
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Global Harmony is in Our Future

Will wonders never cease! World regulators are singing in harmony – at least about chemical safety. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently updated its Hazard Communication Standard to include elements of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

You may already be seeing new GHS pictograms and other changes on chemical containers and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), now called Safety Data Sheets (SDSs); however, manufacturers have several years to fully comply with the new standard. During that transition you will likely see both old and GHS labeling and classification.

Among changes to which we must adapt are

- new container labels showing a signal word (either Danger or Warning), pictogram(s), hazard statement(s), and precautionary statement(s);
- a standardized Safety Data Sheet format; and
- requirements for more training prior to 2014.

While pictograms may seem simple, the pictogram shown on this page can mean that a chemical is a carcinogen, and/or a mutagen, and/or a reproductive toxin, and/or a respiratory sensitizer, and/or toxic to target organs, and/or toxic if aspirated. So, reading those hazard and precautionary statements is critical to knowing how to properly handle chemicals.

Learn more about GHS by clicking on the included links, attending the Laboratory Health and Safety Seminar, or requesting training from EH&S.

Okay, let's practice our harmony: Sopranos, take high "C"; Tenors, middle "C";

Free Cookies, Must be Present to Ingest

You "Cookie Monsters" listen up. Our famous Laboratory Health and Safety Seminar, complete with fashion show, will be presented on Thursday, August 30, from 1:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m., in Ellington Hall Auditorium.



A GHS health hazard pictogram from the new OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200)

We promise to provide up-to-date information that will help you work more safely in the lab and protect the environment. We will also make sure that you have some fun, free cookies, and maybe a door prize.

Please register through your department by the morning of August 28 to ensure that we have plenty of refreshments and handout materials.

New First Aid App

The American Red Cross released a first aid app, giving rapid access to step-by-step instructions for addressing common first aid situations. The free app is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices.

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UC System Felony Charges Dropped

In the matter of criminal charges linked with the 2008 laboratory death of Sheharbano (Sheri) Sangji at UCLA, the Los Angeles County District Attorney and the Regents of the University of California reached an agreement that dropped charges against the Regents. The Regents acknowledged and accepted responsibility for the conditions under which the laboratory was operated at the time of the death, established the Sheharbano Sangji Scholarship, will reimburse Cal/OSHA's expenses related to their investigations, will implement a wide range of lab safety requirements, and will file periodic attestations that the Regents are exercising due diligence and are in substantial compliance with safety and health requirements. UCLA has also paid related civil penalties for violations of Cal/OSHA regulations.

Felony charges are still pending against Dr. Patrick Harran, Sheri's PI. His next hearing is scheduled for early September.

Remember to Wear Eye Protection

Please remember to wear eye protection when working in the lab and when performing tasks such as cutting, grinding, etc. Just because you are not the person performing the work does not make you immune to eye injury – a colleague's actions can cause you to be injured if you are nearby when hazardous work is being performed. And don't forget that there are many kinds of eye protection available, so choose the right kind for the job (e.g., splash goggles for protection against chemical splashes, impact resistant goggles or safety glasses for impact protection without risk of splash).



Have you and your supervisor performed a job hazard analysis for your work area and selected appropriate PPE for the identified hazards?

Texas Tech Gets Favorable CSB Report

Texas Tech got some good news from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board in June: The status of the CSB investigation has been upgraded to "Open-Acceptable Response." Chair of the CSB, Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso, notified TTU that the status change "reflects the Board's determination that TTU has planned and initiated actions that appear consistent with the intent of the recommendations."



The GHS pictogram representing flammable, self-reactive, pyrophoric, self-heating, emits flammable gas, and organic peroxide.

Since the CSB investigation of the laboratory explosion that seriously injured a graduate student, TTU has implemented numerous safety improvements, including modifying its Chemical Hygiene Plan and establishing a Chemical Hygiene

Committee, reporting annual progress to the CSB, requiring laboratory safety to be a part of annual evaluations for faculty and staff, and acquiring an on-line chemical inventory system.

Editorial Observation

Institutions experiencing a tragic accident are, in addition to dealing with unnecessary suffering of personnel and their families, dealing with bad publicity and forced implementation of corrective actions that are more burdensome than the regulations and policies that should have been complied with from the beginning. In other words, it would have been so much better if everyone just did the right thing **before** something bad happened.

Let's all step up and do the right thing, keeping people safe, protecting the environment, and protecting the image and reputation of our University.

New Waste Management Guide Available

The American Chemical Society just released *Laboratory Waste Management: A Guidebook, Second Edition*. This is a must-have for anyone generating hazardous waste in laboratories.

What are You Doing with the Empties?

