



notes

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness that affects the central nervous system. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. For most, risk is low. Less than 1 percent of people who are bitten by mosquitoes develop any symptoms of the disease and relatively few mosquitoes actually carry WNV.

Serious symptoms develop only in a few people. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. If you develop a high fever with a severe headache, consult your health care provider.

Mosquitoes infected with WNV spread the disease. Mosquitoes can become carriers when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite. WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

Birds with WNV have been found throughout Boone County. Reporting dead birds for testing purposes is no longer necessary. However, at the University you should report a dead bird or animal to Landscape Services at 882-4240. The local health department (874-7346) is still taking reports of dead birds to identify areas of high risk

for mosquitoes. The species most susceptible to WNV are crows, blue jays, and raptors (birds of prey) such as red tailed hawks and owls.

Additional information on West Nile Virus can be found at the following web sites:

City/County Public Health Department:
www.gocolumbiamo.com/Health/Environmental_Health/West_Nile/west_nile_facts.html

Centers for Disease Control:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/q&a.htm

Contact Roy Parsons (882-7018) if you have any questions.

Roy

Parsons

Biosafety

Officer

Reducing Chemical Costs

There are several ways Registered Users can reduce internal costs as well as costs to the entire University. Review your procedures on a regular basis to determine if less initial materials or less hazardous materials can be used. Determine if excess materials from one procedure can be used for another purpose. (For example – can the “spent” solvents from one experiment be used for glassware cleaning?)
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Director's Desk

Recognizing Good Safety Performance

Elsewhere in this issue we have presented lists of Authorized Users and Registered Users who had clean inspection records for all of 2003. We ran into some interesting challenges and concerns in putting these lists together.

First, the most active locations are not well-represented on these lists, especially in the case of research laboratories using hazardous materials. This is most likely because they tend to have the most materials and the most activity, which also means that EHS is more likely to encounter a deficiency. If you are responsible for or work in an active area please don't get discouraged if you are not on the list; rather, use the list as a motivator to do better in the future.

Second, if you or your laboratory is on this list, please don't assume that your area will always have good performance. Attention to safety is a constant need. Also, if you have multiple locations, please don't assume that all of them met the listing criteria. We want all your locations to have good inspections.

Although some laboratories had an easier time of it making these recognition lists, we certainly want to congratulate everyone on each list for their good performance. Remember that safety is everyone's responsibility. EHS can provide guidance and will work with you on safety issues, but it is ultimately up to the people doing the work to do it safely.

Peter Ashbrook

Reducing Chemical Costs (Continued)

Always check the free EHS recycled chemical inventory before making new chemical purchases. We invite you to shop our inventory online via the EHS website or browse in person at the Resource Recovery Center on East Campus Loop near Trowbridge. (Special summer hours are in effect until August 13: Monday-Thursday 7:30-4:30 and Fridays 10-4:30.)

Lastly, a special note for users who produce biological (pathological) waste: MU pays for this waste BY THE POUND not by the container. However, there is a severe financial penalty for overweight containers. The cardboard containers should weigh less than 40 pounds and the plastic tubs less than 50 pounds. Users who dispose of gels in these tubs need to be extra cautious. If you're not sure of the container weight - it's better to under fill the container rather than overfill it. Overfilling containers by as little as 10 pounds will cause the disposal cost to almost double due to this penalty.

Todd Houts
Assistant Director, EHS

New faces at EHS

If you use radioactive materials you may have noticed that you saw the same few EHS staff people a lot. This was because we had three vacancies out of nine positions. In March, we filled these positions as follows: Jack Crawford filled the Health Physicist slot, and Rob Kamp and Adam Holloway were hired as Environmental Health Technicians. Needless to say, the continuing Radiation Safety staff is very happy to have them join us.

Debbie Sorrell has replaced Amy Barrett as the Assistant Fire Marshal who works jointly with the Columbia Fire Department and EHS. Amy has returned to full time firefighter duty.

If you encounter Jack, Rob, Adam, or Debbie be sure to welcome them to their new duties.

Good Laboratory Safety Performance

The following Authorized Users (AUs) had all (at least 4) inspections in 2003 without any radiation safety deficiencies being identified by EHS staff. Each AU is listed only once, even if they have multiple authorizations that met the inspection criteria.

Bajpai, Rakesh
 Bennett, Karen
 Booth, Frank
 Byington, Keith
 Cantley, Thomas
 Clarke, Lane
 David, John
 Demarco, Vincent
 Dixon, Lon
 England, Jack
 Folk, William
 Garverick, H. Allen
 Ghosh, Tushar
 Henzl, Michael
 Holland, Lene
 Jones, Allan
 Katti, Kattesh
 Lever, Susan
 Liscum III, Emmanuel
 Lucy, Matthew
 Martin, Mark
 McClure, Bruce
 McIntosh, Mark
 Milanick, Mark
 Newton, Kathleen
 Phillips, Charlotte
 Prather, Randall
 Ray, Bimal
 Riddle, Donald
 Rogers, Elizabeth
 Rubin, Leona
 Sauter, Edward
 Setzer, David
 Singh, Amolak
 Terjung, Ronald
 Veum, Trygve
 Weisman, Gary
 Westage, Steven

