

SPECIAL ISSUE

Because of increased concerns surrounding homeland security, its impact on Carnegie Mellon, and how the university has prepared to handle emergencies, EH&S has decided to devote this entire issue of 'Lifeline' to Emergency Response. For additional information please go to the EH&S website (<http://www.cmu.edu/ehs>) or telephone 268-8182.

Chemical Security

Jeff Harris

The American Chemistry Council is calling for new legislation to establish a "national program" for chemicals security. This program would give the Department of Homeland Security new inspection and enforcement powers for sites that use hazardous chemicals. This would include private industry as well as research institutions. Not only an initiative for homeland security, this new push would also focus on domestic safety and control of hazardous chemicals. How these chemicals are sold, delivered, stored, and used are important factors to be considered. Stepped up enforcement for maintaining current and accurate chemical inventories should be expected. Where and how chemicals are stored has been an area of concern for many, and new regulations appear imminent. The state of security for chemicals would also include stepped up emergency preparedness and better background checks on applicants working with hazardous chemicals. Note well: the time for increased safety & security of hazardous chemicals is here. Are you prepared?

Highlights of Effective Chemical Security

- Update your chemical inventory.
- All containers must be labeled.
- Chemicals must be separated and stored by hazard class.
- Rooms where chemicals are stored & used must be kept locked, especially if unattended.
- Individuals must be trained on safe use of all chemicals.
- Emergency plans **must** be practiced regularly.

How is the University Protecting Us?

Jim Gindlesperger

The university has had an Emergency Response Plan for more than 10 years. This document contains protocols for responding to all conceivable emergency

situations on campus, undergoing review several times a year. The plan contains extensive information for emergency responders that provides for a coordinated response to emergencies, including terrorist activities. Copies of the plan have been reviewed by city and county emergency response agencies and has been called, in the words of one official, "The kind of plan you would only expect from a university of Carnegie Mellon's caliber." A summary of the plan has been placed on <http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/alerts.htm>.

Several meetings have been held with outside agencies from the city and county to determine the effectiveness of the plan, and desktop drills have been conducted to evaluate the responses. Further drills are planned, including some large scale drills.

In addition, everyone in the campus community, including students, has been sent a card with emergency evacuation instructions on one side and a procedure to develop your own personal emergency plan on the other. If you have not received a copy, please contact EH&S.

EH&S has also developed a list of actions you can take to protect yourself and your family at work, home, or when traveling. This list is also on the EH&S website.

EH&S has met with several departments on campus to discuss the Emergency Response Plan and answer questions related to emergency response, terrorism, family protection, or any other topic related to homeland and personal security. To schedule such a meeting for your group, contact EH&S at 8-8182.

Campus Fire Alarm Systems

Bob Andereg

When activated, the alarm systems in campus buildings cause local warning signal devices to become activated throughout the building in alarm. Signals are also simultaneously sent out to the Pittsburgh Fire Department and Campus Police, and the approximate location of the

building area in alarm is indicated on an external fire alarm annunciator located at the entry point used by the fire department. Local warnings in most buildings are provided by flashing alarm lights and horns, but in a few older buildings may be provided by bells. At Hamburg Hall, however, a loud electronic tone supplies the warning signal.

Alarm pull stations are activated by completely pulling down a lever located at the lower half of the alarm station cover. Pull stations are located near exits and stair entries. Fire alarms can also be automatically tripped by actuation of smoke or heat detectors located in storage spaces and in mechanical areas, or by the release of sprinkler systems.

A fire occurring within an average size room can cause air in that room to reach 150° F. in only 30 seconds. This is hot enough to sear a person's lungs. For that reason, it is absolutely necessary that you evacuate your building IMMEDIATELY when an alarm is sounded. Any delay could have serious consequences.

To Reach Us

Telephone: 268-8182

Fax: 268-6976

Web: <http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/>

Stumble Upon an Incident?

Celia Rajkovich

What should you do if you are the first person on the scene of an incident? Your first reaction should be to **CALL UNIVERSITY POLICE**, providing the following information:

1. Your name, department, location and callback telephone number.
2. A brief description of the accident/incident, (spill; chemical or radiological, fire, vehicle accident, or bodily injury) and the quantity of substance involved, if

any (amount, size of packages, markings, labels, paperwork).

