

The SAFETY BEAKON



Department of
Occupational
Health and
Safety

Welcome Murray Tate

DOHS would like to introduce and welcome Murray Tate. Murray has assumed the Environmental Health Specialist position that was recently vacated when Kevin Eichinger moved to the University Chemical Hygiene Officer position.

Murray started on Wednesday, February 16th and is primarily responsible for the chemical waste management and environmental programs. He will also supplement and enhance the University's hazardous materials emergency response program.

Mr. Tate brings twenty-

five years of chemical health, safety and management experience as well as extensive hazardous materials emergency response knowledge to our office. Murray is a Certified Safety Professional and a Certified Associate and Registered Industrial Hygienist.

In addition to his knowledge of hazardous materials and safety, Murray has eight years of experience teaching college and technical level health and safety courses in diverse topics such as hazardous materials emergency response, environmental monitoring, industrial hygiene, chemistry of



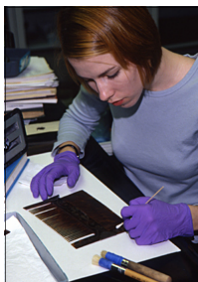
Murray Tate,
Environmental Health
Specialist

hazardous materials and biological safety. He was an adjunct professor with Marshall University and taught in their Safety Technology Department. He also taught at West Virginia State College, University of Louisville and the Regulatory Training Center in South

The Art of Safety

Mary Coughlin, an Art Conservation graduate student, who started as a safety committee representative at UD is currently voicing student concerns on the Health and Safety Committee of American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

In the AIC, Mary increased student involvement by suggesting free lunches for student volunteers at the an-



Mary Coughlin working on a 17th Century comb. She wears gloves to prevent damaging treasures like these. Picture by Laszlo Bodo.

nual safety lecture. Student attendance grew from one or two to ten at the last lecture! Her involvement with this group provides exposure to many people in her field. As a result of her commitment to safety, she has been invited to become a full committee member following her graduation this year.

Mary has incorporated her safety knowledge into cleaning historic collections. Cleaning

quickly to avoid stains is a top priority, but with people in the vicinity safe cleaning is imperative. Mary's research has focused on safely removing spills in these situations. In addition to researching safe cleaning methods, Mary has worked on icons of history and pop culture. She has taken apart C-3PO from Star Wars and surveyed the condition of Spock's ears. A WWII bazooka and Civil War General Mosby's crutches have also been subject to her treatments.

OHS commends Mary for making safety an active part of her learning and

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Charleston, West Virginia.

Murray moved to the area last fall and contacted DOHS about possible employment. He studied our web page and knew so much about us that he was ready to start the day after his interview!

We're sure you will benefit from the addition of Murray to our team.

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working experiences. Consider participation in your safety committee and see where it can take you!

Lab Clothing Protects Worker

On the evening of January 12, one University worker was fortunate to be wearing protective gear when conducting a laboratory experiment.

The worker had transferred 1.5 mL of a radioactive liquid into a flip-top Eppendorf tube. The worker had difficulty capping the tube and, as she tried to force the cap in place, the tube slipped from her hand, tumbled over her right shoulder, and landed on the floor behind her.

Co-workers immediately contacted the Department of Occupational Health and Safety which promptly responded. The worker was scanned for radioactive contamination using a radiation survey meter.

Contamination was found on the worker's face but not the eyes because safety glasses had been worn. Substantial contamination was found on the worker's lab



The lab coat on the left provides better chest, neck, and wrist protection.

coat, however, the worker's personal clothing were untouched with the exception of the collar of her T-shirt. Contamination was also found on the right wrist in an unprotected region between the end of the lab coat sleeve and the protective glove.

The worker was correctly wearing the required protective equipment and thus avoided gross contamination of her skin and clothing. Better protection, however, could have been achieved by using a button-up collar, elastic-cuff style coat (see photo). The Fisherbrand Lab Coat (Cat. No. 17-987-145) is a good choice, selling at less than \$20 (Fisher Scientific 1-800-926-1166).

Ticks Spring Into Action

The beginning of the spring season means that everyone will be spending more time outdoors and the risk of tick bites and Lyme disease will increase.



On the left, the deer tick adult female and adult male on a centimeter scale!

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria which is transmitted by deer ticks when they bite a human. The ticks

are found in grassy areas, open fields, and at the edge of fields where they meet the woods. The disease is endemic in Delaware.

Lyme disease starts with flu-like symptoms, but if untreated can progress into arthritis and other symptoms. The typical "bull's-eye" rash does not occur in all cases. Lyme disease is treated with antibiotics.

To minimize your risk of getting Lyme disease, avoid ticks by staying in manicured areas, wear long pants tucked into your socks, and do a tick-check every

day. Use a repellent containing DEET, but be sure to use it according to the instructions. Remove any ticks you find by using tweezers to grasp it at its head, close to the skin and pull it up slowly and firmly.

