



The Lab Rat NEWS

December 2011

EMORY

Environmental Health and Safety Office
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404.727.5922
www.ehso.emory.edu

Happy Holidays & Thank You

From EHSO

From beta testing new programs, to completing your self-inspections, to submitting your protocols, as researchers at Emory, you've greatly contributed to the success of our programs this year. We just wanted to thank you for your continued participation and support and we look forward to working with you in the New Year!

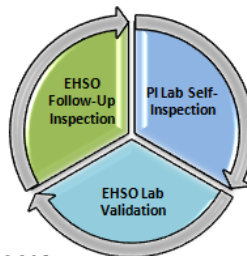
Wishing you a happy and safe holiday season!



The Success of Emory's 3-Step Inspection Program

As an Emory researcher, you know that every year, we ask you to submit the Corrective Action Plan Form (CAP) as proof of your annual laboratory self inspection. What you may not realize is that every year since the kick-off of the self-inspection program in 2008, the program has slowly evolved into a three-phase program including :

1. Annual Laboratory Self-Inspection - conducted by the lab
2. Validation Inspection - conducted by EHSO for 30% of the spaces
3. Follow-Up Inspection - conducted by EHSO 1-2 weeks after the validation



This October, we were given the opportunity to present the results of our program at the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) Conference in Anaheim, CA. To evaluate this three-phase program, we identified which items had over 20% rates of non-compliance from the 2011 round of EHSO Validation Inspections. The table below lists the 12 items with non-compliance rates over 20%:

1	Lab doors posted with up-to-date laboratory signage
2	All personnel have read and signed the Lab Rat monthly safety newsletter
3	All chemicals are labeled with the full chemical name
4	All mercury thermometers have been replaced with mercury-free thermometers.
5	Lab equipment/containers used to store biohazard materials have a biohazard label
6	Someone in the lab has taken Shipping of infections and Biological Substances training in the past 2 years.
7	Biohazard waste containers are closed except when adding waste
8	Sink is equipped with soap and paper towels for hand washing
9	Airflow is negative to the corridor when appropriate
10	The chemical fume hood is free of material and equipment stored long term
11	The lab eyewash station is tested and documented monthly by lab personnel
12	A visual inspection of the fire extinguisher is conducted and documented monthly

Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online in Blackboard.

www.ehso.emory.edu for registration information.

Radiation Safety Training

2nd Tuesdays at 9:00 am

Laboratory Safety Training

3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am

Eye Wash Testing

Someone in your lab should test the eyewash station once a month.

Bio-safety Cabinets/Chemical Fume

Hoods Certification required annually.

Chemical/Radioactive Waste

Pick-up Schedule:

Monday Pick-up

RRC

Whitehead

1462 Clifton Road

School of Public Health

Tuesday Pick-up

Math & Science

Tuesday & Friday Pick-up

Atwood and Emerson

Wednesday Pick-up

Emory Children's Center

Clinic Building A & B

Winship Cancer Institute

Yerkes Main Station

Thursday Pick-up

Woodruff Memorial Research

Building

EUH (Clifton)

Friday Pick-up

All **chemical** waste pick up should be requested by emailing

chemwaste@emory.edu

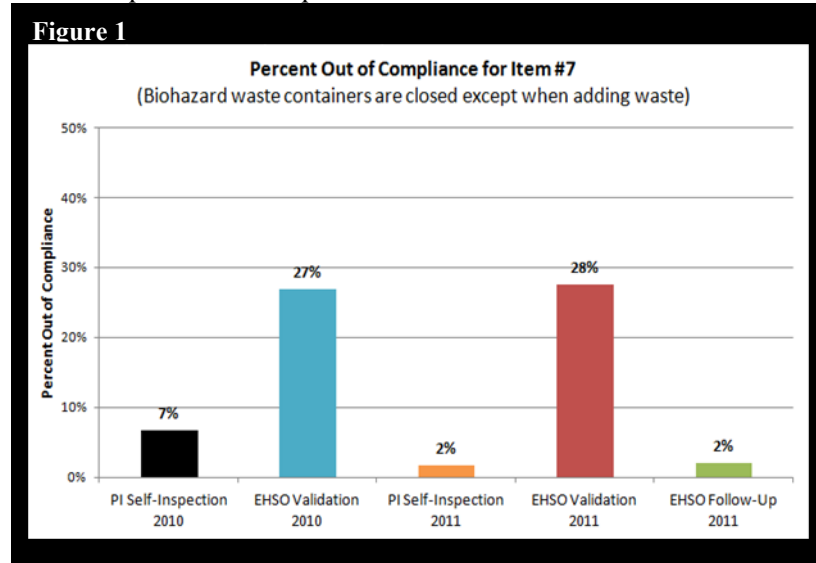
All **radioactive** waste pick up should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

Chemical waste disposal inventory form and/or **radioactive** waste inventory form should accompany all waste containers at the time of pick-up.