Stay upwind of the accident if potentially hazardous materials are involved. Inform others in the area and prohibit entry. If you have training that pertains to the hazards involved, you should:

1. Provide first aid to the injured.
2. Secure the area and keep all unauthorized personnel away to the extent possible with resources at hand, commensurate with the hazard.
3. **Call for assistance.** (biological, chemical, facilities, medical, radiological, security)
4. Take defensive actions to prevent possible run-off of chemicals, radioactive materials and/or other hazardous materials.
5. Obtain the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons involved.
6. Monitor uninjured persons to ensure they are not contaminated.
7. Take measurements and record results, if possible.

Finally, stand by to assist responders, even if you have not had specific training. Do not leave until told it is appropriate to do so.

Training, April-June, 2003

Space restrictions prohibit the listing of training for the coming quarter. Course schedules and descriptions can be found on the EH&S website.

Entering Restricted Areas

Mark Banister



EH&S responds to many types of emergencies and dangerous situations. Our role in these situations is to protect Carnegie Mellon people and property. For our activities to be successful, our people and the public in general have a role as well. For the most part, this role is to stay away from an emergency situation and to obey mechanisms put up to keep people away from dangerous situations. When people do not cooperate with the instructions and needs of emergency responders, or defeat mechanisms set up to

protect the public, the risks of injury and loss become quickly elevated.

I can only speculate on the reasons people don't keep away from hazardous situations. I suspect that in certain cases, the situation does not *appear* to be dangerous and so a person enters the area since they can't see what the problem is. Other times people enter a restricted area because they are curious about what is happening, unconcerned about the danger to themselves or others. Still other times, I think people believe their *right* to go somewhere overrides any right of people telling them they can't. Regardless of the reason, it is critical that, if you are not directly involved in the situation response or are not authorized to do so, you **DO NOT ENTER A RESTRICTED AREA**. Restricted areas should be clearly defined for you by barrier tape, warning signs, protective devices or lots of uniformed police and emergency responders.

We have many restricted areas on campus. Some of these areas are for the protection of research or equipment, others are for protection from hazardous materials (like asbestos, chemicals or radiation) and still others are for protection from things like icy conditions, unsafe ladders, high voltage or dangerous mechanisms. In emergency situations, it is critical that the public be kept distant not only for their protection but for that of the responders as well.

If you see a barrier keeping you from an area, don't ignore it. If you see emergency responders, keep out of their controlled areas. (If you *MUST* know what is going on, ask someone who is outside of the response area.) Do not defeat machine guards, barrier tape or warning signs when you see them. Trust me, they are there for a reason, regardless of whether you can tell what that is or not. If you think an area of restriction is unwarranted, please contact the people who have set the restriction (Police, EH&S, etc.)

Evacuation Drills for High Rise Buildings

Madelyn Miller

The City of Pittsburgh has passed an ordinance requiring buildings over seven stories to have an evacuation plan and to conduct drills twice a year. The evacuation will require 100% of the occupants to participate. Carnegie Mellon must complete these drills by Aug 15, 2003.

These drills will be announced for the four buildings that are affected. Those buildings are:

1. Morewood Gardens
2. Doherty Hall
3. Wean Hall
4. Hamerschlag Hall

Within the next few weeks we will be seeking volunteers from the listed buildings to be floor marshals to assist in drills.

Important Web Sites

Jim Gindlesperger

Obviously, there is much more information available on emergency response and homeland security than we could ever fit into a newsletter of this size. Here are some internet sites that provide additional information that may be helpful to you:

How can you help yourself? (EH&S site)
<http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/emergencysafetytips.htm>

Dept. of Homeland Security:
<http://www.ready.gov/>

Homeland Security Alert System
Explanation:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

American Red Cross:
<http://www.redcross.org>

Center for Disease Control:
<http://www.cdc.gov>

U.S. Department of Defense:
<http://www.dod.gov>

Federal Bureau of Investigation:
<http://www.fbi.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency:
<http://www.fema.gov>

Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security:
<http://www.oit.state.pa.us/homelandsecurity>

Pa. Emergency Management Agency:
<http://www.pema.state.pa.us>

Pa. Department of Health:
<http://webserver.health.state.pa.us>