

The SAFETY BEAKON



Department of
Occupational
Health and
Safety

Biosafety Audits

Occupational Health and Safety started an initiative October 4 at the request of the Provost to conduct educational sessions and audit laboratory operations in all facilities where biological materials are used. University Policy 7-19 requires all such facilities to comply with the program established by the University Biosafety Committee. This effort will certainly strengthen compliance and understanding with the existing program elements.

The initiative began in Animal and Food Sciences and will move to Plant and Soil Sciences in mid-November. The College of Agriculture and Natural

Resources will be completed before moving to the other colleges.

The educational sessions conducted by Robin Elliott and Krista Murray cover the regulatory environment surrounding the use of biological materials as well as safety procedures for research con-



Doug MacDonald
www.udel.edu/OHS/staff/macdonald.html

ducted at Biosafety Level 2.

Audits of facilities where biological materials are used will be conducted using an audit form similar to the Lab Inspection form but tailored to biological material issues. Researchers are able to access the form and the guidance document at www.udel.edu/OHS/ubc.html prior to the



Leslie York-Hubbard

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scheduled visit if they wish to prepare.

The Provost provided financial support for this effort with the addition of a full time one year position for Occupational Health and Safety. Leslie York-Hubbard and Doug MacDonald will share the position of Biosafety Specialist. These individuals will support the biosafety program by managing the biosafety cabinet program, infectious waste, the Bloodborne Pathogens Program, as well as shipping requests.

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Holiday Decorating Safety

Each year, many people are seriously injured or killed due to improper use of holiday lights and decorations. The following are a few precautions to help keep your holiday safe:

- Read and follow manufacturers' recommendations.
- Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed appliances.
- Unplug lights when the area is not occupied.

- Do not run extension cords under carpet or where they may be subject to physical damage or overheating.
- Use flame-retardant treated artificial trees.
- Keep live trees well watered.
- Do not block exits with decorations.
- Place candles on a non-combustible base that will not turn over easily.

- Extinguish candles when the area is not occupied.
- Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet from combustible objects.
- Make sure kerosene heaters are used only in a well-ventilated area.

If you have further questions regarding decoration safety, please contact DOHS at 831-8475 or Bernie Alexander at alexandr@udel.edu.

Smoke Detector Safety

Numerous studies have shown that the vast majority of deaths due to fires occur while victims are sleeping. The best way to alert occupants of a fire condition is by having the proper number of functioning smoke detectors in the building. Here are a few considerations for smoke detectors:

- Have at least one smoke detector installed on every level of the building, especially outside of bedrooms.
- If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, it is recommended that a smoke detector be installed inside each sleeping room as well.
- Change the batteries in every

Remember to change smoke detector batteries when you change the clocks every six months.

smoke detector every six months. An easy way to remember this is to change the batteries with the changing of the clocks. Most fire companies hand out free smoke detectors and batteries, as part of the "Wake Up Delaware" campaign during daylight savings time.

- Test each detector monthly. If the

detector doesn't activate, change the battery. If it still does not activate, replace the detector immediately.



Storm Water Management

Most people are unaware that storm water is the leading source of pollution affecting our lakes, streams, rivers, bays and oceans. It is estimated that 98% of the sediment that reaches the Chesapeake Bay comes from storm water runoff.

What exactly is storm water pollution? Simply put, it is the summation of all pollutants that wash off land after rains and snow melt. Pollutants such as dirt and sediment, pesticides and fertilizers, oils and chemicals, salt, nitrogen and phosphorus, and vehicle exhaust are all examples of storm wa-

ter pollution.

The University is teaming up with the City of Newark to develop and maintain a storm water management program for the entire Newark community. The program focuses on the following initiatives:



- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation and

Involvement

- Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

For more information on the storm water management program, contact DOHS at 831-8475 or visit http://Newark.de.us/docs/departments/stormwater_program.html.

CHP Requires Training Documentation

Did you know that the University of Delaware Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) requires all individuals covered under the plan to receive annual training? This training is the responsibility of the lab supervisor and can be accomplished in several ways. The Department Chemical Hygiene Officers can conduct the training, DOHS can provide training or the training can be completed through WebCT. A training certification form must be on file at the Department of Occupational Health

The CHP requires all individuals to receive annual training.

and Safety for all laboratory personnel. It is also recommended that a copy of the form be kept in the lab so that it can be referenced during the lab inspections. This form highlights the topics that must be covered and is found at

<http://www.udel.edu/OHS/chp1rtk.doc>.

There are several sections on this form for the various types of chemical safety training such as the annual Right-to-Know training, Chemical Hygiene Plan training, refresher training or other necessary specialized training. Please take a moment to review the form and ensure that all personnel in your lab have current and updated training. If you have any questions please contact Leslie York-Hubbard at 831-3123 or leslievh@udel.edu.

Safety Committees of the Year

The DOHS is happy to recognize Plant and Soil Science's Safety Committee, chaired by Jerry Hendricks, for the Academic Safety Committee of the Year program and Ice Arenas, chaired by Jeff Doucette, as the Administrative Safety Committee of the Year for 2004.



