

Training Topic of the Month: Personal Protective Equipment

Because of the many different types of hazards present in the laboratory, there are many different types of personal protective equipment that may be necessary for you to use. ***It is important for you to know that it is a requirement of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that the employer (Carnegie Mellon University) must provide appropriate protective equipment to all employees working with hazardous materials.***

Surprisingly, the first thing I want you to remember is something that I DON'T want you to wear, and that is a respirator. When lab workers properly follow the chemical handling and use procedures taught in our training classes and when appropriate protective equipment and fume hoods are used, there will be *no need to wear a respirator*. People who wear respirators must receive regular training and medical evaluations. This is a great deal of additional work both for us and for you, so, since they are not needed, we do not permit their use in the labs. You CAN wear disposable paper face masks for your own comfort when in the lab, though you need to know that they are not suitable protection from most chemical **OVER**exposures. If you believe that you have a special situation that mandates the use of a respirator, please contact Mark Banister at markb2@andrew.cmu.edu or Andrew Lawson at alawson@andrew.cmu.edu.

Gloves are another critical item of personal protection. The important things to know about them is that you must always use a proper glove if you are handling a hazardous chemical or if a splash of chemical to your hands is a possibility.

When selecting a glove, be sure to get one that fits your hands properly, so that it will be comfortable to use. Also, be sure that the glove material is approved for the chemical that you will be working with. There is no universal glove material that will work on all chemicals—you need to investigate the gloves available to ensure that you have one rated for your chemical. This is best determined by using the glove compatibility charts available in the catalogs where gloves are sold. EH&S can help you with glove selection, if you need.

Eye protection is very important as well. The important thing with eye protection is that you be sure to wear protective *goggles* and not just glasses. Goggles are necessary to prevent splashed materials from running down your face into your eye, as would happen if only glasses were worn. Goggles are needed for all work where there is a possibility of a hazardous chemicals splashing into your eyes.

Personal protection items are needed for other labs hazards as well. For example, protective eyewear is needed for laser use. Choosing proper laser glasses is extremely important and rather difficult. The eyewear is very specific to the wavelength of the beam as well as its intensity. For the most part, laser eyewear **MUST** be purchased for the specific use and are seldom interchangeable between different laser units. Contact EH&S at 8-8182 for assistance in selecting proper laser eyewear.

Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste Training

July 5, 2007	9:30 AM to Noon	Hamburg 1511	July 26, 2007	9:30 AM to Noon	Hamburg 1511
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To register, go to: http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Training/ClassDescriptons/training_laboratory_safety.htm

Laboratory Safety Committee

All lab personnel should be aware of the Carnegie Mellon University Laboratory Safety Committee. The committee consists of representative of each university department that has laboratories, along with members of EH&S. It meets five times per year and acts as a conduit of information between EH&S and lab personnel. Your department representatives bring any lab issues you may have to the attention of the committee, and also keeps you apprised of EH&S and university activities related to laboratory safety.

Here are the people belonging to the Laboratory Safety Committee:

Banister, Mark	EH&S	Luukkala, Barry	Physics, Vice Chair
Borysenko, Chris	Mellon College of Science	Miller, Herb	Graduate Student Rep.
Bowman, Chris	ECE	Miller, Madelyn	EH&S
Doonan, Carrie	Biological Sciences	Patrick, Michael	MBIC
Fouch, Michael	EH&S	Pekkan, Kerem	Biomedical Engineering
Hackney, Dave	Biological Sciences	Ripper, Ron	CEE
Harris, Jeff	EH&S	Sides, Paul	Chemical Engineering
Horwitz, Colin	Chemistry	Stump, Karen	Chemistry
Klim, Steve	Mechanical Engineering	Wolf, Jason	MSE
Lowry, Greg	CEE		

Summertime and Sandals

Every summer we have a problem with personnel wearing sandals or other open-toed shoes in the laboratory. Because of the risk of both a chemical splash to the exposed skin and the possibility of stepping into a container (or worse yet, a spilled chemical) the Chemical Hygiene Plan for the University **FORBIDS** the wearing of open-toed shoes in the lab. I know that it is hot outside and

some of the labs are uncomfortable in the heat, but we need to follow this requirement. Many lab people find it helpful to keep a pair of closed-toe shoes at their desk so they can wear their comfortable sandals outside of the lab during their working day and have a proper shoe to wear in the lab.

Hazardous Waste Pick-up Schedule

Mellon Institute	July 2, 17, 31, Aug 14, 28	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Wean and Doherty Halls	July 2, 17, 31, Aug 14, 28	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
All other main campus locations	July 3, Aug 15	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
PTC	July 3, Aug 15	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Penn Ave., Robotics Consortium	Aug 29	
Computers	July 5, Aug 16	
To request a waste pick-up or receive waste labels or tags, go to: http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Waste_Recycling/HazardousWaste.htm		