



n o t e s

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety Within Your Department

What safety concerns do you have involving your work? If you share a building with other departments, are there security issues that need to be shared between these departments? Does your department have a forum for bringing up safety concerns?

In September 2000, Peter Ashbrook, the director of EHS, suggested the department start its own safety committee. EHS is committed to safety on campus and that includes our own department as well. The suggested goals of this committee were as follows:

1. Review all accidents, if any, to EHS staff during the period, and make recommendations if needed for changes in procedures and equipment needs.
2. Review EHS policies on personal protective equipment (PPE), and make recommendations for changes if needed.
3. Consider safety issues as appropriate.

The EHS safety committee has met several times since the committee was formed. Typically the committee meets once a semester and once during the summer. Meeting times vary from one half to one hour, depending on the topics covered. Some of the topics that have been discussed have included the most common injuries to EHS personnel (back and lifting injuries), fire/safety drills, safety orientation for new employees, and

building security. As a result of the committee, regular back safety and lifting classes have been held to make all EHS personnel aware of the hazards. EHS has participated in

several fire drills and state emergency weather drills. There has also been a heightened awareness of the safety and security issues associated with working at EHS. Most importantly, employees have a comfortable forum for bringing up safety concerns about their work. Can the same be said for your department?

If you, or other members of your department or building, have concerns about safety, please consider forming a safety committee. Remember, the meetings don't have to take a lot of time and can be very beneficial for communicating safety practices and concerns to everyone involved. If you would like suggestions on how to go about setting up your own safety committee, please contact Rebecca Bergfield at 882-7018.

Rebecca Ann Bergfield
Training Coordinator

BITES AND STINGS

During the summer months we tend spend more time outside and have a greater exposure to bites and stings. Basic first aid information concerning different forms of bites and stings can be useful at these times. (Continued on page 4.)

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Director's Desk

Progress when Budgets are Tight

No surprise here—the budget cuts and uncertainties have cast a pall on EHS staff this past year. However, EHS should take considerable pride in all we have been able to accomplish in spite of budget constraints. Let me give you a taste of what I am talking about.

In our Radiation Safety program, we worked with medical users to implement new regulations issued by the NRC last October. We have been working with our consultant to prepare a renewal application for our broad scope medical license from NRC, which occurs once every 10 years.

In our Hazardous Materials Management program, we began posting signs by laboratories to alert emergency responders to potential hazards. We worked with the City and County to submit a joint storm water management plan under a newly required state program.

In the Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety program, we completed the campus' first Biosafety Manual. We submitted registration materials to CDC under the newly required select agent program. EHS also coordinated a campus working group to oversee a pilot program to facilitate the return of injured employees to work.

Administratively, we are experiencing the benefits of a two-year effort to overhaul our data management programs. And I haven't even mentioned changes in our routine programs to monitor safety and compliance, provide training, respond to incidents requiring immediate attention, and submit numerous regulatory reports.

We are proud of these achievements, but I am especially excited that we have many more changes in the works. Perhaps the biggest is a new on-line safety orientation to introduce all new employees to MU safety policies and programs. Almost as big, is an overhaul of the unwanted hazardous materials pickup request procedures which will allow users to prepare and submit pickup requests electronically.

These changes are intended to make it easier for the campus community to obtain services from EHS and at the same time to make EHS more efficient. EHS has tried to be responsive to campus needs, but if you have suggestions about changes EHS could make to help us serve you better, this is an especially good time to let us know.

Peter Ashbrook

HMM: A Fresh Look

In April 2002, I became an Assistant Director at EHS, with oversight of the Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) section. Since then, my staff and I have taken a hard look at all our programs, with an eye toward reducing complexity while increasing safety and environmental compliance. The fruits of this labor are just beginning to appear, so I decided to announce some of the changes we've made in the program. You can expect to see continual change and improvement in HMM over the coming months.

The foundation of the chemical use program lies in the creation of Registered Users (RU), campus individuals charged with the responsibility of safe hazardous chemical use in workplaces under their control. Formerly, potential RUs completed an application and had to attend the EHS training course, "Introduction to Hazardous Materials Management." This course tried to meet the training needs of both potential RUs and the chemical workers they supervised. We have now overhauled the process for becoming an RU. The application form has been

updated and streamlined. Once received, an HMM staff member will visit the potential RU's workplace, evaluate the chemicals in use and provide on-the-spot training specific to the needs of the potential RU. By fall, the introductory classroom course will be revamped to focus on the needs of chemical workers.

