



# n o t e s

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

### 15 Passenger Van Driving Safety

In April of 2001, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a cautionary warning for 15 passenger vans and their propensity to rollover. According to the NHTSA study, "vans with ten or more occupants have three (3) times the rollover ratio than those with fewer than ten occupants." The report goes on to state "the decrease in stability under fully loaded conditions correlates to an increase in the rollover risk of approximately 40 percent." NHTSA said in its notice of caution that it is important that 15 passenger vans be operated by experienced drivers and that institutions using the vans require seat belt use at all times. NHTSA made this information available because of these findings and because of several highly publicized rollover accidents involving 15 passenger vans loaded with college students (often driven by a fellow student rather than a professional driver). This report was also due to concerns related to passenger van crashes involving transportation of college sports teams in the last year. All but one of these crashes involved rollover of a 15 passenger van. More recently there was a feature presentation by *60 Minutes II* bringing this issue to the public.

In light of the above, the UM Risk and Insurance Management office suggests that departmental policies on 15 passenger vans be reviewed and include the following recommendations:

1. **All 15 passenger vans are limited to a capacity of 10 people.** The NHSTA report

noted that vans with more than 10 people had a higher rollover rate.

2. **Vehicle operators should**

**assure that all their passengers are wearing their seat belts.** The NHTSA indicates that you can reduce your chance of being killed in a rollover by about 75% just by wearing a seat belt.

3. **Limit speed to 65 MPH on all 15 passenger vans (slower during various conditions).** In most of the van accidents reported, speed was a contributing factor.

4. **No driver younger than 21 should be allowed to drive a 15 passenger van.** All drivers should be a University of Missouri employee or recognized volunteer.

5. **There should be no roof racks or trailer hitches on the vehicles.** Luggage and gear should be stored in the vehicle (with a limit of ten passengers, there will be more storage area, however, the rear window should not be blocked by luggage).

6. **For long distance trips, drivers should rotate every two hours.** We recommend a maximum driving shift of two hours with no driver taking more than three shifts. The maximum driving day with three drivers should not exceed 18 hours.

7. **Driving through the night is not permitted.** Do not drive past midnight. Front passengers should remain awake to help keep the driver alert during all shifts. (Cont. on Page 4)

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## Director's Desk

### Biological Hazards

In the past, regulatory agencies developed significant regulations concerning the use of radioactive materials and hazardous chemicals. Today, biological materials are receiving the same kind of regulatory scrutiny.

Almost a year ago, Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act, which, among other things, placed limitations on those who could work with select agents. In response, last January EHS worked with the Office of Research to conduct a survey that identified potentially affected researchers on campus. All those working with select agents were advised of the restrictions and other regulatory concerns. In August, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) adopted a reporting regulation that required facilities all over the country to report whether they had any of 62 select agents or high consequence livestock pathogens and toxins. The deadline for reporting was September 10. Again, EHS worked with the Office of Research to conduct a survey to collect the information required by these regulatory agencies. EHS filed the required report for the campus. Many reporting forms were sent to individuals on campus and all of these needed to be returned. If you received one of these reporting forms and still have it, please forward it to EHS.

Those of you who understand biological hazards may have noticed that I have yet to mention plant pathogens. Don't worry; USDA has proposed information requirements for these, too. Using the proposed regulations, we collected information on plant pathogens in the same survey we used to collect information for the September 10 report,

with the hope that we will not have to conduct yet another survey when the final regulations come out. We very much appreciate the cooperation of campus faculty in responding to these surveys.

As with all EHS programs, feel free to contact us if you have questions about working safely with biological agents or regulatory issues.

*Peter Ashbrook*

### How Am I Doing?

The MU Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) Program helps faculty and staff provide safe and healthy workplaces where chemicals and other hazardous materials are used and stored. An important aspect of the program is the routine periodic review of hazardous materials areas through the HMM Monitoring Program administered by the Support Operations Group in the Hazardous Materials Management Section. Recently, a question was received asking to what the Lab Classification at the top of the monitoring form referred. The Lab Classification number (Roman numerals I, II, or III) is a quick way to ascertain the result of a monitoring visit. The HMM Monitoring Program Lab Classification system is summarized below:

Class I is assigned when at least one Unwanted Materials Concern (an "N" in any of the item 1 through 8 boxes on the monitoring form) was observed during the monitoring visit. The Unwanted Materials Concern items are tied to federal and state hazardous waste regulatory requirements as well as MU environmental compliance requirements. As such they must be corrected as soon as possible, preferably during the monitoring visit. When an Unwanted Materials Concern is corrected at the time of monitoring, then the person performing the monitoring will note the fact in the comments associated with the item. If an Unwanted Materials Concern is not corrected at the time of monitoring, then the person who made the initial

monitoring visit will return within three working days for a follow-up visit to make sure the problem was corrected. A location with Unwanted Materials Concerns that remain uncorrected after the initial and follow-up visits, undergo administrative review and, if necessary, follow-up by either myself or Todd Houts, Assistant Director.

