

## Hazardous Waste Costs Drop

At a time when everything seems to be costing more, the University of Memphis saw a decrease in overall hazardous waste costs in 2007. The estimated total hazardous waste costs of \$107,074.62 for the calendar year included \$20,372.78 in direct disposal costs; the remaining costs included internal labor, training, postage, supplies, and fees paid to regulatory agencies.

Disposal costs for scheduled pick-ups in 2007 ranged from \$11.52 per kilogram to \$13.36 per kilogram. Price increases from disposal contractors will lead to increased per kilogram disposal costs in 2008 and beyond.

***Keep costs low; control your hazardous chemical inventory.***

### Environmental Concern Reduces Future Waste Generation

For many years the Integrated Microscopy Center used a staining solution with a flammable solvent, resulting in creation of a waste that proved difficult to dispose of. When Dr. Lewis Coons and Ms. Lou Boykins recently learned the difficulties of managing and disposing of this waste, they started looking for ways to replace the flammable solvent with something less hazardous. They are now using water as the solvent, removing the waste from classification as hazardous waste and saving money for the University. Let's hear a cheer for our friends in the IM Center!

***Are you looking for ways to substitute less hazardous ingredients into your processes?***



Sam Brackstone and Liz Buck of Extended Programs examine an Automated External Defibrillator.

### Millington, Collierville Campuses Get AEDs

Thanks to the generosity of Extended Programs, the Millington Campus and Carrier Center now have

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available for use in the event of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Mr. Samuel Brackstone, assistant vice provost for Extended Programs, was instrumental in obtaining the AEDs and ensuring that employees were trained in their use.

For individuals with SCA caused by ventricular fibrillation, it is generally accepted that survival rates decrease by 7% to 10% for each minute they must wait before defibrillation is applied; there-

fore, having an AED readily available can make the difference between life and death for an SCA victim. AEDs on the main campus have already saved two lives; we hope these new additions will help save more lives if the need arises.

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### Inside this Issue

Government Lab Contaminated . . . . .	Page 2
Criminal Charges Dropped . . . . .	Page 2
Lab Safety Seminar . . . . .	Page 2
Anthrax Spores Infect Family . . . . .	Page 3
Increasing Paper Recycling . . . . .	Page 3
Air Travel and Lithium Batteries . . . . .	Page 3
Rad New Symbol . . . . .	Page 4
EPA Inspections on Increase . . . . .	Page 4

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## Government Lab, Personnel Contaminated

A guest worker in a Boulder, Colorado, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) lab accidentally released a powdered plutonium compound on June 9, contaminating two people, a laboratory, and other items. A small amount of plutonium was also released to the Boulder sewer system, prompting an outcry from city officials.

Investigators determined that the guest worker had no experience working with radioactive material, received no radiation safety training, was instructed in work practices without mention of safety, and was working unsupervised in the lab. (Do an Internet search to read detailed reports on the incident.)

Wow! Incidents like this one make us very happy for the support that we receive from many of you. We appreciate your attention to ensuring that people receive training and supervision needed to maintain a safe and healthful campus.

## New Environmental Resources

With only a few clicks of the mouse, you can access the Environmental Resource Center for Higher Education (Campus ERC). Accessible from the "Links" section of the EH&S web page or directly at [www.campuserc.org](http://www.campuserc.org), this site has great tips on everything from campus environmental sustainability to regulatory compliance. This resource will be a helpful tool for our individual efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the University in keeping with the College and University Presidents' Climate Control Initiative.

The Campus ERC was developed by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) in cooperation with the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA), Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence (C2E2), APPA (formerly Association of Physical Plant Administrators), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## It's Lab Safety Seminar Time

Our famous Laboratory Health and Safety Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2008, from 1:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m., in the Ellington Hall Auditorium. In addition to retaining the basics, we have revised the presentations and added new material to help you work more safely in the lab. The seminar will help satisfy training requirements, including those for employees who generate hazardous waste.



Remember to surplus old computers and electronic equipment. Don't trash 'em!

To help ensure that we have plenty of refreshments, faculty, staff, and graduate students should register through their departments by August 25.

## Saving Energy Made Easy

According to the June, 2008, issue of J. J. Keller's *Environmental Alert*, allowing your computer to sleep can save \$25 to \$75 per computer per year. If your computer has insomnia, talk to your LSP about helping it take a nap. Every kilowatt hour saved reduces carbon dioxide emissions and saves money.

*Are you helping reduce our carbon footprint?*

## NY Professor's Criminal Charges Dropped

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported on July 18 that federal criminal charges against Dr. Steven J. Kurtz were dismissed by a federal judge. You may remember that Dr. Kurtz, a professor of visual studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo, had been charged with illegally receiving biological agents that were intended for use in an art project. Had he been convicted, Dr. Kurtz could have been sentenced to up to 20 years in prison.

