

## TRAM SAFETY



### OHSU Tram Safety

The number of people commuting via Tram will surpass a million come fall, which far exceeds expectations. Trams worldwide are among the safest modes of transportation.

#### HOW SAFE IS THE TRAM?

The Tram is exceptionally safe. Concerns about the seismic history of our region have been addressed in the Tram's design. It meets the new, more rigorous Swiss standards for aerial tramways and, thus, exceeds U.S. seismic standards. The Tram is equipped with redundant (backup) drivers and generators in the event of power outages, and the entire system is under constant computer monitoring.

#### WILL WEATHER AFFECT THE TRAM?

There will be times when high winds or ice may affect Tram operations. However, this type of Tram has proved itself very capable and trustworthy in the extreme winter conditions of the

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### Shared Success

The following are interesting progress notes from SafetyTeam members' activities:

1. Latex-containing medical products were identified in the Neurological Surgery Department and replaced with non-latex alternatives. Many people are sensitive to latex and this substitution provides a more safe environment for our patients.
2. Frayed carpet posing a trip and fall hazard was identified in the Pediatric Specialty clinic. Staff requested that the carpet be replaced. In the meantime, duct tape was placed over the area to prevent trips and falls.
3. An employee working in MacKenzie Hall was temporarily using a wheelchair because of an injury. Accessibility to these buildings is sometimes difficult, and fellow employees assisted in finding the best routes for the wheelchair. Thank you to those who offered their time and effort to help a fellow employee in need.

Please continue to submit your monthly member update forms so that your safety concerns continue to be addressed.

**Good Work Everyone!**



## Topic of the Month

This month's specialized training topic is a discussion of **Chemical Safety** at OHSU. This is a review of the basic elements in the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OR-OSHA) **Hazard Communication Standard**. This standard applies to the use of hazardous and toxic substances at work.



### MSDS

#### MSDS stands for Material Safety Data Sheet.

These are the best source of physical and chemical information about any hazardous substance that is in your work area. A MSDS exists for every hazardous chemical you work with, and must be kept in your work area. (Requirements for research labs are different.)

Binders containing MSDSs should be kept up to date and be made available to all employees. The first page of the binder should be an alphabetical list of all hazardous chemicals in the work area (**required by law**). If you find that the binder in your area does not contain a particular MSDS for a chemical you work with, you need to get one. Most MSDS are available online on the manufacturers' websites.

**“Do I have to have an MSDS for everything?”** The short answer is no... If you work with or around hazardous chemicals or other hazardous materials, **the law requires you to keep paper copies of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all hazardous chemicals in use.**

The exceptions are for consumer-use products used for their intended purpose (e.g.: hairspray for holding hairdos, or glass cleaner for cleaning glass), in normal, consumer-use quantities. If you are using a product **outside** of its intended use or quantity (e.g.: the same hairspray is used to fix cytology samples, or glass cleaner is used to clean floors), you must maintain an MSDS.

### Labels

There are two basic kinds of containers. The **primary container** comes from the manufacturer. The labels on primary containers include all kinds of information that OSHA requires the manufacturer supply,

most of which is of little use to the everyday user.

A **secondary container** is one that we create when we transfer the contents of a primary container to any other container for our use.

Secondary container labels can show less information than primary labels but need to include:

1. **Product Identity** - name of what is inside.
2. **Health Effects** - basic risk information.

Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS) makes chemical and high-level disinfectant labels available (pictured at right), often at no charge! Call 494-0215 for details.

### Policy

OHSU's Hazard Communication Policy can be found on the O-Zone at:

[ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs/pages/gen/policies.shtml](http://ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs/pages/gen/policies.shtml)

The Health Care System offers further guidance for their operations in the **Health Care System Environment of Care Program** via the “Policies and Procedures” link on the O-Zone.

### Personal Protective Equipment

If you have to work with hazardous materials, don't forget your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)! This is the term for gloves, eye protection, face shield, gown, lab coat, and other items used to prevent exposures to chemicals. EHS has experts on staff to make sure you are using the right PPE... ask for help if you are unsure!

Chemical	<b>PRODUCT IDENTITY</b> _____ _____	See MSDS for detail
	<b>PHYSICAL/HEALTH HAZARDS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer <input type="checkbox"/> Irritant <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitizer <input type="checkbox"/> Carcinogen/ Mutagen/ Teratogen <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Target Organs: _____	
High Level Disinfectant	<b>PRODUCT IDENTITY</b> _____ _____	See MSDS for detail
	<b>PHYSICAL/HEALTH HAZARDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irritant: Skin, Eye, Respiratory</li> <li>• Sensitizer: Skin, Respiratory</li> <li>• Avoid breathing vapor</li> </ul>	
	Date Active                      Date Expires _____                              _____	

Questions about chemicals and MSDSs?

Call  
**EHRS**  
 at 503-494-7795

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Swiss Alps. Tram staff closely monitor weather conditions and will delay operations if needed. The wind here in Portland has caused some delays in Tram operation, but modifications were made to the haul rope to minimize wind effects.

### STUCK IN THE MIDDLE?

Tram operators know from experience that Tram cabins will occasionally be stopped in mid-trip for a few seconds and - in rare instances - for several minutes while Tram operators make routine adjustments. If there is a delay, the Tram operator will explain the reason and advise on how long the delay will last.

### EMERGENCIES, SAFETY AND SECURITY

All emergency planning, safety and security related to the Tram is currently the responsibility of the OHSU Public Safety Department. There is a comprehensive emergency response plan that includes a plan for passenger evacuation. OHSU has practiced evacuation drills in cooperation with the Portland Fire Department.

To learn more about the Portland Aerial Tram, please visit their website:

<http://www.portlandtram.org/>



### GETTING RID OF YOUR FRIDGE?

Throughout OHSU, food, chemicals, and biological specimens are kept cold in refrigerators. Are you interested in throwing your old fridge away? OHSU EHRS will pick up these refrigerators at no cost, but they must be as clean as if they were new.



If you want your old fridge picked up for free, please do the following to make sure it is clean:

1. Remove all items.
2. Unplug and defrost as necessary.
3. Clean the inside with bleach/water or Sanimaster IV.

\*\*\* To avoid damaging the Freon line, please do not chip out ice with sharp instruments like scissors, screwdrivers or letter openers.

OHSU EHRS will take the fridge and either find a new home for it or recycle it. If you have any questions or would like your fridge picked up, please call Donald Ludwig at **503-494-2585**.

Refrigerator recycling is another way that OHSU shows its commitment to keeping our environment green!

### CAMPUS DRIVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Thanks to the many SafetyTeam members who have expressed their concerns about pedestrian safety on Campus Drive. The OHSU Safety Committee has developed a plan for improving conditions on Campus Drive, and continues to pursue funding for the proposed plan. If you are interested, keep your eye on the monthly Safety Committee minutes for updates. Please also continue to send in your concerns! Each reported concern aids in the pursuit for funding and priority. Thank you!