
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Work Begins on Fume Hood Upgrades

The Tennessee Board of Regents has hired Jameson Gibson Construction Company as the primary contractor for Phase I of the Fume Hood Renovation Project. Construction work began December 14 and should end next August. The construction schedule shows that work will be done in the following order: Ellington Hall, Catfish Building, J. M. Smith Hall, Engineering Technology, Engineering Sciences, and Life Sciences.

The new state-of-the-art, variable air volume fume hood systems will allow The U of M to conduct scientific research at unprecedented levels. However, the construction process will be extremely disruptive. If your lab is included in Phase I, here are some tips that will help construction progress smoothly:

- Prepare to move all hazardous materials out of your existing fume hood and under hood cabinet (the cabinet will be replaced along with the hood).
- Decontaminate your existing hoods and attach a signed note that the hood has been cleaned of all chemical, biological, and radioactive agents.
- Prepare to move and/or securely cover all delicate apparatus (it's going to get dirty).
- Be patient as work progresses.

MIT Whacked by EPA for \$555,000.00



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Justice, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently entered into a consent decree resulting from numerous alleged violations of environmental regulations at MIT.

As part of the \$555,000.00 deal, MIT will pay a \$150,000.00 fine and spend \$405,000.00 on environmental projects that include

implementing an environmental management system (EMS). The EMS will address training personnel, performing audits, and assigning accountability for regulatory compliance.

As noted in previous editions of this newsletter, the feds expect colleges and universities to comply with the same laws and regulations that were written for industry. And MIT is only one of many colleges and universities to be hit with fines that have gone as high as \$1,500,000.00. Let's work hard to protect the environment and obey the law.

Contents

Work Begins on Fume Hoods	Page 1
MIT Fined by EPA	Page 1
Handling On-the-job Injuries	Page 2
Here's Mud in Your Eye	Page 2
Focus on Biosafety	Page 2
U of M Joins Environmental Alliance . . .	Page 3
Sources of Assistance	Page 3
New on the Web	Page 4
Laboratory Accidents Increase	Page 4

Research Impacted by September 11

The USA PATRIOT Act is impacting laboratories at institutions working with CDC Select Agents. In addition to existing requirements for registration with the CDC, this new law criminalizes the possession or transportation of Select Agents by certain people, including those who are citizens of countries supporting terrorism.

Additional information may be accessed from the "Biosafety" portion of the EH&S web page.

What Should I Do If I am Injured on the Job?

Have you ever wondered what to do if you are injured on the job? Well, here's what you need to know, courtesy of Human Resources web site:

If you are injured or have a job-related illness, you should report it to your supervisor immediately. He or she will complete the "First Report of Injury or Illness" and send it to the Department of Human Resources within 24 hours.

If you need medical services, you must choose a physician from the State Network of physicians and complete a "State of Tennessee Accident Report." Contact Human Resources, for the appropriate forms and a listing of primary physicians.



In a job-related medical emergency, go to the nearest hospital emergency room and notify Sedgwick James of Tennessee, the state workers' compensation insurance provider, at 1-800-526-2305 within 24 hours. Baptist Health System, UT/Bowld, St. Francis, and Regional Medical Center at Memphis are the preferred hospitals for workers' compensation. Your supervisor should notify Human Resources as soon as possible after the accident for the appropriate documentation.

For accidents that occur after normal working hours and require medical treatment, go to the closest network emergency room. Notify your supervisor immediately. Notify Human Resources and Sedgwick James on the next workday.

For non-emergency injuries or illnesses, immediately notify your supervisor and Sedgwick James of Tennessee. You should call a listed physician for an appointment. Be sure to inform the physician that you are an employee of the State of Tennessee, and the claim should be filed as workers' compensation with Sedgwick James. Your workers' compensation card should be presented at the physician's office.

Here's Mud in Your Eye

In a survey of approximately 200 facilities, the Fendall Company checked emergency shower and eye wash units for compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards. The results should encourage you to regularly flush your showers and eye wash units.

Here are some of the findings:

- Visible debris or coloration of water in 60%
- Bacterial counts > 500 cfu/ml in almost 33%
- *Pseudomonas* found in 58%

Shower and eye wash units are there to help in an accident, not to add infection to injury. Flush 'em!

Focus on Biosafety

If you are reasonably anticipated to have exposure to human blood, blood products, or other potentially infectious material, you should be covered under an Exposure Control Plan (ECP). It is the responsibility of your department to make sure that the ECP is updated at least annually, that you are trained, and that you are familiar with the provisions of the ECP.

If you think you should be covered by an ECP and don't know the provisions of your departmental ECP, see your department chair or call EH&S at 2740.

Are You Receiving Quality EH&S Services?

