

LABORATORY & RADIATION SAFETY

Cornell University Department of Environmental Health & Safety

125 Humphreys Service Building, Ithaca, NY (Phone: 255-8200)

201 Palm Road, Ithaca, NY (Phone: 255-8200)

Web site <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>

NEWS

Spring 2003

TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS

A message from Andy Garcia-Rivera, Director of Environmental Health & Safety:

Today we face a new set of challenges associated with potential terrorist threats and antiwar impacts that could affect the security of our communities, workplaces, and physical well-being. I write in anticipation of questions you may have regarding Cornell's ability to respond to and manage unforeseen security threats or emergencies that potentially could arise on our campus.

The Cornell community already benefits from a number of existing campus services. For example, EH&S has staff trained to respond to hazardous material emergencies involving chemical, biological, and radiological materials. Other departments and units on campus have very specific emergency plans addressing their unique needs.

Please be assured that Cornell is well informed and constantly receives the latest up-to-date information available on potential risks and threats. Therefore, we can initiate appropriate response actions.

What You Can Do

Stay Informed

1. Familiarize yourself with your Department/Unit Emergency Plan.
2. Check for any important changes to campus conditions at this campus web site: <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/SpecialConditions/>.

Stay Alert

1. Secure your laboratories, darkrooms, and other chemical-use areas when unattended.
2. Be sure to keep building doors and windows locked when the building is closed and not open for business.
3. Watch for strangers or anyone who seems to be acting suspiciously.

Plan Ahead

1. Continue normal activities but be aware of your surroundings and belongings. Stay informed. Stay alert. Exercise caution when traveling.
2. Be alert to suspicious activity and objects. Report suspicious activity to the appropriate law enforcement agency. On campus, contact Cornell University Police at 255-1111. In the event of an emergency call 911 immediately.

For complete text of this message, please check our web page at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>. Several links are provided to sites that contain related information that you should be aware of. Please take a few minutes to browse so you can prepare for potential terrorist risks by understanding what to look for, and what you can do for yourself and others.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Officials from the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control are currently on campus performing fire safety inspections, and expect to be here for several months. The inspectors will be going through every campus building, both state and endowed.

The inspectors may issue a citation for any violation and give a certain amount of time to correct the violation (30, 60, or 90 days). They will return to campus to re-inspect to see if the violation has been corrected. If the violation has not been corrected, they may issue a Notice to Comply with a specified abatement date for the violation to be corrected. They will then come back to campus to see if the violation has been corrected. If during this second re-inspection the violation still has not been corrected, a fine may be issued retroactive to the abatement date specified. Fines can range from \$50 - \$500 depending on the seriousness of the violation, and are based on a per day per violation basis.

You can prepare for the inspection of your laboratory or building by checking out these common problem areas:

1. Exits shall be maintained to provide free and unobstructed egress.
2. No aisle or passageway shall be obstructed so as to reduce its required width as an exit. Exit access and exit discharge shall not be impeded.
3. Interior and exterior exits shall be adequately lighted at all times. Exits and directional signs shall be maintained in clean and legible condition and shall be illuminated.
4. Fire, exit, stair, and smoke-stop doors shall be kept closed at all times. Use of doorstops, wedges, or other nonautomatic hold-open devices is prohibited on fire doors and smoke doors.
5. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent fixed wiring.
6. Flexible cords and cables shall not be run through holes in walls, ceilings, floors, etc.
7. Portable fire extinguishers shall be properly installed and maintained. Portable fire extinguishers shall be visible and conspicuously identified.
8. Fire alarm boxes shall not be obstructed.
9. Chemicals shall be properly stored, and incompatible chemicals shall be adequately separated.
10. Compressed gas cylinders shall be properly secured.
11. Combustible waste and refuse shall be properly disposed of to prevent unsafe accumulations.

If you have any questions or need assistance in preparing for the inspection, please feel free to contact Michael Vitucci of EH&S (at mv15@cornell.edu or by phone at 255-5623).

