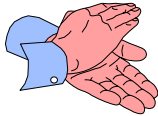


Issue Number 13

April, 2002

Laboratory Inspection Results

Mark Banister



In March of 2000, EH&S started a new format of laboratory inspections, looking at a wider range of environmental and safety issues than in the past. Everything from safety equipment to housekeeping to handling hazardous waste was addressed, with some 87 questions in 10 different areas! This new format also yielded a numerical score for the laboratory's performance.

After two years, all Carnegie Mellon laboratories have been inspected and the scores are in! Congratulations to the Chemical Engineering Department, with the highest departmental average score--85%. Congratulations to the top performing lab groups as well. They are:

Tom Schofield and Mike Lane (ASTM)
Paul Sides and Corley Strunk (ChE)
Alan Cramb and Bob Evans (MSE)
Spyros Pandis and Tim Raymond (ChE)
Lynn Walker and Yenny Christanti (ChE)
Ned Minkley and Lynn Dansey (CMRI)
Katyun Barmak, Jihwan Kim and Wayne Archibald (MSE) (2 areas)
Tom Nuhfer (MSE)
Robert Tilton and Derek Berglund (ChE)

These labs scored in the top 10 of the 126 lab areas on campus!

The extra emphasis the Environmental Protection Agency has been placing on compliance in colleges and universities in the past few years prompted our more involved inspection work. And the resultant hard work of all of our laboratory researchers and lab staff since then has paid off not only in better university compliance with EPA regulations but also safer and more environmentally responsible labs. Thanks to ALL of our lab people on campus for their extra efforts!

Emergency Evacuation of Campus

Jim Gindlesperger

A plan for a mass evacuation of the campus has been developed and incorporated into

the university's Emergency Response Plan. It is important that everyone on campus understand this plan so that it can be implemented smoothly and efficiently if it becomes necessary.

If an announcement is made that a campus evacuation is necessary, anyone with a vehicle on campus is encouraged to use it to leave campus immediately. Those who do not have access to a vehicle, or those who have no place to evacuate to, should proceed quickly but orderly to the designated emergency pickup points at Margaret Morrison Street in front of Margaret Morrison Carnegie Hall or the Flagstaff Hill area of Schenley Drive, across from Phipps Conservatory. Both locations will be used. There, Port Authority buses will be available for transportation to an off-campus emergency evacuation center. Access vans will also be available for those with physical disabilities.



Arrangements have been made with a number of large facilities in the area that have agreed to serve as evacuation centers. Discussions continue with others who will be added to the list of available locations as agreements are reached. The evacuation centers used will be determined by the location and type of campus emergency.

Should an evacuation be necessary, it is vitally important that everyone leave the campus immediately. The decision to evacuate will only be made if it is apparent that to allow people on campus would jeopardize their health or safety, and everyone's cooperation will be appreciated.

Environmentally Friendly Spring Cleaning

Melissa Burik

Spring is here! It's time to throw open the windows and clean the house! This year, before you tackle your spring cleaning, take a moment to think about the cleaning products you use.

Many cleaning products contain hazardous chemicals. When disposed of, these

hazardous chemicals are making their way to our landfills and backyards where they can potentially contaminate our environmental resources.

What can you do?

- Don't overstock. Buy the smallest amount of cleaning product necessary.
- Use it all and avoid disposal issues.
- Utilize Household Hazardous Waste Collection Programs for disposal. Call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 1-800-346-4242 to locate one near you.

Substitute these environmentally friendly homemade alternatives:

All purpose cleaner. Pour baking soda on a cloth, scour, rinse. OR Mix ½ cup ammonia, ¼ cup of vinegar, and a handful of baking soda in warm water. (Not for use on wood.)

Wooden Floor/Furniture Polish. Mix ½ cup white vinegar or lemon juice, with 1 cup of olive or vegetable oil. Stir well, rub mixture on, buff with clean dry cloth.

Rug Deodorizer. Mix 2 parts cornmeal and 1 part borax. Sprinkle on carpet, let sit for 1 hour, vacuum.

Window Cleaner. Mix ¼ cup white vinegar and 1 quart of water. Spray on and wipe off.

Contact EH&S to request a green cleaning pamphlet published by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, which includes more homemade recipes.

Training, April – June, 2002

Jim Gindlesperger

Call Extension 8-8182 to register for any of the following training classes, or to request that a particular class be conducted. Classes will be held in the 3rd floor conference room of the FMS Building unless otherwise indicated. Course descriptions can be found on the EH&S website.

