



Weekend Warriors



Summer is almost here, and with good weather comes the desire to recreate! You work hard, and you deserve to play hard! OHSU wants to remind you to play safe this season! Issues to be aware of:

- Sunburn - Adults and children should always wear sunscreen when playing in the sun. This is your best protection from harmful UV rays.
- Recreational sports injuries - Strains, sprains, and fractures increase with better weather as people engage in active, outdoor activities.
- Heat stress - This can occur even on mild days when engaged in even moderate activities. Preventatives include drinking lots of fluids and taking frequent rest breaks in the shade.
- Boating accidents - avoid alcohol and always have kids under 13 years old wear life jackets.
- Pool safety - Never leave children unattended in or around water. Have first aid and rescue equipment available.

Shared Successes

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

- Public Safety was notified of concerns over recent thefts in the building. Public Safety will follow up on the issue and report back to the SafetyTeam.
- New IV poles and pumps were ordered to replace old ones in the OHSU Hospitals and Clinics. New poles should resolve issues related to the old broken down poles.
- Buildup of static electricity was reported in a department near an elevator lobby. Although not a serious health hazard, static electricity can be "shocking", especially in very dry conditions.

Please continue to submit your monthly member update forms so that your safety concerns continue to be addressed. Don't forget to answer the Question of the Month, where correct answers will earn you valuable SafetyPoints!



- Bicycles - Helmets save lives! It is the law for kids under 16 years old.

Inside this Issue:

Safety Focus: Hazardous Waste	2
Chemical Fume Hood Safety	3
Question of the Month	4



Topic of the Month



This month's specialized training topic is a discussion of **Hazardous Waste** including responsible waste handling and disposal.

The many different clinical and research operations at OHSU produce a variety of hazardous wastes, and we must track and handle these carefully. OHSU is expected to set an example due to the nature of our work and our position in the community.

Treatment

Treatment can reduce or eliminate hazardous waste.

- Most acids and bases can be neutralized in the laboratory. This saves disposal money!
- Never evaporate chemicals in fume hoods. This violates hazardous waste rules.

Storage

Storage rules are clear and must be followed.

- Waste must be removed from OHSU within 90 days of when it is received by Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS). There is no storage time limit before EHRS receives it.
- Chemicals must be segregated by oxidizers, corrosives, poisons, and flammables.
- Use appropriate containers for wastes.
- Waste containers must always be capped.
- Containers must always be labeled as "Hazardous Waste," and labels must list the contents.
- Up to 10 gallons of flammable liquids may be stored outside of flammable cabinets.

Disposal

How you dispose of waste must be carefully considered.

- Call EHRS (4-7795) for pick-up of wastes.
- Compatible wastes may be mixed by EHRS to save on disposal costs.

Sink disposal is allowed for many chemicals, but you must reference the Waste Disposal

Grids at: <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs/mh/pages/chem/waste.shtml>. You may also get this list by calling 503 494-2585. OHSU monitors and tests our wastewater for permit-regulated chemicals.

Radioactive Wastes

These are subject to special rules.

- Producers of radioactive waste must follow special rules for labeling, storage, and disposal. Contact EHRS (4-7795) for details.

Recycle

OHSU actively promotes recycling efforts.

- Mercury-containing fluorescent light tubes, microscope lamps, thermometers, thermostats.
- Some chemicals don't need to be wasted (Call EHRS for the list). Reuse may be possible!
- Batteries of all kinds, except Ray-O-Vac and batteries designated "ZMA - Zero Mercury Added (look for the green stripe).
- Lead foil and x-ray aprons.
- Silver solids, solutions, and amalgam.

Spills

Chemical spills must be dealt with quickly and correctly.

All employees working with chemicals must know how to handle spills.

Spill kits or supplies, including personal protective equipment, must be available in the work area.

If you need help, if the cleanup appears to be beyond your abilities, if the spill is mercury, or if the spill is an unknown, call 4-4444 immediately!

OHSU makes chemical spill response personnel available 24 hours a day. Public Safety will dispatch these experts when needed. They are here for your protection and safety!

**Questions?
OHSU EHRS
503 494-7795**

Chemical Fume Hoods

EHRIS is in the process of re-certifying all chemical fume hoods on the Marquam Hill Campus. Daily users should make sure that hoods are working by following the guidelines below:

1. Equipment and other materials should be placed and all work performed at a minimum of 6 inches behind the sash. This practice will reduce exposure of the laboratory area to chemical vapors due to air turbulence.
2. The fume hood sash should be pulled down to the working level indicated by an orange arrow that has been placed on the fume hood by EHRIS personnel. The orange arrow will be placed either 16 or 18 inches from the bottom of the sash opening. This level will protect the user's face and upper chest.
3. Paper and other materials should not be permitted to enter the exhaust duct of the hood. Foreign objects can be drawn into the duct work and exhaust fan, which will adversely affect the performance of the fume hood.
4. Hoods are not intended for the storage of chemicals or equipment. All excess chemicals and equipment should be stored in areas designed for long term storage.
5. Equipment and other materials should not be stored against the baffle area (slot at the back of the hood). This baffle provides means for air movement through the fume hood. If blocked, the hood will not provide consistent air

Q of M Answer!

Last month's Question of the Month was from the Focus Topic, "Fire Safety and Evacuation."

The question was, "**What does the acronym RACE stand for?**"

R: Rescue anyone from immediate danger

A: Activate the alarm or nearest pull station

C: Close all windows and doors in the area

E: Evacuate or Defend in Place.

Thank you to everyone who participated! If you answered correctly, you earned 1 SafetyPoint! Contact Kristine Abrahamson at 503 494-0215 for answers to your questions.

movement.

6. Large equipment placed in fume hoods should be elevated a minimum of 1½ inches above the work surface to allow unrestricted air movement beneath equipment.
7. Do not rely on the fume hood exhaust to protect you from splashes or projectiles. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves and goggles, as needed.



Questions?
Please call EHRIS:
503-494-7795



Slow down in Construction Work Zones!

SAFETYNEWS

4

June 2006

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

Where can you find out what chemicals can be disposed of down the drain?

Write your answer to the question in the appropriate box on your Monthly Member Update Form: <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs/mh/pages/safeteam/mmuf.shtml>. Correct answers to this month's Question will earn 1 SafetyPoint.

If you would like to become a member, contact Kristine Abrahamson, 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. ©2006

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

503 494-7795
safeteam@ohsu.edu