***** Please share with your graduate students *****

LABORATORY INSPECTION TRAINING

The 2-hour training presentation "Laboratory Inspections" is designed to assist Department Safety Representatives, safety committee members, faculty, staff, and graduate assistants conduct their own laboratory inspections by providing information on what issues to look for, what corrective actions to take, and identifying best management practices to prevent future problems. The program covers inspection areas related to EPA, OSHA, Fire Safety, and NYS building code regulations. The program is also designed to assist laboratories prepare for the voluntary workplace consultations being offered through EH&S. Any DSR, faculty, staff, or lab group who would like to schedule one or more sessions of this training presentation at their building should contact Jerry Gordon, Manager For Laboratory Safety Programs, at jpg29@cornell.edu. The next programs are scheduled at: -- Thursday, May 15, 9:00 - 11:00 am, 404 Plant Sci. Bldg. --Tuesday, May 20, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 404 Plant Sci. Bldg.



RADIATION SAFETY TRAINING

Individuals must receive radiation safety training **prior** to starting work with radioactive materials. This training is required by law. The course is given in two separate presentations; both sessions must be attended. There is a short exam, which can be taken either at the end of the second day, or later at our office during normal business hours. *Prior registration for this course is necessary, as seating is assigned on a first come first served basis.* The next Radiation Safety training programs are scheduled for:

May 20 & 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

June 16 & 18 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

July 16 & 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

To register please use the online form available on our EH&S Web site, or call the EH&S main desk, at 5-8200. For the online form go to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>, select "Training", then select the course under "Class Times & Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.

ADVANCED RECORD KEEPER TRAINING

This special radiation safety training is held monthly, on the last Friday of every month. It is geared just for those who perform and record the monthly lab meter/wipe test surveys and for those who do monthly reports to reconcile the individual stock vial inventory sheets. The survey class, taught by Chris Bell, is from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., and the inventory class, taught by Marlene Larson, is from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. **Use our website for the class schedule or to register or call Agnes Morris at 5-5600.**

CHEMICAL WASTE TRAINING

Everyone who generates hazardous waste must be advised that strict federal regulations apply to this activity and must be shown how to manage waste properly. If you or your staff would like to attend Chemical Waste training provided by EH&S, call 5-5600 (<http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/lrs/chemical.waste.disposal.htm>).

CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING

The next ***new employee*** laboratory worker OSHA Laboratory Standard training program, "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers", will be held in 118 Humphreys Service Building on **Wednesday, May 7, 9 - 11 a.m., followed by the EPA-Chemical Waste Disposal Program from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

Please contact Czora Pagsolingan by e-mail at cpp5@cornell.edu or by phone at 254-4693 to register, or register online: go to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>, select "Training", then select the course under "Class Times & Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.



Radiation Safety Eagle Awards



We are pleased to recognize the following laboratories for receiving radiation safety awards:

January

R. Dieckmann, Materials Science & Engr., Bard Hall
L. Kraus, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
G. Blissard, Boyce Thompson Institute
D. Stern, Boyce Thompson Institute
* **J. Guan**, Molecular Medicine, VMC
R. Levine, Molecular Medicine, VMC
R. Minor, Biomedical Science, VMC
A. Nixon, Clinical Sciences, VMC
M. Roberson, Biomedical Science, VMC
S. Jones, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Wing Hall

February

* **M. Wang**, Physics, Clark Hall
A. Bensadoun, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
M. Shuler, Chemical & Biomolecular Engr., Olin Hall
A. Lemley, Textiles & Apparel, MVR Hall
S. K. Obendorf, Textiles & Apparel, MVR Hall
K. Boor, Food Science, Stocking Hall
J. Gavalchin, Microbiology, Stocking Hall

March

T. Fox, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
V. Vogt, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
* **W. DeJong**, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
W. Fry, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
M. Milgroom, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
M. Mutschler, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
R. Spanswick, Biol. & Environ. Engr., Bradfield Hall
S. Tanksley, Plant Breeding, Emerson Hall
K. Van Wijk, Plant Biology, Emerson Hall
G. Hrazdina, Food Sci. & Technology, Geneva
L. Lion, Civil & Env. Engineering, Hollister Hall
J. Nasrallah, Plant Biology, Plant Science Bldg.
R. Cerione, Molecular Medicine, VMC
R. Oswald, Molecular Medicine, VMC
G. Sharp, Molecular Medicine, VMC
S. Gray, Plant Pathology, VN Lab

* Winner of Meal Deal from Pizza Hut

*** Please share with your graduate students ***