X-Ray Operator Training (Instructors: Megan Marks, Celia Rajkovich)

April 18, May 16, June 20: 10 am (call for locations)

Ancillary and Radionuclide User Training (Instructors: Megan Marks, Celia Rajkovich)

Call for dates, times, and locations

Laboratory Safety, Hazardous Waste (Instructors: Melissa Burik, Mark Banister)

April 29, May 20, June 24: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Office Ergonomics (Instructor: Jim Gindlesperger)

April 24: 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Driving University Vehicles (Instructor: Outside Agency, coordinated by Jim Gindlesperger)

April 5, May 3, June 5: 8:30 am – 11:30 am

OSHA Awareness (Instructor: Jim Gindlesperger)

June 21: 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Accident Investigation and Reporting (Instructor: Jim Gindlesperger)

May 22: 8:30 – 9:30 am

Lifting/Back Safety (Instructor: Jim Gindlesperger)

April 10: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Congratulations!

Jim Gindlesperger



A big “thumbs up” to Celia Rajkovich, EH&S’s Radiation Technician, who recently passed her examination for National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) certification! Outstanding job, Celia!

Structural Building Guideline

Bob Anderegg

These guidelines apply to all student construction relating to special functions (e.g. Spring Carnival, Homecoming, International Festival, Theme Parties, etc.) and other social and educational activities (such as displaying art projects on campus grounds or in common building areas). They are intended to control the construction of temporary structures; construction of permanent structures is planned and managed by Facilities Management. These guidelines establish safety as the primary factor in the design,

construction, use, and demolition of temporary structures.

The construction or erection of any platform, booth, structure, or framework on university property or within university owned buildings must have written approval of Facilities Management and EH&S and meet the criteria outlined in the guidelines. Also, where applicable, the Housing Services Policy covering student construction within residence buildings and the Art Department procedures for securing approval for erecting displays must also be followed.

The Guidelines cover requirements relating to a wide assortment of structural components, materials that may be used, and, in some instances, manner of useage. They cover height and access, stairs, ramps, handrails, guardrails, doors and doorway openings, overhead clearance, the use of approved flame retardants, projections and jutting material, practices that are not permitted, permit requirements for open burning and the use of tents, and the use of personal protective equipment while both erecting and dismantling structures and displays.

Proposed construction must be reviewed by both Facilities Management and EH&S. Proposals must be submitted in writing at least one week in advance of the start of planned construction, and must show structural details, assembly hardware, overall dimensions, a complete description of all structural and decorative materials (including an estimate of quantities to be used), and electrical wiring diagrams, if applicable.

An appointment must be made with the Fire Safety Specialist in EH&S for a preliminary plan review. At that time plans will be received and placed into the review process. Actual construction may not begin until notification of approval has been received.

For more information please contact Bob Anderegg at 8-6624.

New Injury and Illness Report Forms

Jim Gindlesperger

Effective January 1 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) expanded the Record Keeping Standard, making it necessary for Carnegie Mellon to

revise the Supervisor’s Injury and Illness Report. While those changes were not extensive, they were necessary to comply with the new standards.

Obtain the new injury report form at <http://hr.web.cmu.edu/forms/InjuryReport.pdf>. Please use this form for reporting future injuries or illnesses. Any previous forms should be discarded to avoid confusion.

Spring Forward to Safety

Megan Marks

On Sunday, April 7, 2002, Daylight Savings Time begins. We will all have to set our clocks one-hour ahead and prepare ourselves for the loss of sleep. As we roll out of bed on Sunday morning, we should use this annual event to check our household smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Do we have detectors on each floor of our home? Are the batteries working properly? Does the self-test respond properly? If the answer is no to any of these questions, we should work to make the answer yes. In 2000, there were 368,000 home fires in the United States resulting in 3,420 deaths. Fires in which a smoke alarm was present and operated caused only one-fifth of these fire deaths. A recent study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission concluded that 20% of homes in America had inoperable smoke detectors.

Annual Chemical Inventory Update

Melissa Burik

It’s that time of year again, time to update your chemical inventory on Chemtracker. All chemical owners are asked to review current chemical inventories and to make adjustments online using Chemtracker by June 1, 2002. You can link to Chemtracker from the EH&S website at www.cmu.edu/ehs. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.