EMS: New Name, New Training Requirements

The Hazardous Materials Management section of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has undergone several changes. The overall mission of the section has grown from just hazardous materials management, to prevention of air and water pollution. This former division of EHS is now the Environmental Management Section (EMS). It is comprised of two working groups: Hazardous Material Services (HMS) and Environmental Compliance Services (ECS).

Last fall, we revamped the training program; simplifying the number of worker categories and overhauling the program to focus more on general chemical safety. Because so much had changed, it was decided to require ALL chemical and ancillary workers to retrain under the new training program. EMS now offers two HMS training courses for workers: “Chemical Management for CHEMICAL Workers” and “Chemical Management for ANCILLARY Workers.”

CHEMICAL workers work with chemicals on a more-or-less daily basis. Examples would include graduate students and research technicians.

ANCILLARY workers work in areas containing hazardous materials, but do not necessarily work directly with these hazardous materials. Examples would include custodial and maintenance/crafts staff, procurement personnel, and police officers.

Workers who received training prior to September 2004, MUST retrain under the new program. Consult your Registered User or supervisor if you are unsure if you need retraining. To find a class near you visit the EHS website at: ehs.missouri.edu/train/chemical.html. EMS encourages retraining as soon as practical to ensure workers are operating with the most recent information available. (EMS would also be happy to schedule a special session for any group of 20 or more workers. Such requests can be made by emailing hazmat@missouri.edu or calling 882-7018.)

If you have any questions about or suggestions for EMS, feel free to contact Todd Houts, Assistant Director in charge of EMS, via voice (882-7018) or email (houtst@missouri.edu). Thank you for your cooperation during this period of renewal and overhaul.

Todd Houts
Assistant Director, EMS
Partnering with the Campus Community

EHS regularly reviews its programs to make sure that we meet the needs of program users and keep the campus in compliance with various safety and environmental requirements. Several substantial changes have been made or are in the works.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see articles about the new Radiation Safety Manual and the new Chemical Worker Training. We hope you will find these changes improve the quality of our information and our services to campus.

You may be interested in some of the projects we have planned. One objective is to reduce the paperwork. We have put most of our forms on our web site. One of our next steps is to enable the campus community to complete and submit forms electronically through our web site. We are also planning to make information in our databases available to Authorized Users and Registered Users.

Many of you have attended EHS training courses. We have prepared some on-line training courses (ehs.missouri.edu/train/) and have several others in development. There are some courses that really need to be instructor led, but we are evaluating each course to see whether an on-line option could work.

Last, I recently discovered that EHS will reach its 25th anniversary as a department this coming summer. We are planning a series of events in mid-July to both promote safety and celebrate our anniversary. Of course, our EHS programs could not be successful without the active participation of the campus community. We thank you for your support and suggestions, and ask that both continue.

Peter Ashbrook

Help MU Project a Safety Conscious Image

We’re proud of our safety programs and know that the campus community has a strong safety and compliance ethic. However, the public may not be aware of our extensive programs and accomplishments. In fact, the public may have the opposite impression because of negative publicity such as the Environmental Protection Agency’s continuing enforcement initiative against colleges and universities.

We ask your help in projecting a good image to visitors and the media by paying special attention to the use of personal protective equipment and maintaining good housekeeping. A reporter may be impressed with a laboratory worker mouth pipetting, but such a picture damages our safety image. The intentional use of safety eyewear and appropriate gloves in publicity photos demonstrates that safety is important. Likewise, we have found that good housekeeping in our laboratories make compliance inspectors more willing to work with us on issues. Thank you for your continued efforts to work safely at MU!
Happy
Anniversary
EHS!

EHS will celebrate its 25th anniversary as a department this summer. We are in the initial planning stages, but expect to have a series of events during the week of July 11-15. Watch Mizzou Weekly, MU Info, and this newsletter for details.

Spring Severe Weather Drill

This annual severe weather exercise will be held at approximately 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2005. In the event of inclement weather on that date the exercise will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2005. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) urges all University facilities to participate in this exercise by implementing existing evacuation plans to the fullest extent practically possible. The full notice about this drill can be found at the EHS website: ehs.missouri.edu/other/er/severe-weather.html. For more information, contact David Dorth, EHS Safety Representative at 882-5018.

Laser Safety

Did you know that EHS has prepared a Laser Safety Manual? You can find it on our web site at ehs.missouri.edu/rad/manuals/laser-safety-manual.doc. EHS is reviewing its Laser Safety Program and is currently preparing an inventory of campus lasers. To assist us with this review, we request that all persons owning or operating a laser on campus contact Will Brantley by phone (882-5024) or email (rad@missouri.edu).

Radiation Safety Manual Update

The Radiation Safety Manual (RSM) outlining policy and procedures for the Radiation Safety Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia has been revised. The new 3rd edition changes can be found on our webpage ehs.missouri.edu/rad/. However, a few of the changes are listed below:

- A more user friendly format was developed utilizing a dual column layout with hyperlinked navigation throughout text.
- Two downloadable and printable formats (Adobe and WORD) of the manual are now available.
- Survey Tables and Maps have been changed to remove back shot and to accommodate a new and consistent radiation trigger level.
- All master (current) forms (Notification, PURF, Transfer, etc.) have been moved to the webpage.

NOTE:

1. A one time distribution of the hardcopy version of the RSM will be disseminated to all the existing Authorizations on campus.

2. Please redirect your old bookmarks to the new webpage address.

Jack Crawford
Interim RSO
EHS People News

Interim Radiation Safety Officer

Jack Crawford has been appointed to be the Interim Radiation Safety Officer. Jack has a Bachelors degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology and a Masters Degree in Nuclear Engineering—both from MU. He also had extensive training and experience while serving in the Naval Nuclear Power Reactor Program and worked at the Callaway Nuclear Plant. Jack has been with EHS since March of 2004.

Scott Furst Has Returned

Scott Furst, an Environmental Health Technician with the Radiation Safety Program, is a member of the National Guard and was called up to service in March 2004. On February 14, 2005 Scott returned to his position with EHS. We are glad to have him back and Scott is glad to be back. Thank you, Scott, for your service to our country!

On-Line Safety Training

Are you new to campus? Do you know what emergency procedures to take in case of severe weather, a medical emergency, or an earthquake? Did you know this information is available on-line in the form of an On-Line safety course for both students and employees of the University of Missouri – Columbia?

In January 2005 EHS posted two on-line classes (one for students and one for employees) to our website. To take either class, go to the EHS home page (ehs.missouri.edu) and select either “Student” or “MU Staff” under the “Information For” banner. The first link under “Links for Students” or “..Staff” will take you to the corresponding on-line safety class. These classes highlight roles and responsibilities, emergency preparedness and security, and common safety hazards, among other items of interest, for those on the MU campus, and should only take approximately 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

Safety is important to everyone and these classes offer a quick reminder of what to look for on campus. If you have any questions or comments on how we can make these classes better, please contact Rebecca Bergfield at 882-7018 or BergfieldR@missouri.edu.