



# Notes

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY

### Pandemic Flu

There has been widespread public concern about avian flu outbreaks in Asia being the precursor of a worldwide flu pandemic with catastrophic consequences. This article briefly describes the concerns and what steps MU has taken to be prepared.

#### Why the concern?

There were three pandemics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the last being in 1968. Pandemics occur when a new strain of flu virus mutates such that it is easily transmissible between humans AND most or all of the population has no immunity to the new flu strain. Currently, there is a highly pathogenic strain of avian flu that has infected poultry in a number of Asian countries. Over the past three years, there have been over 240 reported cases in humans who contracted the disease by close interaction with infected birds and over 140 deaths have occurred. This is a very high death rate; however, there has been little evidence of human to human transmission as yet. Particularly troubling is that many of the deaths have occurred in young and healthy individuals, which has raised the specter of the 1918 Spanish Flu. Using the 1918 Spanish Flu experience, planners estimate that a new flu strain equivalent to the 1918 strain could cause absentee rates of 35% during the peak event and almost two million deaths nationwide. These adverse impacts are much larger is experienced in the typical flu season and would seriously disrupt the orderly operation of institutions and civilized life. Further, vaccines cannot be developed until the strain takes hold and then would take at least 6 months to prepare, let alone

administer. Current anti-viral pharmaceuticals would be of unknown effectiveness and are in limited supply.

So far, the high pathogenic strain of avian flu has not been detected in North

America, nor have any Americans contracted the avian flu. However, should a highly transmissible strain of the high pathogenic avian flu occur, it would quickly spread world wide.

#### What is being done by others?

Federal and state agencies are monitoring the international situation and preparing emergency plans to address pandemic flu. A number of web sites have been established to provide information to the public.

#### What is being done by MU?

MU has established a Pandemic Flu Assessment Team chaired by Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones. In addition, Jones has established three subcommittees to address specific issues as follows: Academic/Student Affairs (co-chaired by Cathy Scroggs and Ken Dean), Research (Chaired by Jim Coleman), and Human Resources/Business Continuity (Chaired by Jackie Jones).

EHS has represented MU at meetings of the Columbia/Boone County Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee and MU is coordinating planning activities with community efforts. For those (Continued on Page 3)

#### In This Issue

Pandemic Flu	1
Getting Around Campus	2
OHSP On-Line Update	2
X-Ray Information Sought	3
New CPR Program	3
Emergency Sign Program	4



## Director's Desk

### Getting Around Campus

With the start of classes this fall, pedestrian safety once again becomes an important safety issue on campus. This fall, the closed campus has expanded for the first time in over 25 years. Hopefully, you are aware of the EHS-sponsored PAVE (Pedestrian And Vehicle Education) program through which we try to make the point that mutual courtesy on the part of drivers and pedestrians is the key to a safer Mizzou. In this column, I will write about some related issues.

Last year, the City of Columbia received a 5-year, \$22 million federal grant to build and improve pedways for the purpose of displacing the use of single occupancy motorized vehicles. Although the City has been implementing infrastructure improvements, this grant will certainly expedite the process. To help spend the grant funds wisely, the Mayor has established an advisory committee. Jim Joy, Mike Alden, and I have been asked to represent MU on this committee. In addition, Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones has established an MU Non-Motorized Transportation Committee to make sure that four campus committees and all key campus constituencies have adequate input into the City project. I have been asked to Chair this ad hoc committee. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to me. Note that if this project is successful, we will see a lot more bicycles on campus.

People are noticing golf carts more and more. EHS has been working with MU Police, Campus Parking, and Administrative Services to develop clear policy on these. In addition, we have prepared a web page [ehs.missouri.edu/work/golfcart.html](http://ehs.missouri.edu/work/golfcart.html) with guidance on the safe operation of golf carts and utility vehicles.

