considerably.

3 – Cyanobacteria experiment

The radishes are planted and got watered in the morning.

4 – Internet problems

All of us installed a data download monitoring system and we are still trying to figure out where the data leak comes from.

5 – Other

The wake-up song today was "I'm alive" of Metric followed by the full album of Angus and Julia Stone. We then had a nice brunch of eggs, bacon, pancakes and rice pudding. Tonight my crew mates prepared a chocolate cake to celebrate my birthday!!

I would like to end this report emphasizing the fact that this crew is awesome: always ready and efficient to work but also knows when to relax and have some fun. This is the mid-mission report and everything is going very well, although not all the crew members knew each other before the start of the mission. We've had some unplanned external events which have generated delays compared to the initial schedule but we've managed to deal with them and come back on track or found solutions to mitigate them. We are looking forward to this second week!