

Department of Environmental Health & Safety Newsletter

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/>

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In the Past Quarter, Environmental Health & Safety...

- Completed the university annual reporting requirements of the EPA for hazardous waste generation, hazardous chemical community right-to-know, storm water management, and air emissions.
- Worked with Engineering and Construction to safely and legally remove two campus underground storage tanks.
- Coordinated the annual campus Loss Control survey with TVA Fire & Life Safety as part of the university's property and casualty insurance program.
- Expedited the chemical cleanout of Brehm Lab in preparation for the upcoming renovation project.
- Radiation Safety Program underwent an internal audit performed by members of WSU's Radiation Safety Committee. No infractions were found and the program received an excellent review.
- Infectious Waste program was inspected by the Greene County Combined Health District; NO violations found.
- Reestablished the Safety Subcommittee meetings with the Teamsters Union.
- Gave "Fall Awareness" training to 62 WSU employees to reduce the number of injuries due to falls while on the job.
- Helped facilitate the Physical Plant Safety Perception Survey. The survey is a service provided by the state to help institutions direct their Safety program. Results are based upon employee's answers to written questions and in personal interviews.
- Completed an OSHA required fall hazard inventory of all campus fall hazards.
- Performed shielding calculations for a particle accelerator facility in support of a \$1.3 million grant application for the Physics Department.
- Conducted the Community Outreach 2006 Program offering long-term radon detectors for your home at a discounted rate of \$16. EH&S sold 165, which allowed us to give a \$2 rebate to all who made the purchase!
- Conducted bloodborne pathogen awareness training for new Environmental Services Employees.
- Participated in the monthly New Employee Orientation sessions scheduled by the Office of Human Resources.
- Completed Anatomy Lab sampling and wrote an Awareness paper for all people working in Anatomy labs.
- Participated in Institutional Animal Care Use Committee investigations.
- Completed the Lab Animal Resources risk assessment.

Did You Know....

- **last year the EPA issued over \$300,000 in fines to universities across the country for violations of hazardous waste management laws?** (see related article on page 3)
- **Ohio's peak tornado season is NOW: April through July.** (see related article on page 2)
- **You can be jailed for transporting hazardous materials without proper training.** (see related article on page 2)

Warning! It's Tornado Season!

Tornadoes can occur throughout the year, but Ohio's peak tornado season is April through July. A tornado **watch** means weather conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. A **warning** means a funnel cloud or tornado has been sighted. If weather conditions are threatening, seek safety immediately and take necessary actions to protect life and property. Listen to a weather radio or local TV or radio station for continued weather reports. We recommend that you keep a weather radio in your office, and identify your best tor-

nado shelter before a warning occurs. On the Wright State University campus, **the underground tunnels can provide emergency shelter from tornados.** Avoid large, wide places such as auditoriums. If you are on one of the top floors of a building on campus and there is no time to reach the tunnels, go to an interior area or room or a hallway or central stairway. Stay away from walls and windows!

How do you know when a tornado may be about to strike?

- The sky may turn green or greenish-black
- The clouds may move very quickly across the sky
- You may see large hail
- You may hear a loud roar resembling a jet or a train

Some information adapted from the Campus Emergency Guide



Transportation of Hazardous Materials

Did you know that Wright State can be fined or **you can be jailed for sending or carrying hazardous materials to or from campus in improper packaging or without proper training?** Over the past several years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has increased compliance inspections and investigations of universities and other institutions that ship hazardous materials. Hazardous materials are substances that can pose unreasonable risks to health, safety, and property when transported. These materials may include explosives, flammable substances, oxidizers, corrosives, poisons, toxins, infectious substances, diagnostic specimens, cryogenics (e.g., dry ice), compressed gases, radioactive ma-

terials, or equipment containing any of these substances. Persons involved with any of the following tasks relating to transporting hazardous materials require documented initial training and refresher training every three years.

- Preparing a package for shipment, including labeling and completing the way bill
- Transporting a package over public roads
- Receiving packages

The DOT regulates hazardous materials transported in commerce. Materials transported in a university vehicle by a university employee for non-commercial, university purposes are exempted

from compliance with the DOT regulations. Regardless, materials transported under this exemption should be properly packaged, secured, and handled to prevent accidental release or personal exposure. This exemption does not apply to radioactive materials.

If you have a package that contains hazardous materials, or if you are uncertain whether your shipment may be regulated, please contact Tom Mohaupt (775-2169) who will help you determine the level of compliance needed. For more information, check out EHS's comprehensive program regarding **Transportation of Hazardous Materials** on our web site at www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/HazProc.

Ladder Safety: Avoid Injury

Falls from portable ladders (step, straight, combination and extension) are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries and injuries at home. Here are general rules for use of ladders.