On a recent EH&S satisfaction survey, one person included the following statement regarding resolution of a citation from a regulatory agency: "EH&S offered recommendations and acted as a liaison between [the agency] and our department. The citation was handled professionally and quickly. Thanks to the entire department."

Although we realize that we can't make everyone this happy, we want to provide the best quality services with the resources available. Help us improve service by telling us how we are doing.

U of M Joins Environmental Alliance

We are pleased to announce that The University of Memphis has joined the 31 member College and University Environmental Management System (EMS) Alliance. Members of the Alliance have shown a commitment to work toward development and implementation of environmental management systems that apply proven business management practices to address environmental concerns.

By taking a proactive approach on environmental issues, the University will work to protect the environment, minimize costs, and comply with legal requirements.

EH&S Gets Wheels

After years of moving things around by muscle power, EH&S finally has wheels. A Cushman Haulster[®] was recently acquired for moving equipment and hazardous materials on campus. If you see the little yellow and black Haulster[®] moving around campus, give us a friendly wave.



Cushman Haulster

Make a Spectacle of Your Safety Eye Wear

If you wear prescription lenses under your safety glasses or goggles, you understand how uncomfortable and inconvenient that can be. Well, this may be your lucky day: Ron MacDonald found a product that might eliminate this problem in a cost effective manner.

Direct Safety recently introduced Optx 20/20[®] HydroTac Lenses. The Optx lenses easily affix to the inside of safety eye wear and may be removed with minimal effort. Available only in prescriptions from +1.25 diopters to +3.00 diopters, each set of lenses costs \$17.95 plus shipping.

If you need a more comfortable, affordable alternative to your current safety eye wear, this may be worth trying. Contact Direct Safety at 1-800-528-7405.

Don't forget to wear your splash goggles when working with chemicals that may be splashed in the eyes!

Committee Structures Changed

The Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) and the Chemical Hygiene Committee (CHC) are now part of the standing committee structure for the University. Previously, these committees were subcommittees of the University Standing Committee on Safety. The RSC and CHC are appointed by the President.

The RSC governs the possession and use of radioactive materials and radiation producing devices at the University. The *Radiation Safety Manual* issued by the Committee serves as the official University procedure on this subject. The CHC governs the development and implementation of the Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Program. This program serves as the official University procedure in chemical hygiene matters.

Sources of Assistance

Manager 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	
.	http://www.people.memphis.edu/~ehas/

New on the EH&S Web Page

Several new items have been included on the EH&S web page. These include:

- Recommended medical treatment for HF burns (Go to “Chemical Safety” and look for “HF Burns” under the links.)
- Guide to Hazardous Waste Management (Go to “Laboratory Safety,” click on “Waste Management,” then click on the appropriate area.)
- Disposal of Electronic Devices (Follow the instructions for the waste guide - above.)
- Odor Thresholds for Chemicals (Go to “Chemical Safety” and look under the links.)
- Anthrax Facts from the CDC (Go to “Biosafety” and look under the links.)
- Mycology Online (Go to “Biosafety” and click on the appropriate link.)
- Doctor Fungus (Same as above.)
- USA PATRIOT Act (Same as above.)

Laboratory Accidents on Increase

Over the last year or so, laboratory accidents seem to be increasing. Most of the accidents that have been brought to our attention appear to be people-related.

One example involved someone who tried to identify a colorless, unlabeled liquid by sniffing - and got a very unpleasant lesson.

Other examples included personnel receiving cuts from broken glassware and being burned by picking up hot crucibles and Bunsen burners.

Here are some basic safety tips to remember:

- Ensure that all containers are properly labeled.
- Don't smell anything in an attempt to identify the chemical.
- Don't pick up broken glassware with your bare hands.
- Be aware of temperature hazards and use the proper personal protective equipment.
- Anticipate the worst and prepare for it.

New Training Materials Available

EH&S recently acquired new videos to help train laboratory personnel on proper hazardous waste management techniques. “Hazardous Waste Management at Laboratories and Research Facilities” is in two parts, each approximately 15 minutes long.

Personnel in your lab who manage hazardous waste are required to have annual training. Why not use these as part of your annual training?

Call EH&S to borrow videos for training.

EH&S Moves Under Provost Area

Just in case you have not heard, on July 11, 2001, Dr. Shirley Raines announced that Environmental Health and Safety would move from the Division of Business and Finance to the Provost area, reporting to the Vice Provost for Research.

EH&S will continue to serve the needs of the entire University while working more closely with researchers.

Environmental Health & Safety Staff

Alton Simpson, Manager of EH&S

Ronald W. MacDonald, Laboratory Safety Specialist

Frank Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist

David Sanders, Student Assistant



Environmental Health and Safety
216 Browning Hall
Memphis, TN 38152-3340