

The SAFETY BEAKON



Department of
Occupational
Health and
Safety

A Decade of Safety Accomplishments

May 19th will be a special day for safety! Provost Rich, Vice Provost Thoroughgood, Associate Vice

President Stozek and other representatives from the various colleges will join us for this 10th anniversary luncheon held at noon to recognize the special contributions of department safety committee chairs and hygiene officers to campus safety programs.

We will reflect on the progress made over the past decade while these individuals who are so instrumental in the program are treated to a culinary delight at the new Marriott Courtyard Hotel on Laird Campus.

In an effort to expand the celebration, we have designed two contests framed around our theme of celebrating ten years of accomplishments and also looking ten years into the future to help us maintain our excellent program. Gift certificates for the Blue and Gold Club will be awarded to the winning entry in each category.

Individuals should submit an essay, graph, chart or other pictorial display of their department's progress over the past decade or of the safety program they envision for the future by May 15th to DOHS. All entries will be

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mounted for display at the luncheon and attendees will vote for the winning entry. We encourage everyone to participate to showcase your department's accomplishments and to share your goals for the future.

For more details, please visit <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/scluncheon05.html>.

ANNUAL SAFETY CHAIR
LUNCHEON
10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating...

The Past...

The Present...

The Future...

This year's luncheon celebrates 10 years of safety success!

Purchase Approval

Did you know that all lab safety ventilation units (i.e. fume hood, biosafety cabinet, gas cabinet, etc.) that are purchased on campus must receive written approval from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS)? The reason for this requirement is three-fold.

First, we want to make sure that the units purchased will accommodate the projected work and provide a safe work environment.

Second, DOHS schedules annual testing and certifi-

cation for all lab safety ventilation units on campus to ensure adequate protection is maintained.

Lastly, we provide the appropriate warning stickers for the various types of units.

To acquire approval for purchases, please make sure to check the "BIO-CABINET/HOOD" and "FUME HOOD" checkbox on the purchase requisition form for all purchases of lab safety ventilation. Be aware, however, that there are many different types and

terms for lab safety ventilation units.

If you have any questions when completing the requisitions please feel free to contact our office at 831-8475 for assistance.



Purchases need to be approved by DOHS.

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Before Lightning Strikes...

Did you know that more than 300 people per year are killed by lightning in the US alone? This is good reason to re-visit your lightning safety procedures. University Policy 7-46 outlines your responsibilities to prevent against this risk if you are involved in outdoor activities.

Remember that all persons who conduct these activities are required to review the policy and their departmental procedures annually. The main concern is the development and implementation of a detection and evacuation procedure that is suitable to allow for the safe evacuation of the persons participating in your

event should a thunderstorm occur. If you have questions or concerns about your procedures, please contact Occupational Health and Safety.



Spring Cleaning

While it can often be a temptation to hold onto treasures such as old papers and books, and even boxes filled with items we may someday need again, that temptation should always be weighed against the safety risk involved. It seems harmless at first, but the more a room becomes overcrowded with boxes, papers, extra equipment, and stray stacks of books the more of a life safety and fire hazard it becomes.

If not stored properly, those items can block exit routes or even create a situation where they become fire hazards by covering vents, wires, or other heat/electrical sources. In some cases, even if everything is stored properly, the structure of the building and how much

Overcrowded rooms pose a life safety and fire hazard

weight it was designed to hold is an important consideration - particularly in older buildings or those that have been converted from their original intention (i.e. a house converted into an office building).

Take a look around your own office, lab, home, or other workspace. Consider what items may need to be reorganized, cleaned out, or otherwise handled so that they create a clean space that is the

Lessons Learned

A researcher had just finished synthesizing an alkyl azide and was disassembling the apparatus when the product detonated. Approximately 10 grams of the material was in a three-neck flask inside a metal Dewar. The researcher received a number of serious injuries to his right hand and required hospitalization.

Lessons Learned

The researcher had properly placed the fume hood sash between himself and the apparatus. The researcher was also wearing safety glasses and chemical protective gloves. *(continued on page 4)*

trademark of a safe environment. Shelves may need to be added, stray papers or old books stored in neatly stacked containers, and some things may even need to be thrown away.

In the future, prior to creating a large storage space in a building, you may need to more carefully look at the structure and make sure that there is not more storage weight put on the building than it was designed to hold.

In the end, you will not only have the pleasure of a clean and feels-like-new space, but you will have greater peace of mind knowing your work and home environments are safe places for you and others.

Chemical Hygiene Committee: New Policy on Enforcement

The Chemical Hygiene Committee has started the task of establishing a new policy on enforcement of laboratory safety practices with the hope of standardizing laboratory safety practices across campus.

This task was recommended by auditors during a program review of the safety program in 2002 as an activity that would help to strengthen the safety program at the University of Delaware.

New policy hopes to standardize laboratory safety practices

The draft policy is currently being shared with all departments on campus through the members of the Chemical Hygiene Committee. It is hoped that with much comment from the lab supervisors and department leadership, a policy will result that addresses everyone's concerns.

