

### *Training Topic of the Month:*

All new laboratory employees must receive 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 "**Chemical Inventory and Maintenance**".

There are requirements under both OSHA and the EPA for laboratories to maintain all chemical containers in a safe manner and also to ensure that an accurate chemical inventory exists for the lab.

The first step for compliance is to ensure that **ALL** containers have a proper label.

- The label must indicate the identity of the contents, using the full, proper name(s). Sample numbers or chemical formulae are ***not permitted*** as the sole identifier.
- Labels must not be faded, torn or otherwise unreadable. (The EPA will consider these items to be hazardous waste and fines may ensue due to improper chemical management.)
- Material in containers that are no longer in good condition or do not properly contain the chemical must be disposed of or transferred to suitable containers.
- Containers where the contents are no longer usable, either by having reacted, expired, polymerized, separated, crystallized or in any

other similar way are no longer suitable for storage and must be disposed of.

- All chemical containers must be stored in suitable cabinets or shelves, and away from incompatible materials. For example, flammables in flammable storage cabinets, corrosives in corrosive storage, flammables separated from oxidizers, acids and bases separated.

Additionally, the university requires that all chemical owners maintain a current inventory in the Chemtracker system. This online system, accessible through the EH&S web page, is essential in helping the university manage its requirements regarding building code limitations, Homeland Security requirements, fire and emergency response, as well as locating hazardous materials.

With some great nagging and hair-pulling, most of our chemicals owners are now complying with the inventory requirements, though there are some stragglers left behind. We will evaluate inventory compliance in each lab's annual EH&S inspection.

### *Eye Protection in the Lab* Guest Author: Lab Auditor Michael Fouch

According to OSHA, an estimated 1,000 eye injuries occur in American workplaces everyday. Most of these injuries could have been prevented if the person would have been wearing eye protection. Contact with chemicals caused one-fifth of all eye injuries last year.

Most of the injured workers who did not wear their eye protection said they did not believe it was required by the situation. The lesson here is that you can never predict what will happen next and that it is always better to be "safe then sorry".

#### **Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste Training**

<b>June 5, 2008</b>	9:30 AM to Noon	MI 348	<b>June 19, 2008</b>	9:30 AM to Noon	To be determined
To register, go to: <a href="http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Training/ClassDescriptons/training_laboratory_safety.htm">http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Training/ClassDescriptons/training_laboratory_safety.htm</a>					

One of the most common safety violations in Carnegie Mellon's labs is not wearing adequate eye protection. Most of our lab areas contain chemicals which could cause damage to your eyes if they were to come in contact with them. Safety glasses and goggles are required in all areas that use or store hazardous materials. Putting them on as soon as you enter the lab is a good habit to get into. Eye protection is a big deal in the workplace outside of the university and failure to comply with your employers policies could result in suspension or even job loss. Repeated failure to wear eye protection here at Carnegie Mellon could result in you losing your lab privileges. Besides safety glasses and goggles, make sure you know where your eyewash is located in your lab and how it operates. Remember you need to flush your eyes for at least 15 minutes. Test your eyewashes often

to ensure that they are working properly and that you have a clean and clear flow of water. If you have any questions about Carnegie Mellon's eye protection requirements or questions about if your situation requires the use of eye protection, please contact Michael Fouch at [mfouch@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:mfouch@andrew.cmu.edu) or by phone at 268-3221.



## Disposal of "Empty" Chemical Containers

At least two or three times a year, EH&S gets contacted by a panicked facilities worker, custodian or visitor who has encountered a "nearly empty" chemical container in the trash or in the hallway. They are panicked because the container label often lists serious hazards or often the container "just looks dangerous". And sometimes, they **ARE** still indeed dangerous. To prevent both real and perceived hazards related to disposed chemical containers, please do the following:

- Empty the container as completely as possible, either by use or by disposal of the contents into

a hazardous waste accumulation container appropriate for the hazard.

- For water soluble materials, rinse the remaining traces of chemical into the sink with COPIOUS amounts of water. If the material is a high hazard item, omit this last step and turn the container itself in as hazardous waste.
- Remove, obliterate or obscure the container label. Alternatively, you can mark the container label "clean and empty".
- The cleaned, unidentifiable container may be then placed in a glass recycling container, or in your broken glass container (regardless of whether it is broken or not).

### Hazardous Waste Pick-up Schedule

<b>Mellon Institute</b>	June 3&17, July 1,15,29	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
<b>Wean and Doherty Halls</b>	June 3&17, July 1,15,29	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
<b>All other main campus locations</b>	June 4, July 2	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
<b>PTC</b>	June 4, July 2	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
<b>Penn Ave., Robotics Consortium</b>	August 27	
<b>Computers</b>	June 5, July 3	

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](http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Waste_Recycling/HazardousWaste.htm)