WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY Winter, 2007-2008

Department of

Environmental Health & Safety

Newsletter

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From The Director's Chair:

It is customary as a calendar year ends, for both individuals and organizations to reflect back on the past year and identify goals which were achieved, objectives that may not have been met, and to look forward to the new year. EHS is no different in this regard. At the beginning of 2007 EHS initiated an 8-goal, 18 month Strategic Plan that would lead to a university EHS management system defining the university's commitment to environmental health and safety and create an internal departmental system that would streamline the management of applicable environmental health and safety programs. We have made progress with the plan but due to some staff turnover, adjustments in staff responsibilities, and a few other unforeseen events we're a little behind schedule in meeting the timeline we established. We intend to re-establish the implementation of the plan in the coming months.

Speaking of staff turnover EHS now has two new employees. Bill Palmer and Richard Robertson joined the department in November and will be helping us take our environmental protection and compliance programs to a new level. Please take a moment to get to know Bill and Richard a little more by reading up on them in the article on page 3.

As we move into 2008 the EHS staff continues to assist faculty who are moving out of existing lab space into the new Diggs Research Building or into other swing spaces on campus. I want to take this opportunity to remind laboratory Principal Investigators and departmental Chairpersons to ensure all laboratory moves are completed following the procedures outlined in *Wright Way Policy 6015: Exit Policy for the Closeout/Decommissioning of University Laboratories.* This policy, as well as the associated Lab Clearance/ Exit Checklist and guidelines for moving chemicals on campus, can be found on our website.

Another big project that EHS has been given the responsibility to oversee is the management of the university's effort to comply with the recently adopted Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. This new rule requires campuses that use or store certain listed chemicals to report information on those chemicals to DHS. More information on this rule and how it might affect you can be found in the article on page 2 or by visiting our website.

On behalf of EHS I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season, a successful 2007, and we extend our wishes to you for a prosperous 2008. 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.

Homeland Security Establishes Rule for Reporting Chemicals on Campus

You may have recently received notification from the Provost Office and EHS requiring information on certain chemicals you may use or store on campus. This requirement is a result of a recently adopted rule implemented by the Department of Homeland Security commonly referred to as the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS). CFATS requires facilities, including colleges and universities, that store, use, or cause for transport certain chemicals identified as a security risk to submit information on those chemicals to DHS. Reporting is required if the chemicals are stored, used, or transported in amounts greater than specified threshold quantities.

The strategy for university compliance includes the following steps:

1. Each individual responsible for an area where chemicals are used or stored must review the list of DHS chemicals and report to EHS if they use or store any of the listed chemicals and at what amounts. This reporting process shall be performed following the instructions on the EHS website. For those departments that do not use or store any chemicals, you are asked to take the few minutes necessary to document this by following the first two steps of the directions on the EHS website.

2. EHS will tabulate the information provided and will determine if the university collectively uses or stores any of the listed chemicals in amounts greater than listed thresholds.

3. If it is determined that the university does not use or store any of the listed chemicals in amounts requiring DHS reporting then the results of the chemical inventory will be documented and no further action will be required other than to routinely survey the campus for increased use of any of the chemicals.

4. If it is determined that the university does use or store any of the listed chemicals in amounts exceeding reporting thresholds then use and storage exemptions will be evaluated to determine if reporting to DHS is required.

5. If reporting is required EHS will submit information on the chemicals to DHS through a secured website. This process is called a Top Screen.

Based on DHS's evaluation of the Top Screen, WSU will either be considered a small security risk and will not be covered further under the rule, or WSU will be considered a covered facility and will need to perform a security vulnerability assessment which will result in being classified into one of four risk categories. If considered a risk, WSU will be tasked with developing and implementing a security plan.

Colleges and universities were provided an option to request a reporting due date extension from DHS. To meet this new deadline EHS is asking everyone to submit their information by February 8th. Failure to comply with this rule may allow for a currently unknown security risk to go undetected, potentially putting the university community at risk. It is also possible that fines will be issued to facilities that are found not to be in compliance. Please take the time to perform an inventory of your chemical use and storage areas and submit the required information as instructed via the EHS website.