Beerntsen, Brenda
 Bondra, Mary
 Brown, Charles
 Cannon, John
 Chatterjee, Arun
 Cone, Karen
 Davis, Georgia
 Deutscher, Susan
 Eide, David
 Ernst, John
 Ganjam, V. K.
 Gates, Kent
 Hazelbauer, Gerald
 Hillman, Laura
 Hyder, Salman
 Jurisson, Silvia
 Lee, David
 Lim, Robert
 Lorson, Chris
 MacDonald, Ruth
 Mawhinney, Thomas
 McDonald, Kerry
 McMullen, Michael
 Mitra, Ranadhir
 Ortwerth, Beryl
 Pintel, David
 Quinn, Thomas
 Reneker, Lixing
 Riley, Lela
 Ross, Fred
 Rucker, Edmund
 Schmidt, Francis
 Shukla, Shivendra
 Smeda, Reid
 Tsika, Richard
 Vom Saal, Frederick
 Welshons, Wade
 Zaghouani, Habib

The following Registered Users (RUs) had all (at least 3) inspections in 2003 without any potential RCRA concerns being identified by EHS. Each RU is listed only once, even if they have multiple locations that met the inspection criteria.

Alberts, Edward
 Anthony, Robert
 Bailey, Wayne
 Beuselinck, Paul
 Brothers, John
 Collier, Derek
 Curry, Julia
 Darcy, Patricia
 Donald, William
 Elliott, Larry
 Esser, Mark
 Faust, George
 Fresenburg, Brad
 Gates, Kent
 Gerhardt Jr, Howard
 Giles, Roger
 Grant, Shelia
 Hall, Robert
 Hofen, Richard
 Humlicek, John
 Johnson, Gary
 Karr, Dale
 Kutikkad, Kiratadas
 Lee, Phillip
 Lin, Yuyi
 Lorenzen, Carol
 McIntosh, Bill
 McMullen, Michael
 Miles, Randall
 Osman, Robert
 Pearsall, Deborah
 Pollard, Sherry
 Reed, Robby
 Retzloff, David
 Sanders, Albert
 Schoelz, James
 Sleper, David
 Walls, Joseph
 Werner, Samuel
 Worley, Karen

Allee, Gary
 Ashbrook, Peter
 Ball, Raymond
 Blevins, Dale
 Coleman, Paul
 Cowell, Charles
 Curry, Randy
 David, John
 Dunkin, David
 Ernst, John
 Farmer, John
 Flatt, Curtis
 Garrett, Harold
 George, Milon
 Ghosh, Tushar
 Gowdy, Mary
 Haffey, Ronald
 Hayward, Robert
 Houseman, Richard
 Jen, Philip
 Kaiser, Helmut
 Kitchen, Newell
 Lattimer, Jimmy
 Leong, Lampo
 Linit, Marc
 Mawhinney, Thomas
 McKendry, Anne
 Mihail, Jeanne
 Miller, William
 Paxton, Charles
 Poehlmann, Carl
 Potter, Richard
 Reinbott, Timothy
 Robertson, John
 Scharf, Peter
 Sharp, Robert
 Wall, Judy
 Warmund, Michele
 Worcester, David

Congratulations to all AUs and RUs who work to maintain a safe environment for everyone at the University of Missouri - Columbia!

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY**

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Radiation Safety Committee Audit

One of the major Radiation Safety Committee activities is to perform the annual Audit of the Radiation Safety Program. The 2004 Audit is now in progress. The Committee members, organized in nine teams, have inspected all program areas, interviewed the Radiation Safety staff, and met with over half of all Authorized Users (AUs). Based on this experience they have made recommendations on the program's development and improvement. This article describes recent program changes as a result of past audits.

During its previous Audit, the Committee requested that EHS develop recommendations on radiation safety documentation retention. Our recommendations now state that all radiation safety related documents be retained for three years upon completion of the action referenced in these documents. For example, records of surveys should be retained for three years. Records of receipt, transfer, and disposal must be retained as long as material is possessed and for three years following their transfer/disposal.

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.

Many AUs interviewed by Committee members mentioned that the authorization application process, especially authorization renewal, could be simplified. I am pleased to inform you that the authorization renewal application package has recently become 40% "lighter". Please see the Web Radiation Safety Manual for details. In addition, we are working on the concept of the electronic filing of forms and applications.

A third issue is the security of radioactive materials, including very small quantities of materials that do not require labeling. The Radiation Safety Manual has been modified to state that "if the restricted area is required to be posted for radioactive materials, the restricted area must be supervised when unlocked, or the radioactive material (stock, samples, and waste) must be locked up or otherwise secured from unauthorized access". The Committee encourages all AUs to make necessary adjustments in their laboratory's programs.

Last, the Committee suggested that the Radiation Safety Manual be updated and be presented in a friendlier format. We are working on this task in connection with a general EHS website update. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to send them to me.

Lidia Litinski, Ph.D.
Radiation Safety Officer