



n o t e s

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY

Online Chemical Worker Refresher Training and Enhanced RU Resources

A web-based Chemical Management Online Refresher training is now available on the EHS website (<http://ehs.missouri.edu/train/chemical.html>). New Chemical Workers at MU are required to attend an initial 2-hour classroom-based training while new Ancillary Workers are required to initially attend a 1-hour classroom-based training with refresher training required for all within three years. Both Chemical Workers and Ancillary Workers may utilize this new online course for their refresher training in lieu of retaking the classroom training. (Workers may view their past training history by logging in at <http://mubsweb.missouri.edu/ehsweb/training/>). Only those that have attended in-person chemical management training will receive credit for the refresher course. If your last chemical course is more than three years ago, you are now due for retraining. Upon successful completion of the refresher course (either online or repeating the classroom version), the Registered User's (RU) list of trained chemical workers will be automatically updated.

Under development is a triennial refresher training program for existing RUs, which will serve to update them regarding their responsibilities for the use and storage of hazardous materials. The training will be brief, and available in a number of formats (e.g. in-person, web-based) as a convenience to the RU. In conjunction with this, a new web page – tentatively designated the RU Portal

Page – is in the design stage and will consolidate many features of potential interest to RUs, including access to their chemical inventory, lists of chemical workers, hazardous waste determination plans, commonly used forms, etc.

In This Issue

Online Chem Worker Refresher Training & More	1
Pedestrian Safety	2
Chair Mats Prevent Tile Damage	3
Pool Safety Tips	3
RAD Security Awareness and Audit Initiative	4

Also under development is a new Laboratory Close-out Procedure for RUs (and other researchers, including graduate students) who are relocating to a different campus location or who are departing MU. This procedure will ensure that the laboratory is left in a clean and safe condition for the next occupants and/or construction crews, and includes components to ensure that all hazardous materials (chemical, biological, radioactive) are properly identified and removed prior to vacating the laboratory space, that chemical moves are conducted compliant with Department of Transportation regulations, and that decontamination steps (when necessary) have occurred.

We anticipate the majority of the resources currently under development will be available by the end of the summer. For additional information, please contact EHS Hazardous Material Services at 882-3736 or hazmat@missouri.edu, or visit the EHS webpage at: <http://ehs.missouri.edu/>.

Roger J. Giles
Manager, Hazardous Material Services



Director's Desk

Pedestrian Safety

EHS newsletters have contained a number of articles on pedestrian safety in recent years. This is because pedestrian safety is one of the most significant safety issues on campus and affects everyone.

The impetus for this particular column is the new steam tunnel project, as well as continuing construction around the Hospital. These construction projects provide new hazards in addition to disrupting normal commuting pathways. A couple weeks ago, I was approached by an individual who was a truck driver for one of the construction projects near the Hospital. He was especially concerned because he had been driving a construction truck when a driver slipped into his blind spot and had an accident. He was concerned enough to come to EHS to request that we promote some construction safety messages he had prepared to try to prevent future such incidents. We are working on some new PAVE (pedestrian and vehicle education) pedestrian safety posters based on his ideas and expect to roll these out in the fall.

Here are some suggestions about steps you can take to be a safer pedestrian and help campus be a safer place for pedestrians:

- When you are a pedestrian, use crosswalks whenever possible.
- When you are a driver, yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and be con-

stantly alert for pedestrians.

- Plan your trips in and around campus to give yourself enough time to get where you need to be. People who run late tend to be in a hurry and are more likely to engage in unsafe actions.
- When riding a bicycle, obey traffic signs and signals. Remember that traffic laws apply to bicyclists.
- Whether you are driving or walking, avoid the use of a cell phone. Cell phones will distract you from paying adequate attention to safety. If you must use a cell phone while in your car, pull off to the side of the road.
- Be alert to potential hazards whether you are a pedestrian, on a bicycle, or a driver.
- Be especially alert around construction zones. Construction vehicles tend to be larger than what most of us are used to. These large vehicles often have blind spots and cannot stop abruptly.
- Remember mutual courtesy is the key.

Help PAVE the way to a safer Mizzou!

Peter Ashbrook



Chair Mats Prevent Tile Damage

If you are not already using a chair mat, you should be. Chair mats prevent damage to both carpeted floors and tiled floors, extending their useful life and saving the University money. It is particularly important to use a chair mat if you work in an office or lab that is finished with asbestos tile.

When a chair rolls back and forth on asbestos tile, it can wear through the wax and actually begin to damage the tile. While damage to a tiled floor would have to be very severe to create a health issue, it can happen. Placing a chair mat under your chair will prevent damage and will significantly increase the life of the flooring.

If you are not using a mat and the floor under your chair is unusually dusty, do not sweep the dust. The floor should be cleaned with a wet mop and the legs and wheels of your chair should be wiped down with a damp cloth. Once the floor is clean and dry, the mat should be placed on the floor and used at all times.

It is the responsibility of individual departments to ensure chair mats are used. Chair mats are readily available at office supply stores and come in many sizes to meet your needs. Please take time to look at your work spaces and identify any areas where chair mats are not being used.

Dennis Elmore

Manager, Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety



Pool Safety Tips

Why do I have to take a shower? I'm only going to get wet in the pool. Does this sound familiar? The reason for this is that showering will remove dirt, sweat, and oils (organics) from your body before entering the pool. This is important as these organics will cause the disinfectant in the water to become "used up" quicker. Most pools use a chlorine base disinfectant in the pool water to sanitize and remove bacteria. This in turn will help keep us healthier and not become sick from contaminated water. If the chlorine is becoming depleted due to additional organics, it won't be able to continue to disinfect.

You've heard it hundreds of times but don't forget the sun block. This is important to not only keep you from burning as quickly but also for those later years when you may not be in the sun as much but that skin cancer is a problem. Its fun to play in the sun but it pays to be diligent about the sun. You can still burn even with sun block if you don't pay attention. The sun is a health source of vitamin D but use it wisely.

Finally, be aware of your swimming abilities and don't overdo. Even the best swimmer can get tired and drown if they're not careful. Oh yes, don't forget your buddy.

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Radioactive Materials Security Awareness and Audit Program Initiative

Security of radioactive materials is not only required by MU and Hospital policy but is also a federal regulatory enforced directive. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues to prioritize security of radioactive materials. In response, MU is implementing a proactive and progressive Security Awareness and Audit Program initiative.

This program will involve enhanced training and monitoring of research and medical authorizations to verify not only that the security of radioactive material is maintained, but also to ensure that awareness of the need to maintain control and security of all radioactive materials is reemphasized for MU and University Health Care.

This Radioactive Materials Security Awareness and Audit Program Initiative will be implemented in two phases. The first phase

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will involve the Security Awareness training component. The assigned Health Physicists will provide "one-on-one" training to all Authorized Users (AU's) on the details of this new initiative, including MU's policies on radioactive materials security. We will provide this training for active AU's by the end of the third quarter of 2008, and inactive AU's by the end of the fourth quarter of 2008. The second phase will be the Security Audit monitoring. This will include increased focus on monitoring of all radioactive materials use laboratories on campus and the use of the radioactive materials Security and Awareness door hangers beginning with the fourth quarter of 2008.

Jack Crawford
Assistant Director, EHS

