

### Important Researcher Warning

*Jim Gindlesperger*



If you are a researcher, you may be contacted by the FBI in the not-too-distant future. The federal government is warning researchers to be especially vigilant for foreign spies or potential terrorists who may be seeking unclassified but sensitive research data. The FBI has recently initiated a nationwide program that began with universities in the Boston area and will soon spread to other cities and universities. Presumably, Carnegie Mellon will be on the list of universities to be contacted.

The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness, rather than to stifle the free flow of information, according to an FBI spokesman. One of the key components of the program is to aid researchers in recognizing anyone who may be trying to exploit their work. One way that is emphasized by the FBI is to protect laptops, particularly when traveling in foreign countries. Anyone working with a laptop must be aware of his or her surroundings and alert for anyone who may be lurking nearby. The agency also warns that everyone must be wary about anyone who contacts them about their work.

Researchers are advised to contact the local office of the FBI (412-471-2000) if they suspect that there is an unnatural or unexplained sudden interest in what they are working on, or if sensitive information appears to have been compromised in any way.

### Training requirements for Radioactive Materials Users and X-ray Users

*John Zoll*

Everyone who uses Radioactive Materials (RAM) and Radiation Producing Devices (RPD), such as analytical X-ray machines, is required to receive radiation safety training. This training serves to inform the user of the inherent hazards of these activities and to provide the necessary information to maintain safe working conditions and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Both RAM User training and RPD User training are conducted in two parts. The first part is an online presentation which is followed by a quiz. The user is provided with confirmation of training via email upon successful completion of the course. The second part is a practical training session.

RPD users are trained by the supervisor of the machine that they will be using. The supervisor will cover topics in radiation safety along with the information required to operate the device. This training will be documented by the supervisor on a form that is provided by Radiation Safety.

RAM users will be trained by a member of the Radiation Safety Office, in a laboratory setting, in safe handling and survey techniques associated with using RAM. Administrative compliance requirements are also covered. This training is also documented.

It is imperative that training records for both parts of each course be maintained for inspections. This training is required and we must be able to prove to state and federal regulators that it has been conducted. The best way to do this is to make sure that copies of all training documents are filed in the radiation safety logbook that is present in the lab.

Please contact John Zoll for more information at 268-7502 or [jjoll@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jjoll@andrew.cmu.edu), or check out the Radiation Safety website at <http://ehs-alert.fms.bap.cmu.edu/>.

### New-Look Web Site

*Ahren Cotten*

Environmental Health & Safety's mission statement is to provide health and safety services that protect the university community and the environment. With that in mind, our website has a new look with added features for better navigation of our site.

Across the top of our main page are vital links to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Training and Emergency Operations. Areas of individual specialty, such as Chemical, Biological and Radiological Safety, are listed down the left-hand side of every page. New pages have been added for Asbestos Management and Construction Safety too.

Need to request a hazardous waste pickup or want to recycle your computer? Easy access to those forms can be found on our main page under the QuickLinks dropdown menu.

Would you like to know what trainings you have taken or when your last ergonomic evaluation was? Take a look at our new section for Faculty, Staff, and Students. This section is still under development and more content will be added soon.

EH&S provides many services to the campus community. These pages have been designed with you in mind to locate the services we provide for you. Suggestions are always welcome. If you have difficulty accessing any page or can't find what you are looking for, please call us at 8-8182.

Our website can be found at [www.cmu.edu/ehs](http://www.cmu.edu/ehs).

### Ozone

*Jeffrey Harris*



Emissions from industrial facilities and electrical utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors and chemical solvents are among the major sources of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's). Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between NOx and VOC's in the presence of heat and sunlight.  $NOx + VOC's + Heat + Sunlight = Ozone$

\* **Ozone Good Up High, Bad Nearby**, is a campaign by the governmental organization known as Air Now (see them at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)). It describes what ozone is, what is depleting the good ozone layer of our atmosphere, what is being done about it and what you can do to help.

\*EPA Ground Level Ozone – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to strengthen the nation's air quality standards for ground-level ozone, revising the standards for the first time since

## Lifeline Your Safety Resource

A publication of the Environmental Health & Safety Department

1997. According to the agency, the proposal is based on the most recent scientific evidence about the health effects of ozone – the primary component of smog. The proposed standard is being made under a court-supervised settlement with the American Lung Association, Environmental Defense, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club.

