

## **LABORATORY & RADIATION SAFETY**

*Cornell University Department of Environmental Health & Safety*

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# **NEWS**

**Winter 2000**



### **EPA TARGETING UNIVERSITIES**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that colleges and universities in EPA's Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico, will soon see increased inspections and enforcement of hazardous waste regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These regulations apply to the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. The EPA is focusing on hazardous waste management in academia and is inspecting college and university laboratories and facilities for compliance with the RCRA regulations.

In EPA's Region 1 last year, Boston University agreed to pay \$753,000 in fines and community projects after being cited for allegedly violating regulations on underground storage tanks and storm water. Yale University paid \$348,000 in fines and community environmental investments after it was cited for allegedly mishandling and improperly labeling hazardous chemicals. The University of Connecticut was found to be in violation of eighteen hazardous waste handling regulations; it was not fined directly but was required to complete supplemental environmental projects that cost over \$170,000. By following the guidelines below, we will be prepared for an EPA compliance inspection, with the added benefit of creating a safer, pollution-free work environment.

#### **Guidelines for Hazardous Waste Management**

##### **DO:**

- Deface the original label of the waste container (except when the waste is the same as the original contents).
- Label the hazardous waste container with the words "Hazardous Waste."
- Label the waste container with the chemical name – no abbreviations, structures, or formulae.
- Identify the percentage of each component in the waste container.
- Seal the container by securing the cap while it is in storage. The container is in storage whenever waste is not being added or removed.
- Use containers that are in good condition.

- Store waste containers in a designated area, properly segregating incompatibles.
- Put especially hazardous wastes (acutely toxic or very reactive) in secondary containment.
- Use the hazardous waste stick-on labels available from EH&S.

##### **DON'T:**

- Keep funnels in open waste containers.
- Date the hazardous waste container until it is full and you have contacted EH&S for a pickup.
- Keep chemical containers that the EPA would consider "inherently waste-like" --- chemicals past their expiration date, containers with noticeable dust on the top, containers with broken caps, or extremely rusted containers, for example.

To obtain a RCRA laboratory inspection form, call EH&S at 5-8200. For more information, contact Mike Lonon at 5-8200 or at ml107.

### **SAFETY RECALL OF CO2 CYLINDERS**

A manufacturer of cylinders used for carbon dioxide has initiated a product recall of five-pound cylinders marked with serial numbers X8321 through X8518. These Carbon Dioxide cylinders are stamped incorrectly with the marking "DOT-3AL 3000", and should have been stamped "DOT-3AL 1800" (cylinders are incorrectly marked with a service pressure of 3000 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) instead of 1800 psig). If a hydrostatic pressure test is performed on one of these cylinders, the cylinders are likely to fail at the 5000 psig test pressure. It is not known that any injuries have occurred from these cylinders, but it is possible that serious personal injury, death, or property damage could result from a cylinder failure. All persons owning, using, or having access to one of these cylinders should as soon as possible contact: Lee Birch, Product Compliance and Safety Manager, Luxfer (USA) 3016 Kansas Ave, Riverside CA 92507; (909)341-2214; [www.luxfercylinders.com](http://www.luxfercylinders.com).

## Radiation Safety Training



## Radiation Safety Eagle Awards



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. Please bring your university ID number. *Prior registration for this course is necessary, as seating is assigned on a first come first served basis.*

Following is the training schedule:

February 4 & 7	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
February 22 & 24	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
March 31 & April 3	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**To register for this course, please use our online form available on our EH&S Web page, or call the EH&S main desk, at 5-8200.** To use the online form, visit our website at [www.ehs.cornell.edu](http://www.ehs.cornell.edu), select "Training", and then "Class Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.

## CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING

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

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Wednesday, Mar. 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Please contact Veronica Parsons-Zieba by e-mail at [vp4@cornell.edu](mailto:vp4@cornell.edu) or by phone at 254-4693 to register, or register on our web site at <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>.

## 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. **Call Agnes Morris at 5-5600 for the class schedule or to register.** See the tentative schedule below:

<b>Register by:</b>	<b>Class Date:</b>
February 18	February 25
March 24	March 31

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

### October

- T. Fox, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- M. Hanson, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- E. Earle, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
- \* M. Kyle-Jahn, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
- R. Loria, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
- S. McCouch, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
- M. Milgroom, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall
- M. Sorrells, Plant Breeding, Bradfield Hall
- R. Harrison, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Corson
- Y. Boisclair, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- W.R. Butler, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- X. Lei, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- J. Parks, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- S. Beer, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building
- A. Collmer, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building
- T. Delaney, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building
- J. Nasrallah, Plant Biology, Plant Science Building
- T. Begley, Chemistry & Chemical Biology, S.T. Olin Hall
- R. Levine, Vet. Molecular Medicine, Vet. Medical Center
- J. Helmann, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Russell, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- J. Shapleigh, Microbiology, Wing Hall
- S. Winans, Microbiology, Wing Hall

### November

- A. Bretscher, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- R. Chen, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- J. Calvo, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- G. Feigenson, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- \* D. Shalloway, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.
- R. Austic, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- P. Johnson, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- S. Quirk, Animal Science, Morrison Hall
- M. Salpeter, Neurobiology & Behavior, Mudd Hall
- J. Casey, Microbiology & Immun., Vet. Medical Center
- E. Pearce, Microbiology & Immun., Vet. Medical Center
- G. Whittaker, Microbiology & Immun., Vet. Med. Center

### December

- G. Aguirre, Vet. Clin. Sci., Baker Annex
- V. Meyers-Wallen, Vet. Biomed. Sci., Baker Annex
- G. Lust, Vet. Animal Health, Baker Institute
- J. MacLeod, Vet. Animal Health, Baker Institute
- C. Parrish, Vet. Animal Health, Baker Institute
- J. Ray, Vet. Animal Health, Baker Institute
- \* R. Dieckmann, Materials Sci. & Engineering, Bard Hall
- W. Brown, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- L. Kraus, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- B. Tye, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- V. Vogt, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.
- E. Gonsalves, Plant Pathology, Geneva
- W. Koeller, Plant Pathology, Geneva
- R. Cerione, Vet. Molec. Medicine, Vet. Medical Center
- G. Sharp, Vet. Molec. Medicine, Vet. Medical Center
- A. Brown, Vet. Molec. Medicine, Vet. Medical Center
- J. Marsh, Vet. Micro. & Immun., Vet. Medical Center

\*Winner of Meal Deal from Pizza Hut

### CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

Chemical Safety training programs (1 ½ hours long) for undergraduate students working in laboratories will be held in Emerson 135 on:  
Thursday, February 10, at 10:10 am, 12:15 pm, 2:25 pm  
Wednesday, February 23, at 10:10 am, 12:15 pm, 2:25 pm  
No registration is required for these programs.