

SAFETYTEAM UPDATE!



Taking Stock

SafetyTeam has been in action at OHSU for almost seven years as an outgrowth of OR-OSHA mandated Safety Committee regulations. Over this time, many members have helped to meet and exceed expectations for environmental and health safety in the workplace.

What is SafetyTeam?

The primary purpose of SafetyTeam is to foster health and safety throughout all parts of OHSU. SafetyTeam members are our “eyes and ears” who report safety concerns, serve as the “go to” safety resource for co-workers, and act as problem-solvers where possible. SafetyTeam fulfills OR-OSHA Safety Committee requirements. As agents of the Safety Committee, Members of SafetyTeam help meet the requirement for quarterly health and safety workplace inspections.

Membership

SafetyTeam consists of members from Research, Healthcare, Facilities and throughout the University. We are managers, administrative assistants, electricians, nurses, and so many others who help to make OHSU a safe workplace. The responsibility of each SafetyTeam member is to contribute to safety in support of the mission of OHSU: improving the health and quality of life for all Oregonians.

Join SafetyTeam

Are you able to dedicate approximately 15 minutes per month to safety at OHSU? If so, please consider joining SafetyTeam. You’ll receive a monthly email with web links for SafetyNews and other resources, as well as a brief survey to email back.

The member list has been overhauled as we shift to an “opt-in” approach. To become a member, contact safeteam@ohsu.edu with your first and last name, email ID, department and location. Please help us achieve our goal to represent all worksite locations at OHSU. To those who have recently joined or reaffirmed their membership, **thank you for your participation!**

NEW FACES!

*Karen Hilts, Industrial Hygienist
Chair of OHSU Safety Committee*



*Margaret Gardner
SafetyTeam Coordinator*

For environmental and health safety concerns in your area or any related questions, contact Margaret at:
503-494-0659 or safeteam@ohsu.edu

Thanks members... be safe!



Questions or suggestions?

Environmental Health & Radiation Safety:

503-494-7795



Topic of the Month:

Mold and Indoor Air Quality

Molds can be found almost anywhere and they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. Outdoors, many molds live in soil and play a key role in the breakdown of leaves, wood and other plant debris. Without molds, we would struggle with large amounts of dead plant matter.



Molds produce tiny spores that enable reproduction. Mold spores travel through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When mold spores land on a damp spot indoors, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. There are molds that grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. If excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, extensive mold growth may occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed.

There is no practical way to eliminate all molds and their spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture. When mold growth occurs in buildings, it may be



followed by reports of health symptoms from some building occupants, particularly those with allergies or respiratory problems. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.

Common Moisture Sources

Moisture problems can be caused by a variety of conditions, including roof and plumbing leaks, condensation, and excess humidity. Some moisture problems have been linked to changes in building construction practices during the past twenty to thirty years. These changes have resulted in more tightly sealed buildings that may not allow moisture to escape easily.



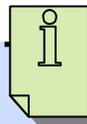
How Do We Reduce Mold Growth?

- Reduce Indoor Humidity: vent showers and other moisture generating sources outside, let building air conditioners and dehumidifiers control humidity, and keep humidity levels indoors between 30-60%.
- Regularly Inspect Buildings: check for moldy odors and water leaks.
- Respond to Leaks Promptly: damp or wet building materials must be dried within 24-72 hours, and leaks should be fixed promptly.
- Cleaning: Keep work areas clean, including taking out garbage at least once a week. Also, don't forget to check your desk drawers for possible rotting foods like oranges.



Who Do You Call about Water Leaks?

Facilities Dispatch: 6-0000



For a current issue of SafetyNews online, and for archives, visit:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/ehrs/safety/gen/safetynews.cfm>

The SafetyTeam page is available at:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/ehrs/safety/gen/safetyteam.cfm>

These pages will be updated in coming months. If there are OHSU resources you'd like to see linked at either of these pages, please send your suggestions to the SafetyTeam Coordinator at:

safeteam@ohsu.edu

Questions?

Contact Environmental Health & Radiation Safety:

503-494-7795

