



# LABORATORIES

## Health, Safety & the Environment

### at Carnegie Mellon University

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A Newsletter from Carnegie Mellon University's Chemical Hygiene Officer

November 2006

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## Chemical Hygiene Training (annual review)

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 "**Information and Resources**".

### Material Safety Data Sheets

1. The most thorough source of chemical information is the Material Safety Data Sheet. This is a document, generally from 2 to 15 pages in length, outlining safety and health details of a particular material. The information includes the following items:
  - Name of the material and the manufacturer
  - Physical data and characteristics for the material, such as vapor pressure, density, flammability or flash point
  - Health hazards of the material
  - Any regulatory exposure levels
  - Information on handling and storage of the material
  - Information on incompatibilities of the material
  - Information on the degree of seriousness of the health hazards, such as LD<sub>50</sub> studies
  - Environmental hazards associated with the material
  - Emergency response procedures for the material (i.e., what to do for spills or fires)
  - First aid information for exposures to the materials (REMEMBER: do not attempt first aid unless you are trained to do so!)
2. Under OSHA, laboratories are REQUIRED to keep and make available any MSDS received, to applicable laboratory employees. Be sure you are keeping any that you receive! Carnegie Mellon policy is that the individual laboratory is required to ensure that a MSDS is *available* to all applicable lab workers for EVERY HAZARDOUS ITEM stored in its room or rooms. EH&S has provided links to a number of Internet sites that will help you determine the availability of a MSDS for a given material. (Check this out at [www.cmu.edu/ehs](http://www.cmu.edu/ehs).) Remember, you don't need to PRINT OUT all of your MSDS, but you need to know they are available on the web. The only exception to this rule is that a "hard copy" paper MSDS must be in the laboratory for EVERY PHS material present in the lab's inventory. (For information on determining what PHS materials you have, please go to <http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/pdf/cmuphstable.pdf>. If you cannot find an MSDS for a material you use, please contact me at [markb2@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:markb2@andrew.cmu.edu).

### Labels

The first and most obvious source of information about a hazardous chemical is the container label. The label will indicate with words or pictograms, the hazards of the material. The narrative information should be clear enough; it may warn of physical hazards (compressed gas, oxidizer, flammable) or of health hazards (corrosive, carcinogen, poison, irritant). Pictograms indicating damaged skin, a skull and crossbones, or a flame, indicate graphically similar hazards.

## Other Resources

EH&S has many other safety references available if you need further information on your chemicals. Contact us at 8-8182 for assistance with these.

## Laboratory Safety Committee

Here at Carnegie Mellon, we have a **Laboratory Safety Committee** (LSC) that consists of representatives from all academic departments with chemical laboratories. The LSC meets five times per year to discuss departmental safety concerns as well as to act as a vanguard to establish proper safety practices and routines on campus. If you have a lab safety or environmental question or problem, **please contact your departmental representative**. They are:

<b>Biological Sciences</b>	Carrie Doonan, David Hackney
<b>Chemistry</b>	Karen Stump, Colin Horwitz
<b>Material Science &amp; Engineering</b>	Jason Wolf
<b>ECE</b>	Chris Bowman
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	Steve Klim
<b>Chemical Engineering</b>	Paul Sides
<b>Physics</b>	Barry Luokkala
<b>Molecular Biosensor and Imaging Center</b>	Michael Patrick
<b>Civil and Environmental Engineering</b>	Greg Lowry
<b>Graduate Students</b>	Herb Miller (MSE)
<b>EH&amp;S</b>	Madelyn Miller, Mark Banister, Jeff Harris, Michael Fouch

## Training Classes

The next Hazardous Waste and Lab Safety training sessions will be held from 9:30 AM to Noon on:

**Wednesday:** November 8<sup>th</sup> at Mellon Institute 320.

**Thursday:** November 30<sup>th</sup> at Doherty Hall 4303.

**Note that there will be NO December classes!**

Please check our training web site to reserve a spot at one of the sessions: [http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/Training/training\\_laboratory\\_safety.htm](http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/Training/training_laboratory_safety.htm)

## Upcoming Hazardous Waste Pick-up

The following waste pick-ups are scheduled for **November and December**:

*\* Indicates different schedule date, due to Thanksgiving holiday.*

From Mellon Institute, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: **Nov 7, Nov 20\*, Dec 5, Dec 19**

From Wean and Doherty Halls, 12:30 - 3:00 PM: **Nov 7, Nov 20\*, Dec 5, Dec 19**

From Porter, Roberts, Hammerschlag, PTC and other campus locations, 9:30-11:30 AM: **Nov 8, Dec 6**

Penn Avenue and Robotics Engineering Consortium, your next pick-up is **November 21, 2006**

Computers will be picked up on **Nov 9 & Dec 7**

*Remember, you need to be present in the lab for the pick-up--if you cannot, make prior arrangements with EH&S to ensure access to the waste.*

Please print out this newsletter and post or circulate it in your lab!!