

Laboratory Renovations Signal New Era

Many of you endured weeks or months of disruption as ventilation systems were upgraded and new fume hoods installed in your labs. As a result of your patience, phases I and II of the fume hood project are virtually complete.

The project included state of the art ventilation systems that should provide you with an unprecedented level of safety. As part of a commissioning process, new fume hoods demonstrated the ability to prevent escape of more than 0.1 part per million of a tracer gas released at 4 liters per minute in the hood.

Phase III of the project should be under construction by summer. The \$3.625 million dollars allocated for Phase III should complete work in J.M. Smith Hall and may begin additional work in Life Sciences.



Renovated Chemistry Lab with New Hoods

That Unlabeled Bottle Can Hurt You!

Containers of unknown chemicals pose a serious safety risk, violate OSHA regulations, and cost a bundle for disposal. In an effort to encourage everyone

to properly label all chemical containers and effectively manage inventories, EH&S is now charging - \$100.00 per bottle for disposal of unknown chemicals.

You can avoid this cost and the associated risks by properly identifying the contents of each container.

Why is EH&S Always Pickin' on Me?

It seems that EH&S is constantly bugging someone, wanting an inventory, an exposure control plan, hazardous waste, and even time for training. One of our primary duties is to assist you with meeting requirements of innumerable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, codes, plus standards and internal policies/procedures. Meeting these requirements helps you promote a safe and healthful workplace, minimize liability exposure to yourself and the University, and protect the environment.

Next time we bug you, we hope you understand that your mom was right: "It's for your own good."

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/

EPA Fines More Universities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to keep its promise to hold colleges and universities accountable for violations of environmental laws. On November 7, 2002, the EPA announced a total of \$1.1 million in proposed penalties for alleged violations at Columbia University, Long Island University, and New Jersey City University. An earlier issue of this newsletter noted OSHA violations at Columbia that resulted in a proposed penalty of \$77,500.

Alleged violations (not necessarily found at each university) included the following:

- Failure to minimize the risk of fire, explosion, and/or release of hazardous chemicals into the environment
- Failure to determine if solid wastes were hazardous wastes
- Failure to obtain a permit to store hazardous waste or comply with regulations exempting storage from permitting requirements
- Failure to train employees in proper hazardous waste management techniques

Some of the wastes included in the complaints included picric acid, fluorescent bulbs, computer monitors, mercury, and organic solvents.

Do your part to manage hazardous wastes wisely.

Did You Decontaminate that Thing?

If you are sending a piece of scientific equipment to Surplus or having it repaired, don't forget to properly decontaminate the equipment first. After it is clean, affix a completed copy of the new Equipment Release Form to the equipment to let everyone know that it is safe to handle. The form and instructions are on our web site under "Downloads."

Save Money on Radiation Dosimeters

Because we must notify the radiation dosimeter vendor at least 35 days in advance to cancel a dosimeter, departments can have the misfortune of paying for rings and badges that are not needed. When you know the date that a dosimeter will no longer be needed, make sure that your department notifies Ron MacDonald or Al Simpson by e-mail as soon as possible. We will act promptly to cancel the dosimeter and prevent billing your department unnecessarily.

Has your department updated its hazardous material inventory for 2002? Help avoid fines by sending your updated inventory to EH&S immediately!

Lab Health & Safety Seminar a Success!

Sixty-one people from 10 departments attended the Laboratory Health and Safety Seminar in August. Lonnie Crosby from Chemistry won the grand prize donated by Teris NA. Door prizes from Scott Specialty Gases and Cole-Parmer were also awarded.

Thanks for making the seminar a continuing success! We appreciate the kind words included with many of the evaluation sheets. And it really makes us happy when you stop one of us in the hall and say that you learned something helpful.

New on the EH&S Web Page

Several new items have been added to the EH&S web page at <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~ehas/>. Some of these include:

- Equipment Release Form and instructions - Go to "Downloads"
- Model Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan - Go to "Downloads" (also available from EH&S as a Microsoft Word file)
- Links to information about the Biosafety Committee, Chemical Hygiene Committee, and Radiation Safety Committee - Go to appropriate section and scroll down to the link
- Museum Safety - Go to "Safety Links," scroll down to "Other Links," and scroll to the link

Goodbye, Jovita

Jovita Taty has served as Coordinator of Chemistry Labs for the past 3.5 years. In addition to her obvious duties in the labs, she runs the Chemistry Storeroom, manages hazardous waste, and promotes safety.

Jovita will soon leave the University to be a full-time mom. We thank Jovita for being a wonderful co-worker and friend to the folks in EH&S. We hope all of you will join us in wishing her the best.

Physical Plant and EH&S Work Together to Protect Environment

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Physical Plant who attended our hazardous waste training. We would especially like to thank Physical Plant employees Brad Frewin and Lynne Owens for inviting us over and providing a conducive environment for learning.

We appreciate the continuing effort by Physical Plant employees to improve safety and promote environmental compliance. Thanks for asking us to be part of the equation.

Shippers, Beware

Employees who load, unload, handle, prepare for transportation, or perform certain other functions impacting shipment of hazardous materials must be properly trained and certified. If you are not trained and certified, don't ship hazardous materials. And please remember that something as common as a can of paint may be a hazardous material.

Failure to obey the law can result in fines up to \$27,500 per violation and/or imprisonment.

Environmental Health & Safety Staff

Alton Simpson, Manager of EH&S
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