

Eyewash?



If your area uses chemicals that pose high risks of injuries to eyes, you must have an eyewash, drench hose, or shower accessible within a 10 second, unobstructed walk, of where exposure is likely to occur.

A hazard assessment is the best way to determine if a given area must have an eyewash or shower, but the following factors are considered:

- Chemical properties, including physical states, concentration, temperature, and pH (strong acids or alkalis where immediate flushing of the eyes is required to prevent damage).
- Chemical use patterns, including how employees work with chemicals, quantities, and frequency of use.
- Training and personal protective equipment needs.



Questions? Contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety at 4-7795.

Inside this Issue:

Safety Focus: Compressed Gas Safety	2
Got junk? OHSU Classifieds	3
Question of the Month	4

Shared Successes

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

- Cracked and broken floor tiles were reported in the CROET/BSC entrance foyer. This was reported to Facilities Management, and they quickly had a contractor replace the tiles. In addition, they replaced the worn floor mats to reduce the chance of a trip and fall injury.
- The safety of the cart, used to transport hazardous wastes from lab areas to the waste collection area, was questioned. The OHSU hazardous materials technician noted that the cart has been specially modified for the task, spill response materials are available, and the transporter is certified to do the specialized work. The current practices lead to very low risks.
- Public Safety was made aware of a security concern within the School of Nursing. They quickly worked with SON staff to address the problem.

Thanks members... be safe!



Topic of the Month

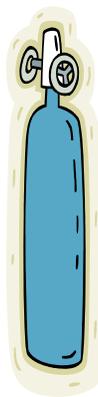


This month's specialized training topic is **Compressed Gas Cylinders**.

Compressed gases present several hazards. Labels on cylinders and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) tell you about the hazardous properties of the gas. In addition, compressed gas cylinders pose other hazards simply because they are pressurized.

The following are procedures to follow for safe storage and handling of compressed gas cylinders:

- Store cylinders properly. Protect cylinders from being struck by another object and each other. Storage areas must be at least 20 feet away from highly combustible materials, and oxidizers must be stored at least 20 feet away from flammable gases. Never let cylinders contact live electrical equipment or grounding cables. Cylinders must be protected from the sun's direct rays to reduce thermal expansion hazards.
- Never allow grease or oil to contact cylinders, valves, regulators, or fittings. Never handle these with greasy or oily gloves.
- Cylinders must not be dropped or allowed to fall. Chain or strap them in an upright position, to a secure object or wall, during use or storage. Horizontal storage is allowed in approved racks. When transporting cylinders, they must be secured from falling, but if a tank starts to fall, LET IT GO! Don't risk personal injury.
- When moving a cylinder, even for a short distance, valves must be closed, the regulator removed, and the valve cap installed (where provided). Moving more than five feet should be done with an approved dolly. When possible,



leave tank movements to trained employees.

- Check that you have selected the right gas before every use. Verify that the regulator is working, that all gauges are operating correctly and that all connections are tight to ensure that there are no leaks. Use a diluted soap solution to check for leaks. When you are ready to use the gas, open the valve with your hands. Never use a wrench or other tool. If you cannot open it with your hands, do not use it!
- Open cylinder valves slowly.
- Always dispense oxygen through a regulator. Never substitute oxygen where air is required.
- Label empty cylinders as "EMPTY" or "MT." When in doubt, always consider cylinders to be full and handle them accordingly. Many accidents occur when containers under partial pressure are thought to be empty. Always use a regulator when checking tank contents.
- Mishandled cylinders may rupture violently, release their hazardous contents or become dangerous projectiles. If a neck of a pressurized cylinder should be accidentally broken off, the energy released would be sufficient to propel the cylinder up to three-quarters of a mile high. A standard 250 cubic foot cylinder pressurized to 2,500 PSIG can become a rocket attaining a speed of over 30 miles per hour in a fraction of a second after venting from the broken cylinder connection.

Remember, your safety when using compressed gas cylinders depends on you!

Questions?

**Environmental Health and Radiation Safety
503 494-7795**

Need something?

Need something gone?

If you haven't noticed, OHSU is a big place. We've been around for years. Lots of things have been bought and used. As it happens, you may not need that stuff anymore.

Rather than throwing it in the garbage or pushing it deep into your storage areas, consider giving it away or selling it within the OHSU community!

OHSU News and Publications hosts an O-Zone site for **"OHSU Equipment and Supplies"** where you can list what you have AND what you might need:

- Chemicals
- Glassware
- Lab supplies
- Office supplies
- Furniture and chairs
- Paper products
- Equipment



The service is part of the new "OHSU Connections," aimed at better communications within OHSU, and it is **FREE!** Find the details at: <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/news/cgi-bin/class/class/equipment.html>

OHSU *Connections*

Consider this your OHSU-internal 'garage sale' for things big and small. Do it this way and bypass the 'surplus' process entirely!

You can also link to other ad categories including personal 'For Sale' items, housing posts, and public notices. What a great resource!

Q of M Answer!

Last month's Question of the Month was from the Focus Topic, **"Good Hand Care."**

The question was, **"What is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infections at work?"**

The answer was hinted at inside the Focus Topic article: **Hand washing is your best defense from getting sick, at work and at home, and frequent handwashing prevents the spread of infections to patients, visitors, and co-workers.** Frequent hand washing is the key, particularly if you interact with patients or the public.

An equally-good option is frequent use of hand sanitizers. These are best used when there is no visible dirt on your hands. Newer formulas offer built-in lotions to keep hands from drying out.

Thank you to each of you who participated! If you answered correctly, you earned 1 SafetyPoint! Contact Ben Richards at 503 494-2586 for answers to questions or to check on your SafetyPoint total.

FM&C Corner

This section highlights safety issues related to Facilities Management and Construction (FM&C):

- Campus Drive still has periodic closures scheduled for construction zone safety and delivery reasons. Please continue to respect all traffic signs and flagger instructions, and reduce speed in construction zones to prevent accidents.
- Pedestrian safety is a continuing priority. New crosswalk signs have helped with visibility.

Questions? Call Gene Patrick, Construction Safety Manager, at 503 494-2588. **Concerns?** Call the Construction HELP line at 418-HELP (8-4357).



Slow down in Construction Work Zones!

SAFETYNEWS

4

February 2005

Question of the Month

The question of the Month is designed to challenge your safety knowledge and give you a chance to earn some cool, free stuff!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Who can you contact at OHSU to provide a rack, or install brackets or chains, to secure a compressed gas cylinder?

Write your answer to the question in the appropriate box on your SafetyTeam Member Update form. Correct answers to this month's Question will earn 1 SafetyPoint.

If you are not currently a SafetyTeam member and would like to participate, contact Ben Richards, SafetyTeam Coordinator, at 503 494-7795.

OHSU

OHSU includes four schools; two hospitals; numerous primary care and specialty clinics; multiple research institutes; and several public service and outreach units. OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

The SafetyNews newsletter is a publication of the OHSU SafetyTeam, and is a joint effort of AFSCME and OHSU. ©2005

Oregon Health & Science University
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, PP 170
Portland, OR 97239

503 494-7795
safeteam@ohsu.edu