



notes

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY

Summer Can Bring Severe Weather - Not Just Spring

Over a month ago an EF-5 tornado ripped a mile-wide swath of Joplin into an unrecognizable path of death and destruction. That was spring. Now it's officially summer and the warmer temperatures and increased humidity come with the ever-present threat of severe thunderstorms. By definition, a severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that contains any one or more of the following three weather conditions: hail that is 3/4 of an inch or greater in diameter, winds 58 miles per hour or greater, and tornadoes. Truth is, severe weather including tornadoes can occur at any time and place.

To help us prepare for severe weather, the National Weather Service has adopted a Watch and Warning program. A Watch means just that. This is the time to prepare. Keep alert by listening to a weather radio or the commercial media. A Warning means the severe weather event is imminent. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life saving action.

EHS encourages everyone to be prepared, at

Tornado Watch: means that conditions are favorable for tornado development.

Tornado Warning: This means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.

work and home, of ever-changing weather patterns. Stay turned to local media when severe weather threatens, and have a NOAA weather radio with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology in your home and

office. SAME allows you to program the radio to specific county(ies) you wish to receive alerts and avoid others from distant locations.

EHS fields several inquiries from people concerned that they could not hear outside warning sirens inside their building. The sirens are called outdoor warning sirens because their primary purpose is to alert people who are outside to severe weather, chemical, or other emergencies. While you may be able to hear the siren inside your building, this is not the primary function of the outdoor warning siren. If you hear an outdoor warning siren you should seek shelter inside immediately.

Once inside, you should turn on a television or radio to find out further information. Local

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EHS***Director's Desk*****Reflections**

This will be my last article as Director of EHS. My wife and I are returning to Illinois to be closer to family, especially grandchildren. On August 1, Maureen Kotlas will take over as EHS Director. Having known Maureen professionally for several years, I am sure she will do a great job.

Since this is my last article, a little reflection is the norm. First, I must thank my staff, who are so passionate about their jobs. They help create a safe working and learning environment, and keep the campus in compliance with a wide variety of regulations. Without their expertise and dedication, I would not have had any accomplishments during my tenure. I leave the campus in very good hands. Second, I want to thank the many faculty and staff who have such a strong collaborative culture here at Mizzou. This collaborative culture seems to permeate all activities and is exactly what is needed to have strong safety and compliance programs. Remember, EHS is not responsible for safety, but we sure like to help.

I have been at MU for almost 12 years and there have been a number of significant events during that time. By far, the most defining event was the terrorist events of 9/11. Those attacks sent ripple effects throughout society and have significantly affected our safety activities in ways that were not expected prior to that event. In our EHS world, the regulatory agencies

now take security every bit as seriously as they do safety. This issue has been a challenge, since academia values an open atmosphere. 9/11 also started the wheels in motion for campuses everywhere, including MU, to greatly enhance their emergency response capabilities. Although it is difficult to be fully prepared for any possible emergency, I am impressed by the thoughtful and detailed efforts that have gone into emergency preparedness by all campus departments. We should all be proud of these efforts.

Our EHS home web page says that you should expect the following from EHS:

- Prompt, professional service
- We will listen to you and understand your needs
- We will work with you to devise an appropriate course of action
- We will be on your side rather than a part of the problem

We try to anticipate your needs, but you know them better than us. We value all constructive comments and suggestions—please send them our way.

Thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a great run.

Peter Ashbrook

Retirement Reception

Please join the staff of EHS for a Retirement Reception Honoring

Peter Ashbrook

July 21, 2011, 2:00pm - 4:30pm
Room 194 General Services Building

Severe Weather Continued

officials will be disseminating information about the emergency through these outlets. Note that in Boone County, the sirens are sounded whenever a tornado is identified anywhere in the county. If you hear a siren and subsequently find that the tornado is well away from your location and moving away, there is no need to continue taking shelter. No "All Clear" signal will be sounded; sirens are used only for warning. This must be made clear to all occupants of your building.

A Building Specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is critical while preparing for emergencies. Generally the responsibility lies with the Building Coordinator to develop, communicate, and implement this plan. A vital part of an EAP is assuring that all employees have been notified of the emergency, and taking a head count at the designated assembly point(s). Each building occupant must be aware of the content along with their role and responsibility. Immediate response is vital!

For information on how to prepare for severe weather, or any kind of disaster, a good resource is the Columbia Office of Emergency Management website at www.gocolumbiamo.com/EM. Also see our website <http://ehs.missouri.edu>

David Dorth
Safety Representative

Battery Recycling Program Enhancements

Rechargeable battery recycling collection sites are being increased at MU facilities as the result of a new initiative proposed and implemented by EHS, in conjunction with the MU Sustainability Office, Sustain Mizzou, and Call2Recycle.

The new battery collection boxes have already been delivered to some locations as part of an initial pilot project. Soon more boxes, labels, and guidance documents will be delivered to many additional sites. Though the initial phase is directed at Building Coordinators, other areas and departments will be identified and serviced as well. Certainly, if you contact EHS by email or telephone with a request, a site visit and supplies will be provided promptly.

The guidance documents provide information regarding proper use of the materials supplied, as well as clarification about the types of batteries suitable for collection. In general, rechargeable batteries are acceptable, including: Lead Acid (Pb acid), Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH), and Lithium-ion (Li-ion). As they are not rechargeable, button batteries (Silver, Mercury, Lithium, etc.), Lithium Primary, and leaking lead acid batteries must be managed by EHS through other disposal outlets, and should be collected separately (please contact EHS for additional details). Alkaline batteries, which are not rechargeable or recyclable, should be discarded in the trash. Also suitable for the battery collection boxes are cellular telephones (with or without the battery).

The "Rechargeable Battery and Cell Phone Recycling Program Guidelines" document is available here: <http://ehs.missouri.edu/chem/pdf/battery-handling-procedures.pdf>

For additional information, to request a box (or service for an existing box) and/or other supplies, please telephone EHS HMS at 882-3736.

Roger Giles
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Recall of Triad Alcohol Pads and Related Products

On January 5, 2011, Triad Group issued a voluntary product recall of all lots of alcohol prep pads, alcohol swabs, and alcohol swabsticks (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm239219.htm>). Many of these products were manufactured under private labels, such as Cardinal Health, PSS Select, VersPro, Boca/Ultilet, Moore Medical, Walgreens, CVS, and Conzellan. These products can be identified where "Triad Group" is listed as the manufacturer. The recall was initiated due to concerns of potential contamination with the organism, *Bacillus cereus*. To date there has only been one report of a non-life threatening skin infection.

If you have one of these products, you should return it to the place of purchase for a full refund or contact Triad Group Customer Service ((262) 538-2900) between 8:30am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

EHS appreciates campus support of environmental and safety issues. If you have any special needs regarding the format of this publication, or have any comments regarding newsletters, training programs or services, please direct your communications to Rebecca Bergfield, Editor at the above address.

NRC Inspection

From May 23 till May 27 of this year the Research and Development component of MU's Broad Scope Radioactive Materials license was inspected by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reviewed many of EHS' written records, but spent a majority of their time conducting walk through inspections of the campus research laboratories and conducted interviews and discussions with several Authorized Users.

We received no violations: a perfect score.

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to those Authorized Users, their Radiation Workers and other staff who not only took time out of their busy schedules the week of the inspection to support the walk through inspections, but also for the behind the scenes support by our own Radiation Safety Staff, Radiation Safety and Medical Quorum committee members, and the high-quality stewardships of campus authorizations all of which were essential to the success of this important inspection.

Thank you.

Jack Crawford
Assistant Director, EHS