Jerry Hendricks and the Plant and Soil Science Safety Committee

This recognition program chooses the top committees based on annual reports submitted by June 30 of

each year and the selections are made by a review panel in the DOHS.

Some highlights from Jerry Hendricks's report of the committee's activities include new prevention measures instituted, facilitating training for the whole department, and the development of an extensive safety web site: <http://ag.udel.edu/safety/>.

The Ice Arenas Safety Committee Chair, Jeff Doucette, submitted an excellent report on behalf of the committee, reporting their accomplishments in each of the required activities for safety committees. Additionally, over the

course of the last year the Ice Arenas have made a number of procedural and facility changes to improve environmental health and safety and to prevent injuries and illness.

Gift certificates to Iron Hill Brewery and The Trap were presented in appreciation of their efforts. Congratulations to both committees!



Jeff Doucette and the Ice Arenas Safety Committee

Ken Starkey Retires

After a total of 30 years at the University, with more than 17 of those years with the Department of Occupational Health and Safety, we regret to announce that Ken Starkey will be retiring December 31, 2004. Many of you know Ken and for those who do not you are about to miss your chance. He is friendly, soft spoken, very flexible and is always willing to help in whatever capacity is needed.

He has worked hard to help manage the waste and fume hood programs on



Ken has worked with OHS more than 17 years.

campus. Over the years, he has made many friends at the University who have grown to know and trust him. Ken commented on one of those friendships, stating that "working with Joe Miller was very reward-

ing...If I ever get the opportunity to work with Joe again I wouldn't hesitate."

Ken takes with him very valuable knowledge about the intricacies of the University programs he has maintained over the years, which can only be facilitated through time and effort. We will miss Ken and would like to wish him all the best for a full and enjoyable retirement!

Look Who's Safe!

Every venue, such as the Bob Carpenter Center (BCC), has a behind-the-scenes team that works tirelessly day in and day out to make sure the show goes on. Working magic is part of the every day tasks the BCC team, directed by Domenick Sicilia, must accomplish. One of the behind-the-scenes magicians is George Watson who is greatly involved with safety at the BCC.

A few of George's responsibilities include assuring the score board rigging

is properly inspected, tested and maintained, providing a safe venue for over 5,500 people who may attend an event, and assembling, training and managing a cache of ushers to manage people in an emergency. George is also in charge of cleaning up the center after all the people leave, typically working until 5:00 am after a Saturday night concert to make sure the facility is ready for the Sunday afternoon basketball game.

These are just a few of George's responsibilities which clearly display his undying drive to keep the show running in a safe manner.



George Watson

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Beware of Popping Tops!

Recently a floor contamination incident occurred due to the popping lid of a microcentrifuge tube containing radioactive material. The action of the lid spontaneously popping open caused the entire tube to “jump” out of its rack, fall to the floor, and spill its contents.

Although the resultant floor contamination was minor, it did occur in a public hallway as the tube was being carried from one lab to another. Cleaning and surveying were also time consuming.

A similar incident occurred last year when the snap-cap lid of a microcentrifuge tube popped open while being heated in a water bath. The water bath and bench top became contaminated.



Spilled Microcentrifuge Tubes

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.

November 12	Fork Lift Safety Training	8: 30-11:00am	Robin Elliott
November 12	Corrosive Chemical Safety Training	11:00am-12:00pm	Leslie York-Hubbard
November 13	CPR - Healthcare Provider Cost is \$36.00	9:00am-3:00pm	Kevin Eichinger
November 16	Environmental Programs at the University of Delaware	9:00-10:00am	Dave Levandoski
November 18	Chemical Waste Training	10:00-11:00am	Kevin Eichinger
November 19	Toxic Chemical Safety Training	10:00-11:00am	Leslie York-Hubbard
November 22	Radiation Safety Refresher Training	3: 30-4: 30pm	William Fendt

Labs that use snap-cap type microcentrifuge tubes as vessels for hazardous materials should review their handling procedures with these incidents in mind. Containers of hazardous materials that will be taken into public areas (such as hallways) should always be transported in secondary containment.

Microcentrifuge tubes with threaded or locking caps may be appropriate in certain circumstances, such as tubes that contain radioactive, biological, or chemical hazards, tubes that are being heated, and tubes that are placed in extended storage.

Lab supply companies sell products to prevent the accidental opening of microcentrifuge tubes, including tubes with threaded caps, tubes with locking caps, and tube lid clips. One such company is Radiation Products International Corp. RPI Corp has an excellent website (www.rpicorp.com) that shows pictures of all its safety products. The sites listed below link to specific product pictures.

Microcentrifuge tubes with locking caps
<http://www.rpicorp.com/index.php?t=labequip&cat=72&id=678>

Microcentrifuge tubes with threaded caps
<http://www.rpicorp.com/index.php?t=labequip&cat=72&id=696>

Microcentrifuge tube lid clips
<http://www.rpicorp.com/index.php?t=labequip&cat=72&id=954>

Floating Bubble Rack with Pressure Plates
<http://www.rpicorp.com/index.php?t=labequip&cat=77&id=652>

Please share this information, if applicable, with radioactive material workers in your lab. Contact Bill Fendt at 831-1434 or wfendt@udel.edu if you have any questions.