One of the duties of new and existing RUs is maintenance of a web-based inventory of their chemicals. This online system has also been streamlined to allow faster data entry and easier management once chemicals are entered. We still welcome comments on this improved system. RUs are encouraged to explore the updated system on our website at: <<http://web.missouri.edu/~muehs/invento.htm>>. Email links in the new system allow you to send feedback from any page.

HMM-required labels have also been overhauled. The orange biohazard label (dated 8/85) is being phased out. This label was initially needed because biohazard containers provided by EHS were not pre-printed with the universal biohazard symbol. This has not been the case for some time. In instances where some label is needed, such as when you are requesting collection of a container by HMM staff on the Pick Up Request Form (PURF), you can use a Hazardous Materials Label (HML) instead. Concerning the latter, you'll probably receive ones that look a little different when you exhaust your current supply. The HML has been redesigned (new size: 3"x5") to match current program needs. If you find you don't have enough room to list all of your components, a matching continuation label is available. (This label must be used in conjunction with an HML, not instead of the HML.) You can also speed processing of your chemical (not radioactive) PURF by sending it directly to our field location. Their fax number is 884-5270 and their campus mail address is simply "RRC". If you find more than two weeks have passed since submission of your PURF, please give us a call at 882-3736.

I'll mention one other new program in this newsletter, Campus' new Emergency Response Sign Program. These full-color signs will be placed outside of all areas where hazardous

materials are in use and will summarize the physical, chemical, biological, and radioactive hazards of the space, as well as list contact information for the responsible parties. This program will be phased in building by building over the next year or so.

HMM certainly welcomes your input. Feel free to email me <houtst@missouri.edu> or call me (882-7018) anytime with comments or suggestions on how we can improve the safe use of hazardous materials at Mizzou.

Todd Houts

Assistant Director - HMM

Alphabet Soup

Some people are terrible at remembering names. Others, are terrible at remembering abbreviations. Below is a list of common abbreviations used by EHS in an attempt to explain the language typically surrounding our department and safety issues on campus.

EHS: Environmental Health and Safety

HMM: Hazardous Materials Management

RSS: Radiation Safety Staff

IHOSS: Industrial Hygiene, Occupations Safety Staff

RPDB: Research Park Development Building, by the Taylor Baseball Stadium, where the EHS administrative offices are held.

RRC: Resource Recovery Center – the part of EHS at 1710 East Campus Loop, by the Animal Science Resource Center, where the chemical recycling program is housed.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

DNR: Department of Natural Resources

NRC: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PURF: Pick-Up Request Form, the form one fills out to request a pick-up of unwanted materials by EHS.

HML: Hazardous Materials Label, the yellow label used to label unwanted material.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

Bites and Stings (Cont.)

There are only two spiders in the United States whose bite can make you seriously sick or can be fatal – the black widow and the brown recluse. Spider bites usually occur on the hands and arms of people reaching into places such as wood, rock, and brush piles or rummaging in dark areas. Only a few species of scorpions have a sting that can cause death. If you think someone has been bitten by a black widow or brown recluse or stung by a scorpion, wash the wound, apply a cold pack to the site, and get medical help immediately.

Snakebites kill very few people in the United States. Of the 8,000 people bitten annually in the United States, less than 12 die.



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Rattlesnakes account for most of the snakebites and snakebite deaths. To care for someone bitten by a snake, wash the wound, immobilize the injured area, keeping it lower than the heart, if possible, and call 911.

Insect stings are painful and can be fatal. Some people have severe allergic reactions to insect stings. This allergic reaction may result in a breathing emergency. If someone is having a breathing emergency call 911.

This information is taken directly from the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Program Participant's Booklet. For more first aid information please attend one of the **free** CPR and First Aid classes offered by EHS. A schedule of these and other classes can be found at <<http://web.missouri.edu/~muehs/schedule.htm>>.

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.

