

# LABORATORY & RADIATION SAFETY

*Cornell University Department of Environmental Health & Safety*

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# NEWS

Spring 2005



## EYEWASH/ SAFETY SHOWER TESTING

EH&S inspects emergency eyewashes and showers annually; however, the American National Standards Institute recommends that these units be tested (flushed) weekly. It seems reasonable that they be tested AT LEAST monthly. In recent years this has, many times, not been done and the only flushing of water these units may receive is when we inspect them annually. We in the lab safety group want to start an initiative to encourage buildings to test these units and we would like the Department Safety Representatives (DSRs) and laboratory personnel to help us in this effort. Testing eyewashes is less involved, but testing showers requires a kit to contain the water. The EH&S lab safety group has provided kits for testing safety showers to each building coordinator whose building has a safety shower, so that testing is now possible for all buildings. The building coordinators are responsible for the facilities; however, since this is a safety issue, we would like to encourage a joint effort between DSRs, laboratory personnel, and building coordinators to coordinate the testing of these units. We also encourage personnel in any outlying or off-campus facilities with showers and eyewashes to test those units. Some things to consider are:

- who will do the testing (students, staff, rotation approach, etc.)
- where will the kits be kept
- will units in rooms be treated differently from units in hallways

Also, we will gladly give a demonstration and training to anyone if requested (just email Allan Dye at [bad25@cornell.edu](mailto:bad25@cornell.edu)).

### Why is it important to test?

The flushing of emergency units is very important since water can stand in the pipes and come out as very nasty dark water when the time comes to use it. The standing water in the pipes can also result in the growth of harmful bacteria that can cause an infection when the eyewash or showers are used for an emergency. A large amount of money was spent on repairing eyewashes and showers last year and we believe these units can be better maintained and at lower cost if they are flushed regularly. Regular flushing will also ensure these units will work properly when needed during an emergency. EH&S, DSRs, and laboratory staff need to work together on this issue to ensure that safety is not compromised.

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

## THE CONSULTANTS' COLUMN\*

### CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT IN LABORATORIES



The Environmental Health & Safety Department offers a free and friendly service to help lab groups manage their chemicals.

The EH&S Hazardous Materials Group in partnership with John Terry of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department will "pack out" most chemicals your laboratory no longer needs. Qualifying chemicals do not have to be "waste"; John will list and distribute them to other research groups. Unclaimed chemicals will be managed as chemical waste.

Removing chemicals from your spaces can benefit our campus community in several ways:

- ✓ Frees up valuable storage and research space in your laboratory.
- ✓ Provides you the opportunity to finally get rid of those chemicals you inherited from the previous research group that will never be used.
- ✓ Minimizes the chemical safety and health risks in your lab (e.g. removing an oxidizer or a flammable chemical will decrease the risk of a fire in the area).
- ✓ Provides chemicals to other research groups across campus free of charge.
- ✓ Identifies chemicals that do not have labeling.
- ✓ Minimizes chemical wastes.

To access this service, contact EH&S's Hazardous Materials Group at 5-8200 or [chemwaste@cornell.edu](mailto:chemwaste@cornell.edu).

\*This is the third column in a new series written by the EH&S Laboratory Safety Consultants, Andy Schreckengost and Nathan Clark, and the Associate Chemical Hygiene Officer Allan Dye.

## CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING

The next regularly scheduled *new employee* laboratory worker OSHA Laboratory Standard training program, "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers", will be held in 118 Humphreys Service Building on:

**Wednesday, June 8, 9 – 11 a.m., followed by the EPA-Chemical Waste Disposal Program from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

The "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers" program is also scheduled for:

Thursday, June 16, 10 a.m.–12 noon in Vet Lecture Hall 2

Thursday, June 23, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in 118 Humphreys Service Building

Using your Cornell NetID, you can register on-line at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/>. Select Training, then **Register Now in SafetyBase**. To use Safetybase, you will need to sign into Kerberos, Side Car, or CUWebLogin to access Cornell University restricted electronic services. If you do not have a Cornell NetID, you can register from the EH&S home page at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/>; select Training; select the desired class; then fill out the On-Line Class Registration form, and submit. For help please contact Czora Pagsolongan by e-mail at [cpp5@cornell.edu](mailto:cpp5@cornell.edu) or by phone at 254-4693.



## 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:

**June 13 & 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**July 19 & 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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 inventory record-keeping tasks. The survey class, taught by Wayne Westmiller, 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. The next classes are scheduled for Friday, June 24 (register by June 17). **Use our website to register or call Agnes Morris at 5-5600.**



## Radiation Safety Eagle Awards



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

### February

- \* **A. Bass**, Neurobiology & Behavior, Mudd Hall
- A. Bensadoun**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- D. Klessig**, Boyce Thompson Institute
- N. Noy**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- J. Peters**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Russell**, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Scott**, Entomology, Comstock Hall

### March

- \* **Y. Boisclair**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- W. De Jong**, Plant Breeding & Genetics, Bradfield Hall
- N. Dykes**, Clinical Sciences, VMC
- W. Fry**, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
- G. Hrazdina**, Food Science & Technology, Geneva
- M. Milgroom**, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
- T. Setter**, Crop & Soil Sciences, Bradfield Hall
- R. Spanswick**, Biol. & Environ. Engr., Bradfield Hall

### April

- A. Bell**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- \* **W.R. Butler**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- T. Fox**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- S. Gan**, Plant Molecular Biology, Emerson Hall
- J. Hua**, Plant Biology, Plant Science Building
- S. Lazarowitz**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building
- S. McCouch**, Plant Breeding & Genetics, Emerson Hall
- J. Rose**, Plant Biology, Emerson Hall
- P. Soloway**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- M. Stipanuk**, Nutritional Sciences, Kinzelberg Hall
- S. Tanksley**, Plant Breeding & Genetics, Emerson Hall
- B. Tye**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.

\* Winner of Meal Deal from Pizza Hut

## Newsletter is on EH&S Website

This Laboratory & Radiation Safety Newsletter from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety is located on our EH&S Website. Just point to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/>, then select "Chemical & Laboratory Safety", and then "Newsletter", or go directly to:  
<http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/lrs/labSafety/newsletter.htm>

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