Class II is assigned when no Unwanted Materials Concerns were observed, but at least one Good Materials Concerns (an "N" in any of the item 9 through 11 boxes on the monitoring form) was observed during the monitoring visit. These items are tied to MU chemical safety requirements. While serious, uncorrected chemical safety concerns can lead to Unwanted Materials Concerns, most of the time the observations are brought to the attention of the laboratory personnel along with recommendations for improvement. Good Materials Concerns should be addressed in a timely manner, if possible no later than your next monitoring visit. The monitoring team will review progress in this area at each monitoring visit.

Class III is assigned when no Unwanted Materials Concerns or Good Materials Concerns were observed during the monitoring visit (a "Y" in all of the item 1 through 11 boxes on the monitoring form). This indicates general compliance with the MU HMM Program only.

Class IV is assigned to the final monitoring visit for hazardous materials areas that are being closed out.

Items 12 through 39 on the monitoring form do not impact the Lab Classification for a location. Items 12 through 16 are for EHS use only. Items 17 through 35 indicate potential problems with MU safety requirements administered by the Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety Section. Items 36 through 39 indicate potential problems with the MU Radiation Safety Program administered by the Radiation Safety Section.

We very much appreciate everyone's help with establishing and maintaining healthy, safe workplaces here at MU. The HMM Monitoring

Program provides a vital service in judging the success of everyone's effort and identifying areas for future improvement.

**Russell S. Hanson**

Manager of HMM Support Operations

## MU Radiation Safety Committee

MU Campus maintains the Broad Scope License issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for radioactive materials use. Some types of radioactive materials are regulated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. MU is required to establish a Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) to oversee all uses of radioactive materials on Campus and to advise the Chancellor, through the Vice Provost for Research, on all matters relating to safe use of radiation. You can find more information on the RSC functions and activities in the Web Radiation Safety Manual.

When the new academic year starts, the Vice Provost for Research appoints members and assigns the chairperson to the Committee. The Committee's membership is constituted to satisfy the regulatory requirements. A representative from campus management and persons knowledgeable in the application and uses of radioactive materials are included in the committee membership. The RSC also has an Alternate Chair and several alternate members. The Vice Provost for Research has recently made new appointments and these are visible on the EHS website: <http://web.missouri.edu/~muehs/draft/newrsm2/rsc.htm>

The Radiation Safety Committee Representative is a valuable resource in your lab's radiation safety program establishment and development. When you have questions regarding your department or unit radiation safety issues, you may first contact your Radiation Safety Committee Representative.

**Lidia Litinski**

Radiation Safety Officer

## Van Driving (Cont. from Page 1)

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) also recommends that all drivers of 15 passenger vans attend training specific to driving vans. EHS offers *Coaching the Van Driver II* by the National Safety Council and FLI Learning System Inc. The course is designed in a non-lecture, structured discussion format. The course includes topics such as: Vehicle Inspection/Vehicle Characteristics, Safe Driving Skills, Driving Environments, Special Considerations, Transporting Cargo and Transporting Passengers. The preferred method of delivering

this course is a classroom-based program of 1¼ hours up to 4 hours depending on your needs. This course can also be used as a self-study/assessment program. We also offer classroom-based courses on general defensive driving as well. If you are interested in these or other training programs, please contact Rebecca Bergfield, Training and Development Coordinator at 882-7018.

**David G. Dorth**, Safety Coordinator  
(With information from UM Risk and Insurance Management Office)



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## Do I need a Temporary Food Permit?

The Temporary Food Permit was developed by Environmental Health and Safety to allow the Sanitarian to track food that is being served at locations other than the normal serving area. That is to say that a group that wishes to have a function at, say, Stankowski Field and wishes to serve food would need a Temporary Food Permit as no one normally eats at Stankowski Field. If you or your group wish to have an event and

serve food at it, you will probably need a Temporary Food Permit. They are easy to get and many can be done with a phone call or by e-mail.

This is the information you will need to provide: Name of event, location of event, date of event, time of event, group name, contact person, phone number, fax number (if you wish it faxed), address, e-mail address, menu, and caterer if used.

Once this information is provided a permit may be issued. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Sanitarian, 882-7018.

**Dick Fancher**, Sanitarian

*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.*