

Department of  
**Environmental Health & Safety**

Newsletter

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*From The Director's Chair:*

At the beginning of 2007, EHS set some goals to create an internal management system that would define our purpose, focus our resources, set objectives, and overall become a better service organization to the university community.

With Summer marking the halfway point through the year I thought it would be appropriate to look back on the status of these goals and let the university in on what we're trying to accomplish. The first thing we decided to do was to rewrite our mission statement to more accurately reflect

what we want to accomplish. We have successfully completed this goal and now are focusing our efforts with this new mission in mind. Our new mission statement is now proudly displayed on our website ([www.wright.edu/admin/ehs](http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs)) and graces the front page of this newsletter.

In an attempt to accomplish this mission we have begun to evaluate and improve the manner in which we provide EHS programs. We have created a formalized policy template and have begun discussions, both internally and with the campus administration, on how best to ensure these policies are implemented.

We've taken a hard look at the way we manage our electronic data and are about halfway through the creation of a departmentally shared EHS management file system which will help us operate more efficiently and become a better cross functional performing department.

We have identified the need to improve the way we provide EHS training and have created a training matrix from which to develop, provide, and track training. The goal is to ensure applicable faculty, staff, and students receive training at required intervals and create, when possible, on-line training programs which will increase the ease of training for everyone.

Also, all EHS staff have identified the functional tasks that must be performed in their area of responsibility to provide a safe and environmentally compliant campus. We now are in the

process of using this information to create a documented system that lists and tracks these departmental duties in a manner that will allow for the assurance that all of our commitments are performed.

Lastly, we have worked as a group to identify metrics we can use to measure our successes and weaknesses as a department. The result is a data management system that allows us to track and allocate resources and/or improve programs.

The work required to create this EHS management system is putting a strain on departmental staff but everyone continues to work to develop this system while performing their long standing regular duties. It hasn't been easy but we've tried to keep our eye on the long term goal which will be a management system that will make the accomplishment of our responsibilities more efficient and easier, and create the time for us to address the never ending changes and new regulatory requirements in the environmental health and safety field.

That's what we've been up to. On behalf of the EHS staff we hope you all enjoy and have a safe summer!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

-Steve

**Our Mission:**

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety serves to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all students, employees, and visitors to Wright State University in support of the university's overall mission.

- EH&S will work to protect human health and, to the greatest extent possible, reduce the university's impact on the environment and surrounding ecosystem.
- EH&S will develop programs and policies designed to meet or exceed compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines.
- EH&S will provide unparalleled customer service to the university and surrounding community.

EHS will accomplish these goals through development and implementation of a comprehensive environmental management system that consists of a review of programs and policies, tracking performance metrics, information exchange, training, inspections, and continuous feedback.

## Long-Term Radon Test for 2006 - 2007

Radon is a cancer-causing natural radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Its presence in your home or office can pose a danger to your health. According to the US EPA (Environmental Agency Protection), radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in America and claims about 20,000 lives annually.

From soil, radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into homes or buildings through cracks and other holes in the foundation. For this reason most monitoring devices are placed in the basement or first floor where the gas can easily be trapped.

As a follow-up to a full campus evaluation performed in 2001/2002, radon detection devices were placed at randomly selected locations on

campus for radon monitoring from March 2006 to March 2007. The results of this radon monitoring program were received in April by the radiation safety office. As was the case in 2001/2002, all readings were below the action level of 4 pCi/l recommended by the EPA.

**The table below summarizes the recent year long radon monitoring.**

Building	Floor	Room	START Date	END Date	Result (Radon Concentration) (pCi/L)
Biological Sciences	Basement	088 BH	3/13/2006	03/21/2007	0.4
Medical Sciences	Basement	009 MS	3/13/2006	04/04/2007	0.3
Creative Arts Ctr	Basement	M052 D	3/14/2006	04/04/2007	0.7
Rike Hall	Basement	040 RH	3/14/2006	12/11/2006	0.5
Library Annex	Basement	035 J	3/14/2006	03/21/2007	0.6
Yellow Springs Clinic	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	104 YSC	3/13/2006	04/06/2007	0.8
Yellow Springs Clinic	Basement	Conference Room	3/13/2006	04/06/2007	2.0

### In The Past Quarter, EH&S.....

- Provided a day long training session on lab safety to the 13 incoming SOM STREAMS Program students to kick-off their summer lab research work
- Provided lock out/tag out training to 90 staff.
- Arranged forklift training to 17 staff.
- Provided respirator fit testing and respirator use training to 18 staff.
- Provided Bloodborne Pathogen's training to 14 faculty, students & staff.
- Was audited by a sub-committee of the Wright State Radiation Safety Committee and no deficiencies were found.



## ARE YOU MOVING OUT OF YOUR LAB????

With upcoming moves scheduled as a result of the on-going science lab renovation projects (Brehm Lab, Bio I and II, Diggs III Lab, Oelman Hall), there are many researchers who will be moving out of labs and into new spaces. The labs that will be vacated will then be set for renovation. The university must ensure any lab that is scheduled for renovation has all hazardous materials removed and any contaminated areas are properly decontaminated. Failure to do so may put construction employees at risk and may result in the delay of renovation work. Also, emergency response to properly clean up a contaminated lab may require contractor involvement at the expense of the department.



In order to address these concerns the university implemented Wright Way Policy 6015: *Exit Policy for the Closeout/Decommissioning of University Laboratories*. This policy establishes responsibilities for Principle Investigators (PI's), Chairs, Directors, and EHS. In

short, the policy sets requirements for timely notification to EHS so that a management plan can be developed with the PI or department to properly dispose of unwanted hazardous material, clean any contaminated surfaces or equipment, and certify the process is complete.

**As required in the policy, please notify EHS at least 30 days prior to a scheduled move so adequate time is provided to ensure the lab is left in a safe condition.**

We look forward to working with all movers in the coming months. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

## Kimberly Becomes Certified

Kimberly Morris, Institutional Biological Safety Officer, recently received notification from the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management that she passed the exam to become a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM). The CHMM credential is the standard of excellence

within the hazardous materials management community. The CHMM program was created in 1984 by the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management to identify professionals possessing a superior body of knowledge and expertise. The CHMM designation demonstrates a pro-

fessional's competency and commitment to technical excellence through continuing education, training and successful completion of a rigorous examination.

Please join the EHS staff in congratulating Kim on her achievement. Congratulations Kim!

## OHIO BWC and EHS OFFERS ON-LINE ERGONOMICS TRAINING

In May EHS announced to the campus community a free on-line office ergonomics course being offered by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division of Safety and Hygiene. This course was designed for the worker who spends four hours or more a day working at a computer. The training provides valuable tips on workstation and posture adjustments while learning how to improve comfort and

reduce injuries. The hope is that information from this course will help prevent injuries and increase work efficiency.

Based on the inquiries from faculty and staff after we announced this training there appeared to be great interest. In fact, data provided by the **BWC indicated that 92 WSU employees logged onto the BWC website to take the**

**training.** The training was initially scheduled to be available only through June 30<sup>th</sup> but the BWC has indicated to EHS that a renegotiation of the contract with their vendor should allow them to offer the training again starting sometime in August. EHS will announce the availability of this training if and when it becomes available again.



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We're on the Web!

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