EMORY UNIVERSITY
Environmental Health and Safety Office
RESEARCH LABS MONTHLY UPDATES
Lab Rat News
July 2009

1762 Clifton Road
Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30322

this issue

Training

Visit www.ehso.emory.edu for registration information.

Shipping Training

July 16th at 9:00 am

Radiation Safety Training

2nd Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

Laboratory Safety Training

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 10:00 am

Eye Wash Testing

Someone in your lab should test the eye-wash station once a month.

Biosafety Cabinets / Chemical Fume Hoods Certifications are required annually.

PPE

Personal Protective Equipment

Choice to be based on potential exposures involved:

- **Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields**
- **Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure**
- **Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls**
- **Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure**

Fire Extinguishers

Check fire extinguishers in your lab:

A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?

B. Is it readily accessible?

If it appears to need servicing contact the Maintenance HELP line at 3-1500 or the Fire Dept at 3-5122.

What do I do with all of this waste?

- Quick Reminders on Chemical Waste Disposal

By Meagan Parrott

" Is it really hazardous? Can't I just leave this funnel in the bottle?"

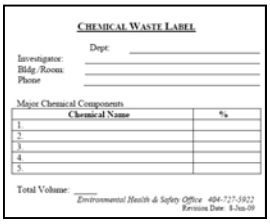
We've all been there. Trying to figure out what to do with chemical waste may seem tricky but there are some simple rules to follow that may take the headache out of chemical waste disposal.

What is chemical waste?

1. Chemical waste is a chemical that has no further economic value, regardless of whether or not it has been contaminated.
2. It is EHSO's responsibility to determine what chemical waste is hazardous. Lab researchers should consider all chemical waste as "hazardous" until EHSO has specified that it is non-hazardous.
3. Dispose of all chemical waste through EHSO.

How should I handle it in my lab?

1. Keep your waste containers sealed when not in use Funnels are not appropriate.
2. Label your waste containers using the Chemical Waste Label:



CHEMICAL WASTE LABEL

Dept: _____

Investigator:
Bldg./Room:
Phone

Major Chemical Components

Chemical Name	%
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Total Volume: _____

Environmental Health & Safety Office 404-727-5922 Revision Date: 8-Jun-09

3. Use containers and lids that are compatible with their waste.
4. Waste containers may not be greater than 90% full and may not be over 5 gallons in total volume.
5. Store your waste containers:
   a. In a designated area.
   b. In a secondary container (i.e. buckets, tubs, pans) so spills cannot reach drains or sinks.
   c. By compatibility: do not mix incompatible chemicals or store incompatible waste together.

How do I get it out of my lab?

1. Double check that all containers are labeled correctly and completely.
2. Fill out and sign the *Surplus and Chemical Waste Inventory Form.*
3. Box chemical waste by compatibility.
4. Depending on your building:
   * **Woodruff:** Deliver to WMB L302 on Thursdays from 1pm to 4pm.
   * **Whitehead & Rollins:** Deliver to Whitehead G44 on Thursdays from 9am to 12noon.
   * **Atwood & Emerson:** Deliver to Emerson 133.
   * **All other buildings:** Call 404-727-7091 to request chemical waste pick-up.

For more detailed information, visit the EHSO website: **http://www.ehso.emory.edu/waste.htm**

www.ehso.emory.edu

Chemical & Radiation Waste

Waste drop-off locations are as follows:

Woodruff Building (WMB L302): Thursdays (1Pm - 4Pm)

Whitehead and Rollins (Whitehead G44): Thursdays (9 am- 12 noon)

Chemistry Department- Emerson 133

All other buildings: request chemical waste pick up by calling (404) 727-7091 & radiation waste pick up by calling (404) 727-8784

Sharps - Part 1

- by Dionna Thomas




Sharps devices and needle devices are necessary for work in a health-care setting. The worker should consider what is needed to safely handle any sharps that are used. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the different scenarios for when a sharps injury can occur. By identifying when a sharps injury can occur, it makes it simpler to evaluate planned activities and reduce the likelihood of sharps injury. It is also necessary to assess the work practices that need to be observed to reduce the likelihood of a sharps injury, the use of safer sharps devices, and appropriate sharps disposal.