Labs, shops, and studios routinely have empty containers that held hazardous chemicals, radioisotopes, and biological agents. With the exception of compressed gas cylinders, almost all of these containers are non-returnable. So what to do with all that stuff?

We don't have an app for that, but we do have a "Quick Guide to Laboratory Waste Management." This one page document will point you in the right direction when disposing of waste, including when to get more information by contacting EH&S or seeing our *Guide to Hazardous Waste Management*.

Whether empty or not, don't commingle different types of waste, and always make a determination as to whether a waste is a hazardous waste before discarding it. Improperly disposing of wastes creates unnecessary, sometimes significant, costs for the University and a big headache for the people who have to fix the resulting fallout.

New Guidance for Nanomaterials Safety

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued *General Safe Practices for Working with Engineered Nanomaterials in Research Laboratories*. This document contains recommendations on engineering controls and safe work practices for handling engineered nanomaterials in labs. The document is available in pdf format via the imbedded link or the link on our nanomaterials web page.

Do you have, and is everyone following, standard operating procedures for all hazardous activities in your work area?

VA Researcher Dead, Lab Link Suspected

Twenty-five year old Richard Din, a researcher at the San Francisco, California, Veterans Affairs Medical Center died as a result of contracting a meningococcal disease.

According to *Science Insider* and other sources, CDC is investigating to determine if the bacterial strain responsible for Din's death, *Neisseria meningitidis*, was the same strain being studied in the researcher's lab. While awaiting results from CDC, the lab's safety procedures are under review.



Improper commingling of waste types: pressurized can of photo adhesive (hazardous waste), empty compressed gas cylinder (scrap metal), biohazard bag (yuk!), empty acetone bottle (scrape off labels and remove the cap before placing in broken glass box for disposal with trash), other glass bottles in recycling container intended for paper

Rad Software Updated

Environmental Health and Safety Assistant, our radioisotope management software, packed its cyber bags and moved to a new server during the summer. The software was also upgraded and security features improved. If you have any difficulty accessing or using EH&S Assistant since the move and upgrade, just call Al Simpson at 4672 for assistance.

The surface of your cell phone can harbor disease-causing bacteria and viruses. Stop talking dirty: keep your phone clean.

Emergency Preparedness Conference Coming to Campus

The 6th Annual Emergency Preparedness & Incident Conference will be held in the University Center on Wednesday, September 19, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The theme of the conference will be

"Making Resiliency a Reality."

The \$25.00 registration fee covers the conference, breakfast, and lunch. To learn more, please contact Shelby Slater at (901) 678-2254 or scan the QR Code at left.



Scary Events at Other Institutions

Kansas State University

Six people at Kansas State were treated at a hospital after being exposed to a spill of 70% nitric acid. A faculty member was hand-carrying a 9 pound glass bottle of the acid when the bottle accidentally struck a doorway, causing it to break and splash acid directly onto the faculty member's lower extremities. [Always move hazardous materials in a bucket or other secondary container, and use a cart for multiple and/or large containers.]

University of Cincinnati

A U. of Cincinnati student was working alone on an aluminum etching procedure at 1 a.m. when an explosion occurred. The student was wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE); however, burns were received while removing the PPE. [Doing hazardous work alone in the wee hours? Not a good idea.]

University of Vermont

UVM was fined \$19,660 by the EPA for records violations resulting from inconsistent maintenance of lab self-inspections, incorrect use of self-assessments, mislabeling of storage containers, and laboratory personnel not taking appropriate corrective actions following inspections.

West Virginia University

WVa University was fined more than \$42,000 for waste management violations that included lack of personnel training records, lack of a contingency plan for waste management, improperly marked waste containers, and open waste containers.

Has everyone in your shop, studio, or lab received appropriate training, including annual training for hazardous waste generators?

U of M and Community Exercise Together

U of M personnel worked with the Memphis/Shelby County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) this summer to plan, execute, and learn from a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise.



Memphis Fire Department responds to a simulated emergency on Walker Avenue, testing University and community resources

The exercise scenario, the first of its kind for the University and LEPC, simulated a train derailment near J.M. Smith Hall, causing a small gasoline tanker to strike the building, resulting in laboratory fires on two floors – quite a challenge.

A wide range of University personnel participated in the exercise, including President Raines, the Provost, and VPs, plus the Crisis Management Team, Emergency Preparedness, EH&S, Police

Services, Physical Plant, Chemistry, Theatre, and more. Participating external agencies included the Memphis Fire Department, Memphis Police, Emergency Management Agency, SWS Environmental Services, and Norfolk Southern Railroad.

It was an impressive and successful exercise, complete with smoke, a train, tanker truck, and “victims” with incredibly real looking injuries.

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