Laboratories Health, Safety and the Environment

A Monthly Newsletter from Carnegie Mellon's Chemical Hygiene Officer — August 2009

Training Topic of the Month

All new laboratory employees must received Laboratory Safety training from EH&S as a requirement of the OSHA Laboratory Standard. While there is no OSHA requirement for refresher training in lab safety, we feel that regular review of lab safety topics is essential to a safe work place. Monthly reading of this newsletter will provide such a review. This month's topic is **"Emergency Response"**.

1. It is critical that **ALL** occupants of a laboratory are aware of the correct emergency response procedures.
2. Details of the emergency response procedures are found in the laminated Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) posted in every laboratory. All employees should review this guide regularly. *If your ERG is missing or has fallen from the wall, contact me at markb2@andrew.cmu.edu and the problem will be corrected.*
3. Probably the most important thing to know is to call University Police (8-2323) in the event of all but the most minor emergencies. **DO NOT CALL "911".** Our police will coordinate any responses needed for the emergency, including ambulance, EH&S, Haz-Mat or Fire Department.
4. When you call University Police, be sure to give them full information of the situation. This includes
   - The nature of any injuries, if any
   - The name of any chemicals or hazardous materials involved (spell them if necessary)
   - Exactly what happened and exactly where it occurred
5. After you make the call, locate yourself in a safe place where you can be contacted for further information, if it is needed.
6. If an injury or accident involves a hazardous material, try to obtain the MSDS for the material(s) **IF YOU CAN DO SO WITHOUT HARM.** The MSDS may then be supplied to the emergency responders (i.e., Fire Department or ambulance personnel.)
7. There will be cases where you can do some emergency response, but only under certain circumstances. For example, you can provide First Aid, **but only if you have been trained to do so**. Also, you may respond to small-scale chemical spills, **but only if you have been trained to do so**. It is critical that untrained personnel do NOT perform any emergency response. Improper responses may worsen an already bad situation.
8. Remember that persons exposed to hazardous chemicals during a spill or leak, have a right to a medical consultation to determine any possible effects of their exposure. Contact EH&S if this has occurred.
9. Most accidents and injuries require some sort of follow-up paperwork. All injuries that occur require that an accident report be completed and sent to Human Resources. Chemical spills and related issues will be investigated by EH&S and findings and recommendations will be distributed as needed.

Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste Training					
August 14, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	FMSB 3rd fl conf rm	September 3, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	FMSB 3rd fl conf rm
September 18, 2009	9:30 AM to Noon	FMSB 3rd fl conf rm			
To register, go to http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/training/index.html and click on "Lab Safety and Hazardous Waste.					

Special Training for Incoming Students

EH&S traditionally performs a good deal of additional training for incoming students, faculty and staff at the start of the academic year. If you would like to schedule a special training class for your incoming people, please contact Mark Banister at 8-1493 or at markb2@andrew.cmu.edu and we will set you up.

Environmental Topic of the Month: Hazardous Waste Generation

It is important to be mindful of your laboratory's EPA requirements for the proper accumulation of hazardous waste. These are your hazardous waste container REQUIREMENTS:

1. Containers must be compatible with the material going into them
2. Containers must be labeled with the words "Hazardous Waste" and the container contents (ask EH&S for labels to help with this)
3. Containers must be closed with a screw top lid at ALL times, except when materials is actually being put inside
4. Containers must be setting in a secondary containment bin or tray when there is a drain or sink nearby
5. Containers must remain **IN THE ROOM WHERE THE WASTE WAS GENERATED** until removed by our waste contractor or by EH&S. ***You cannot even move it to another one of your own labs!***

It is also important that you know what materials are considered hazardous. They are any material that is:

- Flammable (flash point >140^{o} F)
- Corrosive (pH less than 2 or greater than 12.5)
- Reactive (with water, air, or common chemical)
- Toxic (see the MSDS for this information)

When in doubt of whether your material meets the above definitions, it is best to assume it is hazardous and to follow the above accumulation requirements. Call EH&S at 8-8182 with further questions. **Next month: Removal of the waste chemicals from your lab and where they end up!**

EH&S is happy to report that we now have a dedicated space just for our training sessions. No more wondering where on campus the class will be! Our new training location is in the FMS Building, on the 3rd floor (where you are most likely to enter the building.) If you don't know where the FMS Building is, check it out on the campus map:
http://www.cmu.edu/homeimages/campus-map/CMU_MapBW_8x11.pdf (we are building #8)

Hazardous Waste Pick-up Schedule		
Mellon Institute	Aug 4,18 Sep 1,15,29	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Wean and Doherty Halls	Aug 4,18 Sep 1,15,29	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
All other main campus locations	Aug 5 Sep 2, 30	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
PTC	Aug 5 Sep 2, 30	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Penn Ave., Robotics Consortium	October 28	
Computers	Aug 6,10 Sep 3	
To request a waste pick-up or receive waste labels, secondary containment or tags, go to: http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/chemical/waste/index.html		