The draft policy, which can be viewed at <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/CHCCompliancePolicy.pdf>, incorporates two categories of violations and spells out the action to be taken to address each type of violation.

For more information about the Chemical Hygiene Committee, please visit the committee web page at <http://www.udel.edu/OHS/chemhygienecomm.html>

Radiation Safety Training Goes High-Tech

Those wishing to use radioactive materials in the laboratory are required by federal regulations to receive training in safe and compliant use. For many years this meant sitting through a lengthy and somewhat boring three hour lecture. Relief is on the way with the newest web-based training program from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety.

“The length of the training session was always a problem”, states Bill Fendt, UD Radiation Safety Officer. “Students had trouble staying focused. Because the government strictly controls radioactive materials, three hours were needed to cover both safe handling practices and the many regulatory controls imposed on workers.”

“The solution”, says Fendt, “was to split the training into two parts.” Part 1 is a WebCT course covering Radiation Safety Basics. This computer-based instruction is self-paced and is interspersed with quizzes that test compre-



Just some of the items discussed in the WebCT training course.

hension. Graphics, animations, and rollovers help stimulate interest. “The initial worker feedback has been positive with about 60 to 90 minutes needed to complete the course”.

Following successful completion of the WebCT course, workers will still need to attend Part 2 of the training -- a 60 minute lecture to cover Radiation Safety Regulations. “I believe that this new training method will be more effective than the old three hour lecture”, says Fendt. “Hopefully workers will find it to be more engaging and convenient”.

The new training goes into effect in June 2005.

~ Summer Safety Scramble ~

1. RENSCEUNS – protects skin, reapply frequently
2. TARNDIYEH – preventable by drinking lots of water
3. FETSELKICJA – helps you stay afloat
4. UGB LALTEPNRE – keeps the mosquitoes away
5. KRHETSOAET – avoid this by staying in shade or air conditioning
6. DEIPIRT – in the ocean, don't fight the current
7. LRDEHCIN – should not be left in a closed car on a hot day
8. MYLE ESADISE – avoidable by checking for ticks, wearing long pants/sleeves

Answers: 1) sunscreen 2) dehydration 3) lifejackets 4) bug repellent 5) heatstroke 6) rip tide 7) children 8) Lyme disease

Look Who's Safe!

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety would like to recognize George Whitmyre, Ronald Egres and the Department of Chemical Engi-



Ronald Egres shows off the standardized HF kit.

neering for their efforts in standardizing the hydrofluoric acid (HF) spill kits within the department.

The project to standardize HF kits was led by George and Ronald. This standardization increases the level of safety by ensuring easy recognition of the kits by HF users in the event of an emergency, thus facilitating a quicker response. It also aids in the periodic inventory of each kit that is necessary for monitoring and/or exchanging items that may have been removed, used or expired.

George has historically been a strong advocate for safety and this effort is another great example of his commitment to safety within the department and the University as a whole.



Exterior of the HF kits

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web page!
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Lessons Learned: Fume Hood Use (continued from pg 2)

The fume hood glass absorbed the outward force of the explosion, protecting him from serious injury to his face and chest. DOHS recommends that fume hood sashes always be positioned between the user and experiment, especially when the experiment involves pressure, heat or a potentially reactive chemical.



The hood sash should always be between you and your work.

A safety shield should be employed when there is a possibility of a physical or chemical explosion.

This particular injury, a hand injury while adjusting the apparatus, would not

have been prevented by such a shield.

After the explosion, the researcher immediately placed his hand under running water. Another colleague immediately called 911 and MSDS's were quickly obtained to give to the responding emergency personnel. The prompt response by laboratory personnel prevented further damage to the researcher. This is a very important example of why lab workers should not work alone.

Process safety reviews for highly hazardous operations, such as use or synthesis of reactive chemicals, use of highly toxic chemicals or experiments

involving pressure should always be completed. In most cases a "dry run" is also warranted to eliminate any safety problems that may arise before the hazardous chemicals are actually used. A process safety review involves a discussion of all possible hazards that might be encountered and what actions are required to minimize or eliminate the hazards.

These reviews should at least involve the principal investigator and the lead researcher, but can include other colleagues from within the department or Occupational Health and Safety. This review/training should be documented.

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 10, 2005	Radiation Safety Refresher Training	9:00am-10:00am	William Fendt
May 11, 2005	Environmental Programs at UD	11:00am-12:00pm	Dave Levandoski
May 13, 2005	Right-to-Know Training for Lab Workers	10:00am-11:00am	Kevin Eichinger
May 13, 2005	Chemical Waste Training	1:00pm-2:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
May 14, 2005	CPR - Healthcare Provider	9:00am-3:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
May 20, 2005	Right-to-Know Refresher Training for Lab Workers	9:00am-10:00am	Kevin Eichinger
June 2, 2005	Fork Lift Refresher Training	11:00am-12:00pm	Robin Elliott
June 3, 2005	Dept of Transportation (DOT) Training	11:00am-12:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
June 3, 2005	Fork Lift Refresher Training Lewes Campus	2:00pm-3:00pm	Robin Elliott
June 7, 2005	Laser Safety Training	3:00pm-4:00pm	William Fendt