- Read and follow labels/markings on the ladder.
- Inspect the ladder for damage before using. If damaged, remove from service and replace.
- Do not exceed the maximum load capacity of a ladder, as stated by the manufacturer's rating
- Avoid electrical hazards –

Use nonconductive (not metal) ladders in areas where contact may be made with power lines or other electrical equipment.

- Maintain 3-point contact at all times (two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand) when climbing.
- Always face the ladder while climbing.
- Only use ladders and appropriate accessories for the purposes which they are designed.
- Keep all ladders free of slip hazards on the steps / rungs.
- Do not use a step ladder or other self supporting ladder in a partially closed position or as a single ladder. Only use a ladder

as it was constructed to be used.

- Do not use the back section of a step ladder for climbing unless designed for that purpose.
- Do not use the top step of a ladder as a step unless it is designed for that purpose. The top and top step of a step ladder are not steps. Do not stand on the top three steps of a straight, single or extension ladder.
- Use only on stable and level ground. Do not use boxes or other items to gain height.
- Unless otherwise designed, only one person should be on a ladder at a time.

Adapted From OSHA Publication 3124-12R 2003, Stairways and Ladders: A Guide to OSHA Rules and OSHA Quick Card Portable Ladder Safety

To All Generators of Hazardous Waste:

Do you work in a lab or support service area (i.e., Physical Plant, Printing Services, Vehicle Maintenance, Instrument Shop, Pharmacy, CaTS, CTL, etc...) that generates some type of waste which Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) manages for disposal? Did you know that **last year the EPA issued over \$300,000 in fines to colleges and university's across the country for violations of hazardous waste management laws?** Did you know that the EPA requires anyone who works at a facility that generates hazardous waste be trained to their level of involvement with that facility's hazardous waste program?

Hazardous waste can include more than just chemicals. Common hazardous wastes generated at WSU other than chemicals include, but are not limited to, rechargeable batteries, contaminated lab trash, fluorescent lights and ballasts, used oils, and chemical containing equipment. A review of Wright State University's hazardous waste

management training program uncovered the need for an updated program to avoid violations and fines levied at other universities. As a result, **EHS has created an on-line hazardous waste training program that must be taken by all university personnel who generate hazardous waste.** This training program has been developed in an effort to bring Wright State University's hazardous waste program into alignment with recent EPA interpretations of applicable regulations at other colleges and universities.

The hazardous waste training program summarizes the EPA's hazardous waste rules for generators and includes proper packaging and labeling requirements that must be met before EHS will be able to safely and legally manage your waste. The program also includes an electronic registration system that will allow EHS to track who has completed the training and to ensure the training is completed on an annual basis as required by EPA rules. The training

itself takes no more than 15 minutes. EHS would be glad to perform classroom training in lieu of the on-line training for individuals or groups if interested.

EHS is requesting that all generators of chemical waste, lab waste, or any common hazardous waste mentioned above, to visit our website and take the training prior to July 1, 2006. If you have any questions as to whether or not your waste should be managed by EHS please feel free to call our office at ext. 2215 and someone will help you make that determination. **After July 1st EHS will not pick up waste from any generator who has not completed the training program.** The training can be taken by clicking on the "Chemical Waste" link on the EHS website at <http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs>.

Contact Tom Dyer at ext. 3788 or Steve Farrell at ext. 3118 if you have any questions.

Wright State University

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/>

Meet the Staff

Pictured:

Left to right, standing: Tom Mohaupt, Kim Morris, Terri Thompson, Helen Kay Dean, Greg Merkle, Ron Hamilton

Left to right, sitting: Tom Dyer, Steve Farrell, Joe Whitlock



Steve Farrell	Director	X 3118	Administration, Occupational Safety & Health, Environmental Compliance
Joe Whitlock	Manager, Occupational Safety & Health	X 4131	Occupational Safety & Health Program Management, Administration, and Training
Helen Kay Dean	Health & Safety Technical Services Coordinator	X 3680	Occupational Health Program Liaison, Administrative, Budgeting, Departmental Web Page, Departmental Newsletter, Purchasing
C. Tom Dyer	Environmental Compliance Specialist	X 3788	Hazardous & Infectious Waste, Free Chemical Program, Drinking Water Analysis, Environmental Compliance
Ron Hamilton	Industrial Hygienist	X 3810	OSHA Support Services, Asbestos, Contractor Safety & Health
Greg Merkle	Sr. Industrial Hygienist	x2217	Biosafety Officer, OSHA Laboratories, Fire / Life Safety
Tom Mohaupt	Radiation Safety Officer	X 2169	Radiation Safety, Laser Safety, EMP program
Kimberly Morris	Radiation Safety Technician	X 2623	Radiation Surveys and Testing, Laboratory Compliance
Terri Thompson	Sr. Industrial Hygienist	X 2797	Chemical Hygiene Officer, OSHA Laboratories, HAZ-WOPER training

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