You can find more information on Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses on <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/healthtip/lymedisease.html>.

Chemical Hygiene Committee: Toxic Gases on Campus

Toxic gases present a unique safety hazard in the laboratory. In the event of a release, concentrations have the potential to reach levels that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) in a very short period of time. Examples of toxic gases include carbon monoxide, chlorine, phosphine, hydrogen chloride, ammonia and nitric oxide.

In general, all toxic gases must be stored and used in a properly operating fume hood or gas cabinet. The gas cylinders should be fitted with a flow restrictor from the supplier. Regulators and tubing must be compatible and

Toxic gases can become immediately dangerous to life and health in a short period of time.

liter or less.

Please contact OHS at 831-8475 if you use or plan to use toxic gases in your laboratory or facility. OHS can provide training and guidance on the safe storage and use of gases, including highly toxic gases.

Additionally, OHS must be aware of all toxic gases on campus to assure that we have the proper emergency response equipment to address a release or emergency.

Don't Forget Earth Day



The University of Delaware will be sponsoring the City of Newark, Community Clean Up Day on April 23, 2005. We have recently learned that residents of the University Courtyard Apartments will be invited to join in the fun too while volunteering to care for the community we all share in Newark. Sign up with the Newark Parks and Recreation Department at 366-7060 to be sure they have all the supplies you will need.



Editors' Note

After a year of publishing the Safety BeakOn, OHS seeks your comments and suggestions. We hope the topics covered have addressed issues relevant to your needs, but welcome any ideas you may have to help us serve you.

Editions of the Safety BeakOn, past and present, are also available online at <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/> for your reference.

Please contact us if you have any article ideas or suggestions of items you'd like to see in future issues. Call 831-8475 and ask for one of our two editors, Krista Murray or Leslie York-Hubbard.

Ergonomics Word Search

This word search features key words in computer ergonomics. To learn more about the terms listed below and ergonomic safety in general, please sign up for one of our training courses or view a computer ergonomics video. Our list of training videos can be found on <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/videochoice.html>.

WORD LIST

- Document Holder
- Glare
- Keyboard Tray
- Lumbar Support
- Monitor Risers
- Rest Breaks
- Stretching
- Unbent Wrists



Look Who's Safe!

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety would like to recognize Dr. C.P. Huang of Civil and Environmental Engineering and his lab group for the strides they have made in providing a safe lab environment.

The group has purchased their own waste containers for their various waste streams. They have started using the *JustRite* containers which were recently distributed throughout campus and have diligently labeled their chemi-



Dr. Huang's lab group.

cal waste with the required orange waste labels.

In addition to their chemical waste efforts, the group also contacted DOHS prior to initiating work with biological materials and asked that DOHS come over to ensure everything had been addressed for a new project. They registered their work, set up the waste streams, and reviewed the protocols with the Safety office to ensure the work could be done safely and properly.

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**Check out our
web page!
www.udel.edu/ohs**



Lesson Learned: Iron Fire

Recently, there was an incident in one of the wood shops on campus that could have had disastrous results. On a Monday afternoon, one of the students entered the shop to find a burning odor.

Upon investigating, he found an area of plywood wall that was charred and hot to the touch. This was located just above an electrical outlet into which an industrial iron was plugged. It had last been used the previous Thursday and had probably been plugged in



Unplug and properly store all appliances.

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.

March 1	Laser Safety Training	3:00-4:00pm	William Fendt
March 3	Proper Lifting Refresher Training	10:30-11:30am	Robin Elliott
March 4	Radiation Safety Refresher Training 202 Cannon Lab Lewes Campus	1:00-2:00pm	William Fendt
March 4	Proper Lifting Refresher Training Lewes Campus	2:00-3:00pm	Robin Elliott
March 4	Toxic Chemical Safety Training	2:30-3:30pm	Kevin Eichinger
March 10	Radiation Safety Refresher Training	10:00-11:00am	William Fendt
March 10	Fire Extinguisher Training Form	11:00am-12:00pm	Bernie Alexander
March 11	Lyme Disease Awareness	9:00-10:00am	Krista Murray
March 12	CPR - Healthcare Provider	9:00am-3:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
March 17	Chemical Waste Training	9:00-10:00am	Kevin Eichinger
March 18	Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Training	10:00-11:00am	Joe Miller
March 18	Reactive Chemical Safety Training	11:00am-12:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
March 25	Lock Out/Tag Out Training	9:00-10:00am	Joe Miller
March 25	Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training	11:00am-12:00pm	Kevin Eichinger

since then. The iron had not been placed properly on its storage plate either. Fortunately, the damage did not extend beyond burn marks on the table where the iron rested and several feet of charred wall.

To prevent this from happening in your home or workplace, be sure that any electrical appliances are turned

off and unplugged when not in use. Check the condition of any electrical appliance and its cord for damage before each use. Don't place hot appliances on combustible surfaces.

For more information on fire safety, visit <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/fireprev.html>.