\* AQI - The Air Quality Index is a Guide to Air Quality and Your Health. It takes into account the 6 Common Air Pollutants, known as “criteria pollutants”. They are particulate pollution (often referred to as particulate matter), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. More information about the index can also be found at the Air Now website.

Help our mission...participate and get involved.

### EH&S Outreach

*Jim Gindlesperger*

Would you like someone to come to your department to discuss some area of safety or tell you how to make your home or office safer? Call us at 268-8182 and let us know what you are interested in and we will be glad to come and make a presentation. Whether it's something work-related or something as unique as setting up a family emergency plan, we can help.

### Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards

*Michael Fouch*



Here is the news after attending the Chemical Sector Security Summit sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in Falls Church, Virginia recently. The DHS has enacted new legislation, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or CFATS, which could have a significant impact on university and college campuses around the country. The legislation requires that high risk chemical facilities meet various security standards if they exceed certain minimum quantities of a chemical. These chemicals are contained in what DHS refers to as Appendix A, which is a list of chemicals the DHS believes terrorists

could use to cause death or destruction to people, property or the economy.

The original Appendix A contains several chemicals that had “any amount” listed as the threshold quantity. Mere possession of that chemical would require Carnegie Mellon to submit to DHS how it is used. At this point the DHS has a “behind the scenes” formula that takes over and places Carnegie Mellon into one of four security tier levels or drops us from the requirements of the standard. The highest tier level, tier one, requires the highest security measures, such as criminal background checks, fences placed around the facility, guards, security badges...etc. Tier level four, the lowest level, has less security than a tier level one facility, but it does not specifically state how much less. The DHS is trying not to tell a chemical facility how to accomplish their security plan just that they need to have a plan that the DHS believes will keep the facility secured.

As of the writing of this newsletter, the final version of Appendix A has not been published so we can not predict what the impact will be for Carnegie Mellon. Look to our website [cmu.edu/ehs](http://cmu.edu/ehs) for updates on this regulation.

### Weather Statistics

*Jim Gindlesperger*

What weather condition causes the most fatalities? Hurricanes? Winter Storms? Flooding? You may be surprised to hear that the latest 10-year average (1997-2006) showed heat related illnesses are the leading cause of weather-related deaths, according to the National Weather Service. For information on how to cope with the heat, check out the EH&S web page.

### Expanded Emergency Communications Coming Soon

*Madelyn Miller*



How does this university communicate with each other in times of an emergency?

After the tragedy at Virginia Tech, many colleges have done some soul searching. University officials across the country realized that, in times of crisis, they need to

communicate with thousands of people very quickly.

Carnegie Mellon is fortunate. We have this capability and we are currently looking to expand it to include everyone on campus. At this time Environmental Health & Safety maintains a list of the home, cell, and office phones for all deans, department heads, and our floor marshals; about 400 people. Soon we hope to be able to include everyone on campus.

Two years ago, we purchased a service called Alert Now to facilitate emergency communications. This company was designed to help schools communicate with their students. We found them to be economical and to have the capability to send out 5000 calls in a minute. We could give them up to five different numbers and they can send out calls to cell and land lines, and send text messages and email in a very short period of time. In the past, this service has been used when there was a power outage in Wean and Newell-Simon Halls and when we had the bomb squad visit us last April. They system is tested monthly to ensure we have the correct numbers and that the recipients are still interested in receiving the service.

This summer we will be rolling out a web site where faculty, staff, students (maybe parents) can sign up to receive emergency messaging. This will be a completely voluntary program so only those who want the calls will get them. Should you volunteer for the service you shouldn't worry about interruptions, this expanded group would only get calls for a most dire emergency.

### Summer Interns

*Jim Gindlesperger*

EH&S is fortunate to have two interns working for us this summer. Jacob Coffelt, a Mechanical Engineering major here at CMU, has rejoined us for his third summer. Jared Incorvati, who is majoring in Chemistry, has joined us for the first time. If you see them, please welcome them and help them in any way you can.