

## Department of Occupational Health and Safety

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**Check out our web page!**  
[www.udel.edu/ohs](http://www.udel.edu/ohs)

*Think Safety!*



## Lessons Learned—Incompatible Waste Incidents

DOHS recently responded to two unrelated chemical waste container explosions in laboratory settings. In both cases, incompatible materials were incorrectly added to waste containers. Over time, the waste containers developed pressure causing them to rupture with extreme force. One of the waste containers exploded underneath a fume hood and damaged containers of organic solvents that were stored nearby. The other container exploded in a fume hood. Chemicals and broken glass were blown throughout the laboratory in both cases and required specialized clean-up procedures at a cost of ~\$2000.00 each. Although there was great potential for injury in both cases, no one was injured in either, therefore classifying these as near miss accidents.

It is imperative that all chemical waste containers are accurately labeled and

properly stored to eliminate mixing of incompatible wastes. All laboratory staff must be trained in chemical waste management and thoroughly understand the waste streams generated



LDPE Nalgene Carboy in a secondary containment bin

from their experiments.

Liquid chemical waste should be stored in sealed plastic "LDPE Nalgene Carboys" or plastic coated glass containers in secondary containment bins. DOHS no longer recommends reusing glass reagent chemical bottles. For more information and training opportunities, please visit our web site at <http://www.udel/ohs/> or contact Kevin Eichinger at x2103. In the event of a laboratory emergency or if incompatible materials are mistakenly added to a waste container, immediately contact DOHS at x8475 or University Police at 911 after hours.

Training Schedule for upcoming DOHS Courses—  
for additional information and upcoming courses please see our website!

\* Note: All trainings take place in GSB 130 unless otherwise specified.

May 11, 2004	<a href="#">Radiation Safety Refresher Training</a>	9:00a.m.-10:00a.m.	<a href="#">William Fendt</a>
May 11, 2004	<a href="#">Environmental Programs at the University of Delaware</a>	11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Dave Levandoski</a>
May 13, 2004	<a href="#">Chemical Waste Training</a>	1:00-2:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
May 14, 2004	<a href="#">Right-to-Know Training - Lab</a>	10:00-11:00a.m.	<a href="#">Leslie York-Hubbard</a>
May 15, 2004	<a href="#">CPR - Cost of This Class is \$36.00</a>	9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.	<a href="#">Kevin Eichinger</a>
May 20, 2004	<a href="#">Right-to-Know Refresher Training - Lab</a>	9:00-10:00a.m.	<a href="#">Leslie York-Hubbard</a>
May 20, 2004 Lewes	<a href="#">Asbestos Awareness Training</a>	11:30a.m.-12:00p.m.	<a href="#">Sharon Sperber</a>

# The SAFETY BEAKON



Department of Occupational Health and Safety

Volume 1, Issue 2  
May 2004

## Proper Shipping of Hazardous Materials

Did you know that hazardous materials, even very small, sample-size quantities, need to be specially packaged and have specific paperwork associated with the shipment if the materials are offered for transportation via public roads, waterways and/or air carrier? If not, this newsletter article is intended to inform you on the proper shipping requirements of hazardous materials originating from University operations as set forth by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Aviation Association (FAA) Regulations.

The timing of this article is extremely important because both of these agencies have recently stepped up their inspec-

tions and enforcement actions against Universities and Colleges.

What is a hazardous material? According to DOT and FAA regulations, a hazardous material is any chemical, chemical mixture, biological material (including infectious agents) and radioactive material or any mixture thereof that meets one or more of the hazard classes and divisions according to their defining criteria. Hazardous materials can be solids, liquids and/or gases. For example, very common materials, such as dry ice, solvents and even compressed air are regulated hazardous materials.

A person that prepares or assists in the preparation of a shipment of a hazard-

ous material must be specifically trained, tested and certified to prepare the package and associated paperwork for the various modes of transportation that the shipment will require. For example, the majority of FedEx shipments usu-

hazardous materials, regardless of quantity, cannot be shipped by air due to the physical or chemical hazards of the material.

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ally entail both roadway and air carriage depending on the destination. In some cases, certain

## Think Spring!

Now that spring is here, everyone will be spending more time outside. Whether it's to do chores or to have some fun with your family, make safety a priority and keep in mind the following tips.

Make sure anyone using a particular piece of power equipment is familiar with its safe operation and wear appropriate protective equipment.

For example, wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, safety glasses and hearing protection when mowing the grass. You should never override safety features on power equipment and keep them in good running condition. Keep children away from areas where power equipment is stored or being used.

Don't forget your sunscreen, sunglasses and insect repellants when you're outside.

Protect yourself from ticks and insects by using repellants containing DEET and check yourself and your children for ticks every night. To reduce exposures to mosquitoes, avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn and eliminate standing water.

Be aware of poison ivy and other allergenic plants. Wear long sleeves and pants and gloves. Be sure to keep well hydrated and drink plenty of fluids.

### Inside this issue:

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## (Continued from front page) Proper Shipping of Hazardous Materials

The DOT and FAA have the authority to assess substantial monetary and civil penalties against a company and/or person that improperly offers or does not declare a hazardous material for transport.