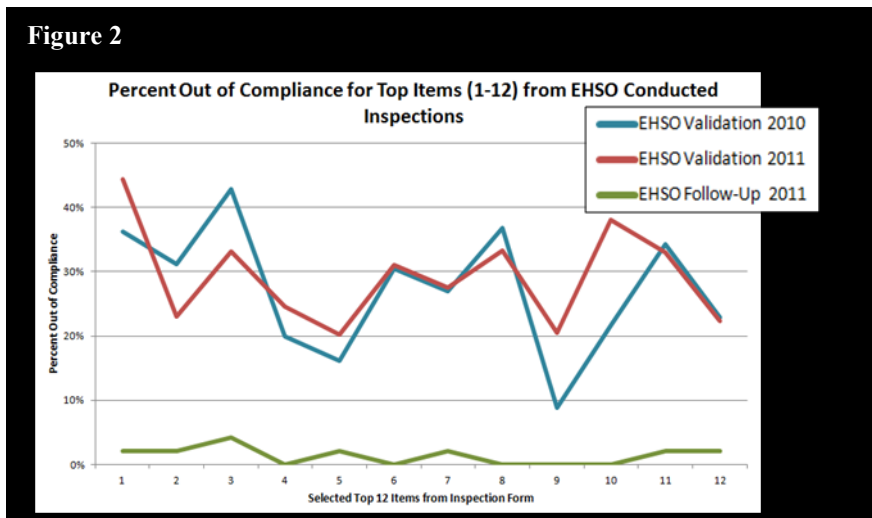
We compared the non-compliance rates for these 12 items for the following types of inspections:

- 2010 PI Self-Inspections
- 2010 EHSO Validations
- 2011 PI Self-Inspections
- 2011 EHSO Validations
- 2011 EHSO Follow-Ups

For all 12 items, we found that the rates of non-compliance were much lower for researcher Self-Inspections in comparison to EHSO Validations for 2010 and 2011. See **Figure 1** for an example of this comparison for item #7.



We also found that the rates of non-compliance decreased significantly between the 2010 and 2011 EHSO Validations and 2011 EHSO Follow-Ups for all 12 items. **Figure 2** shows a graphical representation of this comparison. During the Follow-up inspections, EHSO observed that researchers corrected most items that were out of compliance during the EHSO Validation.



This three phase inspection program has proved to be very valuable at Emory. During the Self-Inspection, researchers become familiar with safety rules and expectations and take an ownership over the safety of their lab spaces. During the EHSO Validation, safety professionals and researchers work together to point out items of non-compliance to foster a better safety culture. Finally, the Follow-Up inspections allow the researchers and EHSO to close the gaps that were identified during the validation.

As we continue this three-phase inspection program at Emory, we hope to see rates of non-compliance continue to decrease as the lab safety culture continues to improve. Thanks to all of you for completing your Self-Inspections and working with us so that we were able to present valuable data to our colleagues and work together to improve laboratory safety at Emory. *Comment on this [article](#)

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 7-7463

Contact Employee Health Services / Emory Healthcare Corporate regarding immunization information at (404-728-6437)



Lab Rat NEWS December 2011

We would like to hear from you!

What do you like most about the Lab Rat?

What do you like least about the Lab Rat?

Which article was most helpful to you?

What topics would you like to be featured in upcoming issues?

Do you have an article you would like to contribute?

Feel free to send your answers to bio-safe@emory.edu. We look forward to

reading your ideas and comments!

Read the EHSO [BLOG](#)

Comment on articles!

More articles



Stericycle Biowaste Manifests

The Department of Transportation requires that biomedical waste transporters, such as Stericycle, provide a confirmation of receipt each time Stericycle picks up a box from your lab. The receipt or waste manifest that is generated is considered a record of the lab's biowaste disposal method. These documents must not be thrown into the trash. The manifest that is generated by Stericycle is about the size of a normal store receipt. However, it contains important information such as the name of the waste generator, the name of the waste transporter, and the date of pickup. These must be retained as proof of proper waste disposal, and federal regulations require them to be maintained for 3 years from the date the waste was accepted by Stericycle.

If your lab has any manifests from a Stericycle pick up, then organize them by month and year. Place them in the Lab Safety Binder or in a location with other important documents.



Recognize

- Stericycle provides a receipt for Biowaste pickups - **Do not discard**

Organize

- Clip together
- Organize by month and year

Store

- Store/Maintain manifests in designated location
- Keep for 3 years

Comment on this [article](#)

Dionna Thomas 404-727-4673

Woodruff, Woodruff Extension, & Winship
(Clinics B & C)

Meagan Parrott 404-712-9480

Dental, Medical Office Tower, Emory Midtown,
School of Public Health (CNR/GCR), & Rollins

Steve Arehart 404-727-4171

Clinic B-Eye Center, Pediatrics, North Decatur,
Carlos Museum, Yerkes, Hope Clinic, Wesley
Woods, Briarcliff Campus, & Anthropology

Rodrick Esaw 404-727-1348

Whitehead, Math & Science, Emerson, Oxford
College, & Atwood

- 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.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

ARE YOU MOVING?

Is your lab moving to another location on campus?

Is your lab relocating to another university?

If you are aware that your lab will be moving in the near future, then contact your Research Safety Building Liaison to discuss the safety requirements that apply to your lab move.



EHSO HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY!

The holidays are here and EHSO has a few lab supplies to giveaway! We're always looking for ways to assist the researchers here at Emory and what better way than with a holiday giveaway! These items are available on a first come- first serve basis. There is no purchase necessary. Simply stop by EHSO to select what you can use!



Item: Bleach-Rite Disinfectant Spray (with Bleach)

Qty: 3 available (16 oz bottles)

Price: Free!



Item: Infectious Substance Shipping containers

Qty: 3 available (sizes vary)

Price: Free!



Item: SAF-T-PAK Secondary Shipping containers

Qty: 28 available (sizes vary)

Price: Free!



Item: Fisherbrand Sharps Containers

Qty: 25 available (sizes vary)

Price: Free!