

### *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 "**Regulatory Review**".

The OSHA Laboratory Standard addresses worker exposures to hazardous chemicals in laboratories. It specifies that employers are **required** to do a number of things to ensure the safety of laboratory workers:

1. Prepare a written Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) that outlines how the employer will comply with the regulation and make this document available to all laboratory personnel. Carnegie Mellon's CHP is available on the EH&S web site, <http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/pdf/CHPFinal.pdf>. All lab personnel should know where to access this program, should they be asked this by an OSHA official during an inspection.
2. Provide training to new employees or employees with changes in lab activity. EH&S offers this training on a monthly basis; all new employees should take this class within 30 days of the start of their work in a lab. The training includes details of the OSHA standard and of the CHP. It also includes information on working safety in the lab, reading MSDS and labels, using protective equipment and responding to emergencies. While the training supplies some details, it is the individual lab's responsibility to provide the specific procedures

for the handling of its particular chemicals. EH&S is happy to assist in this lab-specific activity.

3. Ensure that worker exposures to hazardous chemicals are kept below the OSHA permitted levels.
4. Provide medical consultation to employees who may have been overexposed to hazardous chemicals.

We think we have a good, thorough program to address all of these items. If you have any questions regarding our OSHA Lab Standard activities, please contact EH&S at 8-8182.

It is also important to remember that EH&S offers training classes for other required activities on campus. Employees who work with biological agents or human blood, cell lines or tissue must attend Biological Safety Training and/or Bloodborne Pathogens training. Employees who work with either radioactive material (sealed or unsealed) or any radiation producing device, must attend appropriate safety training for these issues. Finally, employees who work with lasers should attend Laser Safety Training. Contact Mark Banister at 8-1493 if you have any questions about these other training requirements or if you have any questions as to whether you need a particular class. You can also check out the EH&S training page at <http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/EHSWebSite/Training/training.htm>

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

May 15, 2008

9:30 AM to Noon

MI 348

June 5, 2008

9:30 AM to Noon

MI 348

To register, go to: [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)

## Sharps Disposal

Any item of glass, plastic or metal that can puncture human skin is considered to be a "sharp" by OSHA. Examples include (but are not limited to) syringes, glass slides, pipettes, capillary tubes, scalpels and razors. Sharps are NEVER permitted to be disposed of in the standard trash. Depending on whether they are contaminated (and with what) they are to be disposed of in certain ways.

If they are metal (i.e., scalpel or syringe) they MUST be disposed of in a Sharps container and removed as biological waste. If these are also chemically or radiologically contaminated, contact EH&S for instructions.

For glass or plastic items that are not contaminated with any hazardous material, they can be disposed of in a broken glass container or in a heavy cardboard box. The box should be well sealed and marked for standard trash disposal. Again, if they are chemically or radiologically contaminated, contact EH&S for instructions.

Any sharp that is solely biologically contaminated should be disposed of in a Sharps container. Sharps containers may be obtained by contacting Andrew Lawson of EH&S at 8-8405. For disposal of sharps containers, request a pick-up at the Biosafety section of the EH&S web page.

## Departing Students

If you are about to leave Carnegie Mellon for work or further educational opportunities, we wish you good luck in your new endeavors.

To help us, it is very important that you perform a few activities related to your research, before you leave. Check out this link to see the list of activities: [Departure Activities](#). Essentially, they

amount to ensuring that all waste materials are properly identified and prepared for disposal, all chemicals to remain are properly labeled and identified, and the inventory program for the lab has been updated to reflect the above changes.

Contact EH&S if you have any questions.

## EH&S Summer Interns

EH&S will have two interns this summer and you will undoubtedly see one or both of them at some point. Camille Manley and Chris Zanetti are both Safety and Environmental Management majors at Slippery Rock University and will be working and learning (as part of their degree requirements) while they are with us. Please welcome them when you meet them and provide them any information or assistance they need.

### **Hazardous Waste Pick-up Schedule**

<b>Mellon Institute</b>	May 6&20, June 3&17	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
<b>Wean and Doherty Halls</b>	May 6&20, June 3&17	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
<b>All other main campus locations</b>	May 7, June 4	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
<b>PTC</b>	May 7, June 4	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
<b>Penn Ave., Robotics Consortium</b>	May 21	
<b>Computers</b>	May 1, June 5	

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)