Case 1
Statistics 8801
Spring Semester 2009
to be discussed January 30

We need to conduct a forest survey this summer using 27 employees. Due to the sampling scheme and the logistics of the survey, we must construct three crews of nine each. Crews go out in the field for five days and then return to base camp on the weekends. Each crew consists of eight data collectors and one data recorder. The data collection effort is hard work, whereas data recording is rather less physically tiring. We need happy crews, so we need to make sure that everyone gets a turn at data recording. Furthermore, experience has shown that it is best to remix the crew assignments every week. So what we need are crew assignments for nine weeks, mixing up the employees to crews and making sure that everyone gets to be recorder once.

Questions for consideration. Why is this statistical? Do you know any tools that you can bring to bear on the problem? If you know the general class of tool, where could you look for more complete information? How can you explain your assignment method to someone else so that they could use it in some other survey (e.g., next year)?

Here are the groups that will work together on this case. The first student on each list will present the group's findings and should also organize group meetings. The groups should get together in the coming week and figure out answers to the questions. On Friday, January 30, the presenter will have 12 minutes of class time to say what the team thought about the problem. You may use the board or the overhead projector or computer projector as you see fit.

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