Please don't put yourself at risk of criminal indictment: Make sure that all acquisitions and shipments of chemical, biological, and radioactive agents are done "by the book."

## Anthrax Spores in Animal Hides

Since 2006 there have been several reports of anthrax infections in the U.S. related to the importation of untreated animal hides from West Africa. The latest case, details of which follow, was reported in the June 13, 2008, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

A Connecticut drum maker working with untreated goat hides from Guinea sought medical assistance in July, 2007, and was treated for a presumed spider bite. Several days later the skin lesion required the attention of an infectious disease practitioner who sent a specimen to the Connecticut State Laboratory where *Bacillus anthracis* was detected. The drum maker's 8 year old child, who was never in direct contact with the hides, also developed a lesion confirmed to be due to *B. anthracis*.



Under-desk paper recycling bin reduces waste.

## Increasing Paper Recycling

We all tend to toss things in the trash that could be recycled. While the EH&S Office has a big, blue recycle bin that is filled many times per year, it is still too easy to simply toss that one piece of paper in the trash. Thanks to Dr. Barbara Taller, we discovered that under-desk recycle bins are available, convenient, and really encourage recycling all your non-confidential papers. It is now just as easy to drop unwanted paper in the recycle bin as to toss it in the trash. Why not purchase under-desk bins for your office or make your own by re-using a box destined for the trash? One vendor for these bins is [www.recyclingbin.com](http://www.recyclingbin.com).

*Are you doing your part to recycle?*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Protection Agency, and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection collaborated in sampling the drum maker's house, car, and workshop, finding numerous positive samples. The family was eventually allowed to return to their home after extensive decontamination overseen by federal, state, and local officials. Both the drum maker and child recovered.

## Nanomaterials Pamphlet Available

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has issued a new pamphlet entitled "Safe Nanotechnology in the Workplace." The pamphlet is available at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-112](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-112).

We have lots to learn about the long-term health and environmental impact of nanoparticles, so please exercise great care if you use these materials. And when disposing of wastes containing nanoparticles, please indicate their presence by appropriately labeling waste containers.

## Lithium Batteries and Air Travel

If you plan to take a trip with your laptop computer or other battery powered device, be sure to read and understand the new Department of Transportation regulations restricting transportation of lithium batteries on passenger aircraft. See more about the regulations at [www.chemical-safety.com/documents/LITHIUM%20BATTERIES%202008.pdf](http://www.chemical-safety.com/documents/LITHIUM%20BATTERIES%202008.pdf).

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## Sources of Assistance

Director of EH&S	678-4672
Radiation Safety Officer	678-4672
Chemical Hygiene Officer	678-4672
Environmental Protection Specialist	678-2044
Laboratory Safety Specialist	678-2740
Fax	678-4673
Emergency (Fire, Police, Ambulance, after hours Chemical/Radiological)	678-4357
EH&S Home Page	<a href="http://ehs.memphis.edu">http://ehs.memphis.edu</a>

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## NJIT Settles Environmental Violations

The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) will pay a \$31,740 penalty and spend at least \$125,000 to promote greener lab practices in order to settle an EPA citation for violations of hazardous waste regulations. The violations included failure to perform a waste determination, storing hazardous waste without a permit, failure to provide proper training for employees, and failure to have a contingency plan.

## Rad New Symbol

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) hope to “reduce needless deaths and serious injuries from accidental exposure to large radioactive sources” through introduction of a new warning symbol (see at right) that will supplement the traditional trefoil symbol.

Designed by human factor experts, graphic artists, and radiation protection experts to maximize intuitive meaning and recognition, the symbol was “tested by the Gallup Institute on a total of 1,650 individuals in Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, China, India, Thailand, Poland, Ukraine and the United States.” (Quotes from IAEA web site.)



## Restrictions on Shipping Research Samples

Just in case you wanted more regulations to think about, we would like to call your attention to the issue of shipping research samples to colleagues in foreign countries. In addition to Department of Transportation regulations, you must consider export control restrictions that include the type of material to be shipped, the destination country, and the recipient of the material. More information is available from the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security. Go to [www.access.gpo.gov/bis/ear/pdf/ccl1.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/bis/ear/pdf/ccl1.pdf) for a list of restricted exports.

## EPA Inspections Increase

We are seeing an increasing number of hazardous waste compliance inspections by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With the more frequent inspections, just one careless mistake can be bad news for you, your department, and the University. Let’s all be vigilant in ensuring that we are deliberate in following the regulatory requirements for managing hazardous waste.

If you generate or manage hazardous waste, you are legally required to receive documented annual training. Please let us know if people in your department need hazardous waste training; we will be happy to schedule a class for you.

*Are you ensuring compliance with hazardous waste regulations in your lab, studio, or shop?*

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## Environmental Health & Safety Staff

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