As you can imagine, there are important decisions that need to be made and information that must be known when preparing a package of hazardous materials for shipment.

Where can you go for assistance if you need to ship hazardous materials? The Department of Occupational Health and Safety will provide you with all of the assistance that you need.

Feel free to contact the following people for more specific information on shipping hazardous materials:

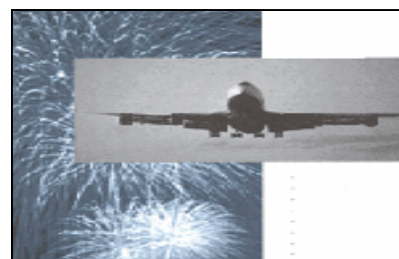
Chemical Shipments:  
Leslie York-Hubbard, 831-3123

Biological/Infectious Substance Shipments: Krista Murray, 831-1433

Radioactive Material Shipments: Bill Fendt, 831-1434



The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are the regulating agencies that oversee the proper shipping of hazardous



## General and Office Waste Disposal Guidelines

In an effort to make all University of Delaware employees, faculty and students aware of all types of hazardous materials and their disposal requirements, DOHS has designed a new General and Office Waste Disposal Guidelines Poster.

This poster highlights the most common office products that require special disposal. For example, cell phones and computers contain hazardous metals such as lead, chromium, selenium and silver. These materials cannot be disposed of in the normal trash and must be recycled.

**“DOHS has designed a General and Office Waste Disposal Guidelines Poster.”**

This poster also explains how these materials can be recycled and who to call.

The General and Office Waste Disposal Poster can either be displayed as a stand-alone poster or it can be bound with DOHS's other waste disposal posters; chemical waste, infectious waste and radioactive waste.

For more information or to request a copy DOHS at 831-8475 or awoodall@udel.edu or check our web site under the May “What’s New” section.

## New Dry Ice WebCt Training

As many of you may know, the Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) has been working diligently for the past two years to develop web based training. It is our belief that this not only helps to standardize the training received across campus, but more importantly, this alternative provides a convenient way for staff/students/faculty to remain current with training requirements. Recently we

have completed a new dry ice shipping training that will be available on line. This training will prepare those who complete it to ship DOHS confirmed non-regulated materials on dry ice. If you have been trained for this type of ship-



Properly marked and labeled dry ice shipping package

ping in the past, the regulations require that it must be updated every two years. If you are interested signing up to take this training or would like a list of additional training available through WebCt or any of our other formats please contact DOHS x8475.

## Air Quality and Mold

It’s finally getting warmer outside. But the spring warm-up often brings more concerns about mold and air quality. There are things we can do here on campus to minimize their impact.

Moisture and mold concerns go hand in hand. Mold needs certain things to grow, including food and water sources. Mold spores are ubiquitous in our environment, and they aren’t very picky about food sources. So our best chance of controlling mold blooms is to control humidity and undesirable sources of water.

Report any leaks in your work areas as well as wet carpets or ceiling tiles. The

sooner the moisture is removed, the less chance mold will grow.

If you have an air conditioned workspace, do not open the windows with the air conditioning running. The humid air blowing across the cold air conditioner will lead to condensation which again provides an ideal setting for mold. This situation can also overwork the air conditioning system.

For more information on air quality, see our resources on the web at <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/iaq.html>. Report air quality, mold, and moisture problems to FIXIT by calling x1141 or e-mailing [fixit@udel.edu](mailto:fixit@udel.edu).



The spring warm up often brings more concerns about mold and air quality

If you feel your health is being impacted, call Occupational Health and Safety at x8475.

## Farewell to Terri Lineback

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) would like to acknowledge Terri Lineback’s 17 years of dedicated service to our Department. Terri has recently been transitioned over to the Facilities Management Computer Services Support Group, where she will continue to provide Computer Information Technology Assistance to the entire Facilities organization, which includes DOHS.

Terri started her career with us as a Department Secretary and was continually promoted to Computer Infor-



Terri Lineback

mation Technology Associate. She was promoted throughout the years as a result of her strong work initiative, willingness to take on new challenges and ability to complete work in a very timely manner.

Terri will be greatly missed and we all wish her the best of luck in her new position. If you need assistance in an area where Terri helped you in the past, please contact Donna Bowman or Ann Woodall at 831-8475 for information.

## Look Who’s Safe

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety would like to introduce the Galvin-Donoghue group from Materials Science for this issue’s “Look Who’s Safe” column. This group of students has not only been strong advocates for safety in their own lab, but are also attentive to departmental issues that periodically arise as well. They are diligent in their communication with our department when they have safety

related questions, are initiating new procedures or training new personnel.

They are led by Dr. Mary Galvin-Donoghue who is certainly the driving force and de-



Dr Mary Galvin-Donoghue’s and her group in Materials Science

mands that safety is viewed as an integral part of all lab practices.

Thank you for all of your dedication and practice. It is encouraging to see great safety habits incorporated as a fundamental part of the overall educational experience at UD!