

Chemistry Safety Notes

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2013

Welcome to the first issue of the Department Safety Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Chemistry Department safety newsletter! This will be one of the vehicles for me to let you know what new requirements might be coming from campus, highlight UC systemwide safety initiatives, and share other tidbits I come across from ACS and national sources. It will also be a place to celebrate safety successes in the Department.

Students with Disabilities

Guidance for the Department

With lots of input and help from the Department Accessibility and Safety Committees and advice and counsel from colleagues at EH&S and other campuses, I just completed work on a "Students with Disabilities" guidance document for the Department. The focus of the guidance is on laboratory activities in which a student or researcher might need accommodation(s) or use service animal. This guidance is not intended to replace any accommodations described by the Student Disability Center. But the SDC doesn't have any guidance for us to help folks who are taking a laboratory class or who work in a research lab.

The document will become an appendix to the Department IIPP and will be posted on the Smart Site.



"Chemistry Safety Notes" is published by the Chemistry Department Safety Committee and edited by Debbie Decker, Dept. Safety Manager.

CFATS

Chemical Facility Antiterrorism Standard

Chemical security is as much an issue these days as chemical safety. It's important to know where your chemicals are stored, who has access to those chemicals, and to maintain an up-to-date inventory to make sure materials aren't growing legs and walking off-site. If there are materials in your inventory that you feel need more security, please let me know and we can talk about options to secure those materials.

Susan Kauzlarich, David Goodin, and I, with colleagues from EH&S and across the System, attended a security briefing at the Office of the President. The briefing included a welcome from President Napolitano and presentations from the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security on chemical security and campus compliance with CFATS. The FBI also shared a short video on laboratory security awareness. If you would like to view the video, let me know.

PPE – LHAT

Personal Protective Equipment and Lab Hazard Assessment Tool

You should have received some correspondence from the Campus Laboratory Safety Committee about PPE and the hazard assessment tool. This initiative will help the campus comply with the new systemwide PPE policy, which will go into effect on March 31, 2014.

The LHAT will help you assess the hazards in your lab, what PPE might be required, provide training to your folks, and provide a voucher for them to obtain free PPE at the distribution event in early 2014.

When you interact with LHAT, you can assign a delegate to your account. PLEASE! Assign me as one of your delegates! That way, I can help you determine how best to fill out the LHAT.

UCOP Internal Audit Visit

Two auditors from the Office of the President visited us in October to assess our progress towards compliance with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Settlement Agreement with the University of California. While they found a couple of items, overall, the seven PI labs they visited are doing well keeping their records up to date and making sure folks are trained. One strong recommendation they made (good auditors, they) was to encourage folks to label the various sections of their safety binders with tabs to make it easier to find information.

Reminders:

- ✓ UC Laboratory Safety Fundamentals Training must be accomplished BEFORE a new person begins work. This includes visiting scholars and undergraduates. Everyone!
- ✓ Refresher training is required every three years.
- ✓ New people also need training on the lab-specific Chemical Hygiene Plan and the SOPs. Review the campus Lab Safety Manual – either hardcopy or on-line.
- ✓ If you have multiple labs, please post where the safety manual, chemical hygiene plan, SOPs and training records are located
- ✓ Use the new [training checklist](#) to document lab-specific training.

Cover Your Cough

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!

Influenza (flu) and other serious respiratory illnesses are spread by coughing, sneezing, or unclean hands.

To help stop the spread of germs,

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put your used tissue in the waste basket.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- You may be asked to put on a facemask to protect others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

If you're sick, stay home!

Incident of the Month

NASA Langley has some excitement

Update 4:50 p.m., 10/22/2013: Safety officials say a small chemical vial in a materials science lab ruptured. When employees went to check out the noise they noticed an unusual smell and followed proper emergency protocols. Investigators concluded there was no puddle and the scene was cleared. Employees were allowed back in the building at about 1:45 p.m. No employees were injured or exposed.

HAMPTON-HAZMAT teams are at NASA Langley in Hampton to deal with a chemical spill.

It happened around 10:35 a.m.

About 70 people were asked to leave a materials sciences building as a precaution, but no one was exposed to the chemical, NASA Langley spokeswoman Kathy Barnstorff told WVEC.com

She characterized the spill as "small" and that it was contained to one room.

Barnstorff stated the HAZMAT team was called because it wasn't clear what kind of chemical has spilled.

The employees were still out of the building at 1:00 p.m.

Technical help was being given by the Newport News Regional Hazmat Team.

Always a good idea to have a critical look at samples, at least annually, to make sure this doesn't happen to you!

Safety survey reveals lab risks

Questionnaire suggests researchers not as safe as they feel.

By, [Richard Van Noorden](#)

Excerpted from *Nature* **493**, 9–10 (03 January 2013)

The study “is the most comprehensive attempt at gathering data on attitudes to safety that I’ve seen — and one more piece of information in a growing body of reports that point to the need to improve the culture around safety in our academic laboratories,” says Dorothy Zolandz, director of the US National Academies Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology. Nature Publishing Group, the publisher of *Nature*, helped to launch the survey, as did the firm BioRAFT, which provides software for safety compliance and receives investment from Digital Science, a sister company to Nature Publishing Group. UCLA’s Center for Laboratory Safety plans to analyze the data more closely later this year, but shared early results with *Nature*.

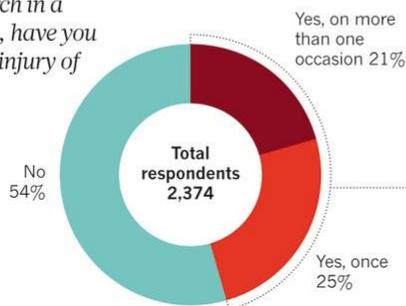
A QUESTION OF SAFETY

A survey of almost 2,400 scientists shows that although most believe their laboratories to be safe, about half have experienced injuries in the workplace. It also shows that junior and senior researchers have very different views of potentially hazardous practices.

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “I feel that my lab is a safe place to work.”



3 In the time that you’ve been conducting research in a laboratory setting, have you ever sustained an injury of any kind?



2 In your lab, how frequently do people conduct experiments while working alone?

Legend: Every day, Several times a week, ≥ Once a week, ≥ Once a month, < Once a month, Never

Junior researcher (1,091 respondents)



Senior researcher (642 respondents)



4 What was the nature of your injury or injuries?