Puncture injuries occur at five different times:

1. *Before use*
2. *During use*
3. *After use and before disposal*
4. *During or after disposal*
5. *As a result of improper disposal*

Lab personnel can protect themselves by taking precautions

1. *Hand washing*
2. *Wearing appropriate PPE at all times*
3. *Keep sharps pointed away from the user and others*
4. *Double gloving*
5. *Checking the work area before leaving for sharps (bench tops, lab coats, fume hoods)*
6. *Avoid Needle Recapping*
7. *Never putting hands or fingers inside sharps containers*
8. *Utilizing Safer Sharps Devices*
9. *Knowing where First Aid kits are kept*
10. *Knowing what to do in the event of an injury*

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 62 to 88 percent of sharps injuries can be prevented simply by using safer medical devices. Therefore, Emory University does allow labs to purchase safer sharps devices. For example, there are safety scalpels, self-sheathing needles, retractable needles, and blunt tip syringes. All of these items are designed to reduce the likelihood of a sharps injury by covering or isolating the sharp directly after use.

You can find information about the safety devices available on the market by visiting the following links.

* California Dept of Health Services – www.sharpslist.org – List of Needles with Engineered Sharps Injury Protection

* International Healthcare Worker Safety Center – www.med.virginia.edu/epinet - Safety Engineered Sharps Device List

International Sharps Injury Prevention Society – www.isips.org/safety product list.html --- Safety Product List

National Alliance for the Primary Prevention of Sharps Injuries: www.nappsi.org -- Sharps Injuries: Safety Device List

Notice

- This newsletter is a tool to help fulfill a legal requirement for ongoing safety training.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that individuals in their area have read and understood the information that applies to their area.
- The signed newsletter should be placed into the PIs EHSO Binder.

Signature indicates: I have read and I understand the information in the June 2009 Lab Rat Newsletter. Use an additional sheet of paper for more signatures, if needed and attach to this document.

1. _____
2. _____
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Waste Incident

- Boston University

A week ago there was a level-three hazmat emergency at Boston University's Metcalf Center for Science and Engineering. The incident was a result of an unwanted chemical reaction inside of a chemical waste storage cabinet. The personnel in the lab were apparently mixing waste generated from incompatible chemicals by pouring the waste into the same waste container. The waste from these chemicals reacted with one another and the container burst. This caused damage to the door of the storage cabinet. The Boston Fire Department stated no one was hurt in this incident. The Fire Chief stated that one of the concerns was that the response team was unsure which chemicals were involved. He also stated this type of accident happens approximately every three weeks at the University.

Lessons learned ... *1) Consult EHSO for guidance on what types of chemicals are known to be incompatible with one another before deciding to mix the waste from different chemicals. 2) Remember to label the waste containers with the contents using the EHSO label. If there is more than one type of waste in the container, then list all the contents on the outside of the bottle. 3) Be familiar with emergency response procedures. The Emergency Spill/Emergency Response procedures can be* ***found on the EHSO website.***

Building Liaisons

Each building has been assigned an EHS Specialists to assist with any questions/concerns you may have. The Liaisons will also conduct a monthly walkthrough of each lab.

- **Dionna Thomas 404-727-4673**
  Woodruff, Woodruff Extension, Winship & Rollins
- **Meagan Parrott 404-712-9480**
  Dental, Clinic B, Pediatrics, North Decatur, Carlos Museum, Yerkes, Hope Clinic, Medical Office Tower, Crawford Long, Rollins, RSPH & Oxford College
- **Rodrick Esaw 727-1348**
  Whitehead, Math & Science, Anthropology, Wesley Woods, Emerson, Briarcliff Campus, Atwood & Chemistry

You may also find updated information and forms at www.ehso.emory.edu.