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

- Responded to two mercury spills (broken thermometers)
- Responded to five low-volume chemical spills
- Responded to one vehicle anti-freeze leak, one mold concern, and one asbestos concern
- Responded to an ergonomic issue
- Responded to seven odor/fume complaints. Air quality testing done at various locations.
- Arranged for the off campus shipment and proper disposal of **5,054 pounds** of chemical waste generated from labs and support services activities.
- With the assistance of Physical Plant staff, placed 183 new 'confined space' signage on campus
- Provided asbestos refresher training to 37 staff
- Provided bloodborne Pathogen training to 187 staff
- Provided biosafety training to 8 staff

Ways to 'Green' Your Home

Compliments of www.earth 911.org

- **Clean Out Your Storage**—We all have a closet or garage full of items that aren't used anymore. An easy way to organize these areas is to group the products and decide what to do with them accordingly. Some sample groups could include electronics, household waste (paint, pesticides, motor oil) and scrap metal.
- **Use Energy More Wisely**—Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 20 percent of the energy of incandescent bulbs, and they also last 10 times as long. Keeping your thermostat at reasonable temperatures in both the winter and the summer is also a good energy saver. Finally, read your energy bill and check for trends from month to month, and ask your energy company about renewable alternatives.
- **Use Less Water**—Whether it's taking shorter showers or putting a bottle in your toilet tank, saving water is important because it is a limited resource. You can also reuse water around the house, such as using cooking water for plants (the nutrients from the food will benefit the plant).
- **Start Composting**—Composting is hip again, and it's a great way to reduce your waste and help your garden at the same time. You can include most food scraps and material like cardboard, which will biodegrade in your yard and produce nutrient-rich fertilizer. A cubic yard of compost is worth $80 in dirt costs.
- **Invest in Energy-Efficient Appliances**—If you can afford it, start replacing older appliances in your home with more energy-efficient ones. These products will reduce your energy output and save money on your electricity bill. Buying a hybrid car is also an eco-friendly investment.

Welcome to WSU!

We would like to send a special 'welcome' to two new staff in the Department of Environmental Health & Safety. Both men are Environmental Health & Safety Specialists.

Bill Palmer began work here in November, 2007. He was previously an Environmental Chemist at Clean Harbors in Cincinnati. Bill received his Bachelor of Science degree in environmental safety and health management from Findlay, Ohio. Bill is married to Audrey, a WSU alumni and former cheerleader here. They have been married for 4 years, and have a beautiful daughter, Alyssa, who is just over a year old.

Dick Robertson also began work here in November. He has worked various places, but most recently with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, as well as several other consulting firms in Columbus and Dayton. Dick has 3 children and 4 grandchildren. His daughter Eden Mattison lives in New York City, daughter Kim Miller in Yellow Springs, and son Justin is in Indiana. Dick has been married to his wife Kathy for 31 years now! Dick is an active member of the Beavercreek Wetlands Association where he is vice-president of the board of trustees.

Welcome Bill and Dick. We are fortunate to have found you both!

Ohio Department of Health Inspection

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) performed its regular inspection of two of Wright State University registrations for Radiation Producing Device (RPD) this past quarter. The purposes of the inspections were to determine whether activities authorized to be performed under the registration are being conducted safely and in accordance with ODH rules.

The results of the inspections were excellent as in recent years in which no noncompliance or violations were cited.

Wright State University

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We're on the Web!

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

Back row, from left: Greg Merkle, Student worker Tracy Wood, Kimberly Morris, Student worker Shingi Tichagwa, Dick Robertson, Dramane Konate, Helen Kay Dean, Ron Hamilton.

Front row, from left: Joe Whitlock, Bill Palmer, Steve Farrell, Student worker Curtis Taylor

(Not pictured; Terri Thompson)

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
Helen Kay Dean	Health & Safety Technical Services Coordinator	X 3680	Occupational Health Program Liaison, Administrative, Budgeting, Departmental Web Page, Departmental Newsletter, Purchasing
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, Spill & Pollution Prevention, Drinking Water Analysis
Terri Thompson	EH&S Specialist	X 2797	Chemical Hygiene Officer, OSHA Laboratories, HAZWOPER training