

Department of
Environmental Health & Safety

Newsletter

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/>

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From The Director's Chair:

IN THE PAST

QUARTER, EH&S HAS..

- Responded to **6 odor complaints**, including fuel oil, natural gas, mold, chlorine and ethyl acetate
- Responded to **2 asbestos concerns**
- Held 8 Bloodborne Pathogen training sessions for a **total of 70** participants
- Arranged for the off-campus shipment and proper disposal of **2,594 pounds of chemical waste**, generated from labs and support services activities
- Arranged Forklift training for 11 campus personnel
- Arranged for Respiratory Fit testing for 7 staff
- Sampled sixty taps in water system to check for coliform, chlorine, and nitrates
- Published the **2007 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report** (see more information on page 3)
- Recorded **17 occupational and 13 non-occupational injury/accident reports**, compared to 24 and 14 for the same period in 2007
- Field certified or repaired **9 Biological Containment hoods**

A goal of the department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) is 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. One way to meet this goal is for everyone to follow established campus EHS procedures. Of course, part of following established procedures is being aware that the procedure exists in the first place.

As you read the articles in this issue of our newsletter you will notice a theme of prevention. **The article on page 2 regarding a recent mercury spill** discusses what can be done to prevent similar mishaps in the future. This article depicts how knowledge and compliance with an established campus procedure can prevent such an accident.

The information available regarding lab safety from the American Industrial Hygiene Association that we link from our website (see article on page 3) is full of **tips to prevent the repeat of documented lab accidents that have occurred at other institutions**. Also on page 3 is an article discussing our newly developed contractor and safety pamphlet. This should be used by everyone at WSU when hiring a contractor to help prevent accidents or environ-

mental mishaps as contractors perform their services on campus.

Finally, as the weather gets nicer and most of us are heading outdoors for a little more activity, don't forget to take the notion of prevention home with you. A simple Google search for "environmental protection tips" or "summer safety tips" will result in a list of credible ideas to prevent accidents and injuries, and protect the environment, at home and elsewhere in the community. After all, it is very difficult for EHS to provide anyone on campus any type of service if they're not on campus in the first place due to an accident that occurred away from WSU.

It is also counter-productive to employ environmentally sound practices on campus only to go home and, for example, use your used motor oil as a weed killer.


Everyone at EHS wants to see you safe and sound after spending some enjoyable time outside this summer in an environment that provides safe water to drink and play in, soil and grass that is safe to play on, and air that is safe to breathe.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter.


- Steve

Mercury Spill Closes Down Oelman Hall Elevator

On June 10th, EHS was called to respond to mercury discovered on the Oelman Hall freight elevator as well as in areas within Oelman Hall tunnel and the Excess and Surplus Property Management (ESPM) area. The source of the mercury was a piece of laboratory equipment that was being turned over to ESPM. The piece of equipment contained mercury as an integral component of its operation. There was no communication to ESPM or EHS, prior to the request to have the equipment picked up, that it contained mercury.



Mercury was released from the piece of equipment while it was being transported from its original location to ESPM.



The resulting cleanup required the temporary shutdown of the elevator as well as a day and half of EHS staff time. The cost for the disposal of the hazardous waste generated from this cleanup is yet to be determined.

In part with ESPM, we would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that Wright Way Policy 5403 includes the procedures to surplus excess equipment. Of particular importance in terms of preventing future hazardous material spills is paragraph 5403.6(e) of the policy. This paragraph reads:

*“The owning department of any excess property that has been contaminated by chemical or biological agents is responsible for decontamination of the property prior to release to ESPM. The department also is responsible for the expense of decontamination. In addition, the owning department must provide written documentation to ESPM and to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) prior to release to ESPM. **If the excess property contains or has been used in a radioactive materials use area, a survey for radiation contamination must be performed prior to release to ESPM. The university’s Radiation Safety office shall perform the survey upon request. If the excess property contains a***

hazardous material integral to the operation of the equipment (i.e., asbestos, oil, mercury, refrigerant), it shall be approved for release by a representative of EHS, prior to its release to ESPM. The owning department is responsible for removal of all hazardous materials as directed by EHS.”

In other words, **if you need to surplus any equipment that contains a hazardous material you must first contact EHS prior to submitting an ESPM form for equipment pickup.** There have been similar incidents of this nature in the past. Prevention of future incidents is contingent upon the knowledge, and the communication of that knowledge, from the equipment owner/operator to ESPM/EHS.

Responding to and cleaning up hazardous material spills on campus is one of the many services EHS provides. **The majority of these spills can be prevented.** Please help prevent future mishaps during the excess property management process by adhering completely with the requirements of Wright Way Policy 5403. The folks at ESPM and EHS thank you!

Products And Devices That May Contain Mercury

- Thermostats
- Fluorescent and HID lamps, some neon lamps and compact fluorescent lamps
- Bug zappers
- Various switches and relays in electronics
- Curling irons
- Barometers
- Some chemistry equipment
- Weight/counterweight in grandfather clocks
- Jewelry (usually glass ampoules made in Mexico)
- Pressure gauges
- Thermometers
- Blood pressure devices

If you come in contact with mercury on campus, please call our department ASAP at 775-2215.

Adapted from : <http://www.earth911.org>

Laboratory Safety Lessons Learned

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) maintains a list of recent laboratory accidents. These accidents serve as **reminders to principal investigators, laboratory supervisors and laboratory staff** of the types of accidents that can occur in labs due to the varied nature of hazards pre-



sent. Most of the listed incidents include key instruction points outlining areas of concern to focus on to prevent such incidents.

Founded in 1939, AIHA is a nonprofit organization with more than 10,600 members and is one of the largest international associations serving the needs of occupational and environmental health professionals practicing industrial hygiene in government, industry, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations. The maintenance of this list helps to meet one of

the goals of the AIHA Laboratory Health and Safety Committee, which is to collect and make available a compilation of laboratory safety incidents that may be used by health and safety professionals, faculty, supervisors, students and any others who may benefit from "lessons learned."

EHS has linked this list to our website. **We encourage those of you involved in laboratory work to visit our website and to review this list.** Please see the second bullet point under "News and Announcements" on our home page at

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/>

Do You Hire Contractors?

Do you have contractors, vendors, or suppliers working on campus? If so, how do you know they are working safely or even know the EHS related requirements? To help you and any contractors you may bring to campus, EHS has developed a instructional pamphlet to be given to each contractor prior to working on campus. All contractors should receive, review, and sign this new "Contractor Environ-

mental Health and Safety Guidelines" or Contractor Tri-fold.

This pamphlet contains all the basic OSHA and EPA requirements, as well as campus guidelines, which are to be followed when working at the university or any satellite locations. These signature pages are to be kept by the contractor's supervisor.

Training on how to use the Tri-fold is being coordinated

for all departments that have responsibility for bringing in contractors, vendors, or suppliers. Look for upcoming announcements for training slated for this summer.

In the meantime, you can obtain a copy for your contractors online on the EHS website at <http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/safetycontractor.html>, by calling our office at 937.775.2215, or by dropping us an email at EHS@wright.edu

Drinking Water Info Available

EHS, in partnership with Physical Plant, has published the 2007 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This report provides information on the drinking water provided to the main campus during 2007 including information on the source of the water as well as monitoring performed to determine its quality.

The report can be viewed at <http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/public/water.html>



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We're on the Web!

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Safety Quote:

**My job provides my paycheck,
but safety takes me home.**

<http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/>

Steve Farrell	Director	X 3118	Administration, Occupational Safety & Health, Environmental Compliance
Joe Whitlock	Assistant Director	X 4131	Occupational Safety & Health Program Management, Administration and Training, Environmental Compliance, OSHA Laboratories, HAZWOPER training
Helen Kay Dean	Web Developer Designer	X 3680	Web Site Development, Online Training Development, Occupational Health Program Liaison, Newsletter
Ron Hamilton	EH&S Specialist	X 3810	OSHA Support Services, Asbestos, Contractor Safety & Health
Dramane Konate	Radiation Safety Officer	X 2169	Radiation Safety and Laser Safety
Greg Merkle	EH&S Specialist	X2217	OSHA Laboratories, Fire / Life Safety, Hazardous Materials Transportation
Kimberly Morris	Institutional Biological Safety Officer	X 2623	Biological Safety, Bloodborne Pathogens
Bill Palmer	EH&S Specialist	X 3788	Hazardous & Infectious Waste, Free Chemical Program
Dick Robertson	EH&S Specialist	X 4275	Air Emissions, Stormwater Management, UST Management, Pollution Prevention, Drinking Water Analysis
Amber Riippa	Student Clerical Assistant III	X 2215	Clerical/Administrative
Curtis Taylor	Student Radiation Safety Technician	X 2169	Radiation Safety

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