Last and certainly not least, Segways are beginning to have a presence on campus. Again, the key campus departments and committees are reviewing potential safety issues to determine whether campus policies are adequate or need to be updated.

*Peter Ashbrook*

## New ON-LINE Annual Update OHSP for Animal Care Workers

MU has an Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) for all faculty, staff, students, and others who have direct or indirect contact with animals, or animal tissues or fluids. The purpose of the program is to minimize the Animal Care Worker's risk of occupational illness, physical injury, animal allergy, or exposure to a zoonotic disease.

EHS has been given responsibility for administering this program. Beginning in October, 2006, the "Annual Hazard Assessment for Laboratory Worker" UPDATE process can be done electronically. By visiting the following EHS web page, [ehs.missouri.edu/webapp/ohsp](http://ehs.missouri.edu/webapp/ohsp), supervisors of previously enrolled workers may update their worker's hazard assessment.

The update process will begin when the supervisor receives an e-mail notification from EHS that an OHSP annual update is needed. The supervisor will log-on and provide critical information to assure minimal future staff risk associated with animal contact. After the update is complete, the supervisor will receive a final e-mail confirming completion of the annual update process and the worker will receive an email with information on the medical portion of the program. It should be noted that INITIAL enrollment in OHSP for Animal Care Workers will continue to be completed as before

(Continued on page 3)

## OHSP Continued

(non-electronic). In the future, EHS will be working to improve the initial enrollment OHSP process by making it more user-friendly too. Also, the Animal Care & Use Committee (ACUC) is developing a plan to enroll ancillary workers (minimal & indirect animal contact) into the OHSP.

If there are any questions or comments to help improve this OHSP "Annual Hazard Assessment for Laboratory Worker" UPDATE process, please contact Mary Reichel or Rose Leykamp at 882-7018.

**Roger Riddlemoser**  
EHS Asst Director, Biosafety

## X-ray Equipment Information Sought

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is seeking help from all campus users that currently have X-ray equipment in their possession. State Regulation 19 CSR 20-10.030 requires the re-registration of all X-ray equipment every two years. While we have identified many of the machines on campus, we are seeking those devices that may have slipped through the cracks. If you know of, or currently have possession of X-ray equipment please contact me at [fursts@missouri.edu](mailto:fursts@missouri.edu) or at 884-6350.

**Scott Furst**  
Environmental Health Technician

## Pandemic Flu Continued

interested in more detailed information, EHS has also developed a web site

<[ehs.missouri.edu/other/er/pandemic.html](http://ehs.missouri.edu/other/er/pandemic.html)>  
to provide information to the campus community.

**Peter Ashbrook**  
Director

## CPR Gets a Face Lift

How long has it been since you last took a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class? Even if you took it last year, you will be surprised to find out things have changed. Every few years a group made up of representatives from the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, and the medical community, get together and review CPR practices. Based on the recommendations from this group, how CPR is practiced and taught will be updated. New recommendations came out during the spring of 2006 and EHS started teaching the new program on July 1, 2006.

Updates to the program include a new ratio of compressions to breaths in CPR for adults, children, and infants, a change in help for a conscious choking person, and changes in rescue breathing. The American Red Cross also updated the First Aid portion of its training to include more detailed instructions for dealing with stroke and other sudden illnesses.

As an authorized provider for the American Red Cross, EHS offers several options for taking CPR and First Aid. The full CPR/First Aid class is offered once a month under the title of Standard First Aid. A person can attend the full session or just the CPR or First Aid portions individually. A separate class is offered for Infant and Child CPR once a semester. In addition, a refresher class is offered once a month for those who have been certified within the past 12 months. Any of these classes are provided free of charge for all University Faculty, Staff, and Students. Class descriptions, schedules, and registration can be found at this EHS web site:

<[ehs.missouri.edu/train/cpr.html](http://ehs.missouri.edu/train/cpr.html)>

If you are unsure of whether or not you would like to take a CPR course, please consider the following: according to the Journal of the American Medical Association, 85% of the time when you help someone by performing CPR or First Aid you are helping a friend, a co-worker, or a loved one.

