

Injury Reporting

Jim Gindlesperger

While we are pleased with the fact that injuries are being reported, too often there is a significant time lag between the time the injury occurs and the time the injury report reaches EH&S. Federal law dictates that injuries must be reported on the Supervisor's Injury and Illness Report within seven calendar days of the time they occur.

From our perspective, however, there is a more important reason for timely reporting. One of the most significant tools in our injury prevention program is the accident investigation. A thorough and accurate investigation can not be made if it occurs several weeks after the injury. By then, conditions change, memories fade, and the situation can not be accurately replicated. As a result, recommendations to prevent a recurrence are not as complete as they should be.

An analysis of injury reports filed so far in fiscal year 2007 reveals that 16 of the 32 injury reports were filed within 10 days and 12 more were filed between 10 and 21 days, well outside the seven day requirement. The remaining four were filed more than 22 days after the injury occurred, with one of those not being filed for 93 days. Obviously, an injury that is not reported for 93 days can not be accurately investigated by anyone. As bad as that is, four injury reports for fiscal year 2006 exceeded 100 days between the injury and the reporting, so in a perverse way you may say we are getting better. However, there obviously is significant room for improvement.

And don't forget those "near miss accidents." Just because an incident did not result in injury or equipment damage does not mean it should be ignored. The next time it happens it could be much more serious. We may be able to prevent a "next time" if we are informed of it when it occurs.

Please help us in our efforts to make the campus a safer place to work or study. Report ALL injuries and accidents as soon as possible after they occur.

Pesticides, Fertilizers and Household Cleaners...Oh My!

Michael Fouch

With the arrival of spring come thoughts of gardening and spring cleanup projects. These activities bring us into contact with some items that we probably have not used in several months. Now is the time to reacquaint ourselves with their proper use.

Sold as sprays, powders, crystals, balls, and foggers, pesticides are produced specifically because they are toxic to specific organisms. Consequently, they have risks as well as benefits, and they must be used properly. Always read the directions as to how to apply them correctly. If you treat a carpet or use a room fogger beware that your family pet or small children may be accidentally exposed. Always dispose of the empty containers properly and store unused pesticides safely where no small hands can get at them.

Household fertilizers, just like pesticides, need to be applied correctly so you must read the directions carefully. Areas of a lawn that have been freshly treated with fertilizers should be off limits to children and pets to avoid tracking the fertilizer into the house or family vehicle. Use proper personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, and a dust mask when applying either pesticides or fertilizers. Clean any tools or applicators thoroughly before storing to ensure no one is accidentally contaminated.

Cleaning products in the home are normally safe when used according to the directions but we have all heard of the dangers of mixing products that were not intended to be mixed together. Any product containing bleach should under no circumstances be mixed with any product containing ammonia. This can create poisonous chlorine gas, once used as a chemical weapon during World War I. So it is important to read the cleaner's ingredients before mixing it with any other household cleaners. As with both pesticides and fertilizers, cleaners should be stored well out of reach of any children.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Michael Fouch



To get rid of any hazardous household waste, Allegheny County will be having a collection on Saturday, April 28. Volunteers are needed to assist with traffic control, hand out informational material, conduct surveys, and other important task. Volunteers will not be asked to handle any hazardous waste. Those who volunteer will receive lunch, beverages, and a t-shirt. Go to www.swpahhw.org for more information. If you have any questions please contact the EH&S department at 268-3221.

Needle Collection and Disposal Options for Self-Injectors

Andrew Lawson



Do you have a medical condition that requires you to use needles or other sharp medical devices to deliver treatments/drugs while at work? Are you unsure on how to properly collect and dispose of such items? If so, EH&S provides sharps collection boxes and sharps disposal services at **NO COST** to you. If you would like to find out more about these services, please contact Andrew Lawson at 8-8405 or at alawson@andrew.cmu.edu

Floor Marshals Needed

Jim Gindlesperger



We still have three buildings that do not have Floor Marshals. Those buildings are: 4616 Henry Street, the CIC Building, and Bramer House. There are other buildings and/or departments that need additional marshals. This shortage leaves a gap in our emergency response program.

Being a Floor Marshal does not require much. Duties consist primarily of getting people out of the building safely during an emergency, assisting them if we must shelter them inside the building, and serving as a conduit of emergency information to building occupants. Floor Marshals may also be asked to assist in emergency drills. While the time involved in these duties is minimal, the positions serve an important role in our response to emergencies.

If you are interested in serving as a Floor Marshal. Contact EH&S at 8-8182 for further information.

Professor faces prison and fines in Seattle

Madelyn Miller

A University of Washington professor pleaded guilty in federal court in Seattle to violating Environmental Protection Agency laws for illegally disposing of ethyl ether down the drain in his laboratory. Professor Daniel R. Storm admitted he did not want to pay for the disposal of three cans of ether, so he broke the metal containers with an ax and poured the liquid down the sink. He could face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for knowingly disposing of the material.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Oesterle said Storm then tried to cover himself by preparing a false voucher from a fictitious company indicating he'd properly disposed of the substance. Prosecutors expect he will get probation.

No need to pour waste down any drain here at Carnegie Mellon. Waste costs are paid for through the Environment Health & Safety budget.

Shipping of Dangerous Goods

Jeffrey Harris



Whether sending via ground or air, national or international, certain items (namely chemicals and biological materials) have been deemed "Dangerous Goods" and are subject to special shipping requirements. A new program coming through EH&S will help you ship materials safely and in accordance to the rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Transportation

(DOT), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The program will help all shippers correctly identify, classify, package, mark, label and document dangerous goods according to these national and international governmental regulations.

Classification of Dangerous Goods

Dangerous Goods are defined as those goods which meet the criteria of one or more of nine UN hazard classes and, where applicable, to one of three UN Packaging Groups. The nine classes relate to the type of hazards whereas the three packing groups related to the applicable degree of danger within the class.

Hazard Classes:

- Class 1- Explosives
- Class 2- Gases
- Class 3- Flammable Liquids
- Class 4- Flammable Solids; Substances liable to spontaneous combustion; Substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases
- Class 5- Oxidizing Substances and Organic Peroxides
- Class 6- Toxic and Infectious Substances
- Class 7- Radioactive Material
- Class 8- Corrosives
- Class 9- Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods (for example: genetically modified organisms, polymeric beads, cryogenic liquids, dry ice, non-hazardous material sensitive to light or heat, magnetized material, batteries and items containing batteries).

Packing Groups:

- PG I - having great danger
- PG II - being of medium danger
- PG III - being of minor danger

The new program is to be rolled out soon; you will find it at our web-site (www.cmu.edu/ehs). Until official, please contact Jeffrey Harris for all your Dangerous Goods shipping questions and/or needs (jjharris@andrew.cmu.edu).

Preventive Maintenance and Safety

Mark Banister



None of us like it when something doesn't work as it is supposed to. Sometimes the break down is just an annoyance and other times it is much more serious—perhaps something that could cause serious injury or even death. Preventive or, better expressed, *planned* maintenance can be one of the best accident prevention activities we can perform.

At home, we should be vigilant about checking our car's tires and fluids, be regular about changing our smoke alarm batteries every six months (and replacing the alarm itself after ten years of service), and routinely check and repair exhaust lines over our furnaces and hot water tanks. The unfavorable consequences of not performing these tasks should be self-evident.

In our laboratories, workshops and studios, we also need to practice preventive maintenance. Clearly, it is important to ensure that ventilation systems designed to protect us from hazardous material exposures need to be routinely maintained. Motors need attention, belts need replacement, and filters need to be changed. While many of these activities may not be performed directly by you, it is important to ensure that they get done and that you promptly report any malfunctions or potential problems to the people who do. Many of our researchers have expensive equipment which, if it does not work properly can impede the research, but also create a fire or hazard exposure risk. If you have purchased a service agreement for such happenings, be aware that they may be contingent on the unit having been properly serviced prior to the failure.

Mark your calendars at home and in your office to remind you to check on and perform tasks that may save both money and lives, in the future.