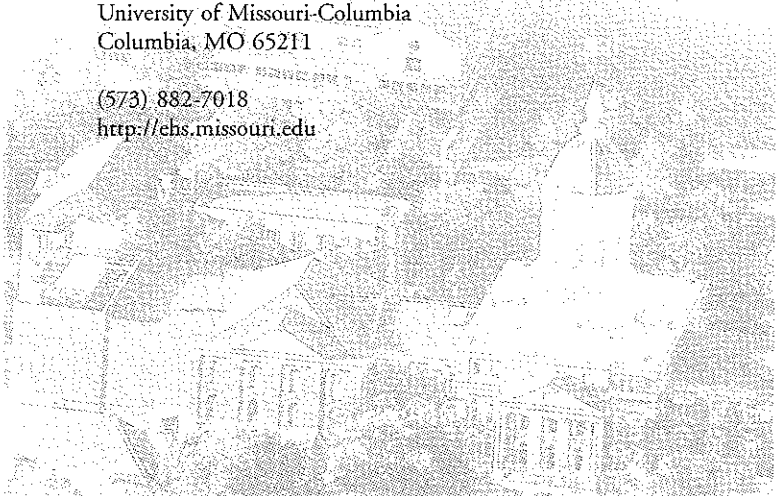
**Rebecca Bergfield**  
Training Coordinator



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## Emergency Sign Program

EHS has recently begun reimplementation of an improved and revised Emergency Sign Program, which had been temporarily suspended in 2003. Emergency signs will be posted at entryways to locations that currently store or use materials that may represent chemical, radiological, biological, or other types of hazards. The signs will serve to provide location-specific information to emergency responders in the event of an emergency or incident.

To gather information for this project, EHS will first be contacting the Registered Users (RUs) and Building Coordinators in affected buildings on campus by email for general contact information that may be posted on the signs.

The next step, also done by email, is to ask RUs for information specific to rooms under their registrations. This information includes selecting primary and alternate contacts, providing their office addresses and phone numbers, and telling us about particular aspects of the room pertinent to emergency response.

The final step will be for EHS Hazardous Material

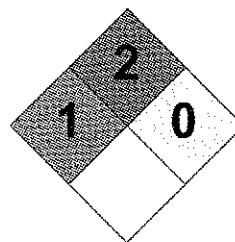
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Services staff to visit each location, to gather information to determine what hazardous materials will affect the fire protection rating for the room, as well as making note of other relevant hazards.

Once information collection is complete, the sign will be printed and mounted near the location entrance in a durable plastic holder.

As a Registered User or Building Coordinator, we request your cooperation in the implementation of our Emergency Sign Program. Your timely responses to our questionnaires will keep the process moving forward and, in turn, will help to make MU a safer place to work.

**Jon White**  
Environmental Chemist



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911**

Building: RESEARCH PARK DEVELOPMENT GARAGE RU Name / No: Peter Ashbrook / 3882  
 Office Location: 3 Research Park Dev. Bldg.  
 Room: 101  
 Room phone: NONE Campus phone: 573-882-7018  
 Department: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY Home phone: 573-882-7018

**CAMPUS EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (882-7201 (mornings, weekdays, holidays))	MU POLICE (882-7201 (mornings, weekdays, holidays))		
JACK CALWELL 8 RESEARCH PARK Emergency Contact	882-7201	975-666-7466	882-7201
PETER BERGFELD 8 RESEARCH PARK	573-882-7018	573-882-7018	882-7201
DARYL ROYCE 8 RESEARCH PARK	573-882-7018	573-882-7018	882-7201

**SPECIAL HAZARDS** LOCAL ALARMS

Flammable  Rooms  Fire  Security   
 Corrosive  Permeable  Hazardous  Other

OTHER HAZARD INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE