

Department of
Environmental Health & Safety
 Newsletter

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

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From The Director's Chair:

Welcome to the first issue of our second year of producing our EHS newsletter. This past quarter marked the end of the first year of my tenure as Director. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the EHS

staff for their hard work over the past year. As any of them will tell you it hasn't always been smooth sailing but we are working hard to improve existing EHS programs and developing new ones as required by the myriad of laws and rules established by federal, state and local government agencies.

Department of Health Bureau of Radiation Protection. Tom also took on the extra duty of developing an overdue hazardous materials transportation program and Kim has extended her efforts beyond radiation safety and helped out with various environmental compliance initiatives.

Did You Know....

- » **England has banned laser pointers since 1997 after an airline pilot was momentarily dazzled by a laser beam's red glare.** (see related article on page 2)
- » **By consuming too much liquid during heavy work or intense exercise, you can deplete your body's electrolyte levels.** (see related article on page 3)
- » **You can take your old household chemicals and other nasty stuff to a collection site for free disposal.** (see related article on page 3)

During the last twelve months our occupational safety and health staff of Joe Whitlock, Greg Merkle, Terri Thompson, and Ron Hamilton have critically evaluated our numerous safety and health programs and are in the process of updating these plans and increasing our efforts in training applicable staff. With an employee base the size of WSU's this is no small task.

Maintaining the environmental compliance programs over the past year has been a great challenge. My new responsibilities as Director have taken me away from the day-to-day duties I was accustomed to with these programs. Tom Dyer, Environmental Compliance Specialist, has taken on a much bigger piece of this pie. Along with his continued efforts in the field he has become more involved with the recordkeeping, reporting, and plan development with our chemical and infectious waste programs and our drinking water program.

Our Radiation Safety staff of Tom Mohaupt and Kim Morris continued to operate a top notch radiation safety program which resulted in a successful inspection from the Ohio

None of the above could have been accomplished without the dedicated hard work of Health and Safety Technical Services Coordinator, Helen Kay Dean. Along with her assistance with the above mentioned efforts she also updated our web page including new on-line training options.

A final thank you also goes out to the two student employees we had working with us over the past year, Devaka Balasuriya and Greg Seely. They were always willing to do that ever important "small" job that all departments need accomplished in order to be successful.

These are but a few examples. The past year was truly a busy year for us and we look forward to continually offering EHS services to the campus and invite you to visit our web page at www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/ to get a better idea of what services we provide. Please visit often as we will be improving our web site to provide much more information in the future.

Thanks, Steve

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

- » Submitted the university's response regarding loss control recommendations from the annual fire and life safety survey conducted as part WSU's property/casualty insurance program.
- » Staff attended an eight hour OSHA Emergency Response refresher training program as required for those individuals responding to hazardous material releases.
- » Presented a professional paper on the EHS radon project at the Health Physics Society meeting in Providence, RI. Writers for the American Institute of Physics covered the project for an article as part of a national news release.
- » Created a mock drill for EHS personnel for Radiation Safety. The scenario used an 'imitation' of an incident of spilled liquid radioactive material and the contamination of a student worker in a research laboratory setting.
- » Made continuing revisions to our web pages, which includes locations of AED's, daily safety tips, and EHS newsletters.
- » Coordinated required Forklift training for 37 campus personnel.
- » Arranged for all Grounds personnel to complete Scaffolding Safety training with hands-on assembly of platforms used during summer camps, hosted by WSU.
- » Provided RCRA training to EHS Emergency Response Personnel as required by WSU's EHS Hazardous Waste Management Personnel Training Program and EPA regulations.
- » Escorted the GCCHD on an inspection of WSU's Infectious Waste treatment laboratories. Two minor violations were noted in the inspection report and were immediately corrected.
- » Trained 12 incoming clinical lab students on lab safety. Also trained the 5 new grad students in the Chemistry department.

A Spotlight on Laser Pointers

You see laser pointers as novelty items in the checkout line. We use them during lectures and meetings to draw attention to key points. Surely, they must be safe – or are they? **England has banned laser pointers since 1997 after an airline pilot was momentarily dazzled by a laser beam's red glare.** Fortunately, he and the 180 passengers landed safely. In the U.S. and other countries, many reported occurrences of laser glare and flash blindness have affected police officers, bus drivers, athletes, teachers, and other people. Some of them reported temporary vision loss. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires laser pointers to bear a caution label with the laser star-burst symbol, the laser class, wavelength, and the beam power, as well as a reminder that they are not toys. A person who maliciously misuses a laser pointer may be charged with misdemeanor or felonious assault if they intentionally direct the beam at an

unsuspecting subject. Laser pointers are typically class II or IIIa with a maximum power of 5 milliwatts.

People react instinctively when exposed to very bright light by blinking and reflexive movements of the eye and head. This "aversion response" occurs within 0.25 seconds. Even though class II and IIIa lasers can be effectively brighter than the sun, they normally do no permanent harm because a person's aversion response adequately protects the eye. An eye may be injured if a person views a class IIIa beam, even momentarily, through collecting optics, such as binoculars or telescopes.

Diode technology allows laser pointers to come in a variety of colors (i.e., wavelengths). Green lasers can be safer because the eye sees this color more effectively so that less power is needed in the laser design.



Laser pointers can be used safely when handled properly. Some guidelines for their safe use are:

- Never aim a laser pointer at a person, either directly or reflected off a mirrored surface.
- Never use a class IIIb or IV laser pointer or one that does not have a caution label. [Note: Notify the Laser Safety Officer if you have a class IIIb or IV laser. Their safe use is regulated in the university's laser safety program.]
- Never stare into a laser.
- Don't allow children to handle lasers without adult supervision.

If you have any questions, please contact the Laser Safety Officer, Tom Mohaupt, 775-2169, tom.mohaupt@wright.edu.

HOT DAYS AND HYPONATREMIA

With the dog days of summer rolling in, Glenn Frey's hit song "The Heat is On" starts to really hit home. Summer heat and humidity can increase your body's need for liquid. Failing to meet that need can lead to dehydration, which can lead to heat stress and heat stroke, both of which can lead to serious health problems. Now is a good time to think about preventing heat-related ailments by keeping your body properly hydrated.

Follow these basic guidelines for preventing dehydration:

- Drink liquids before, during and after work or exercise
- Be sensitive to your thirst and prepared to take a sip every 15 to 20 minutes
- Because your body absorbs cool water more quickly, drink it when you have the choice

If not taking in enough water can lead to heat stress or heat stroke, does it follow that more water is always better? Or is it possible to take in too much liquid? In other words, can you over-hydrate?

In recent years a number of deaths have been associated with a condition known as hyponatremia. In these cases the victims appear to have taken advice to drink plenty of fluids a little too seriously. Long distance runners run the highest risk.

Hyponatremia occurs when the concentration of electrolytes in the blood falls to dangerously low levels. The symptoms are similar to those of heat stress: fatigue, weight gain, dizziness, cramping, headaches and confusion, and in severe cases, seizures and coma. Cases of hyponatremia have been

rare, but what the victims all had in common was over-consumption of water.

Sweating cools your body, but it also depletes electrolytes (sodium and chloride). By consuming too much liquid during heavy work or intense exercise, you can deplete your body's electrolyte levels. With the loss of sodium and chloride, water cannot permeate cell walls and therefore cannot be absorbed. Without adequate water, muscles and organs cannot function properly.

Following the basic guidelines for good hydration will help to prevent heat stress and heat stroke, but when "the heat is on," be aware and take extra care.

LSS Saf-T-News: June 22, 2005



How about leftover pesticides, fluorescent lamps, antifreeze and other hazardous materials in your garage or home?

Call for disposal information

Butler County: 513-887-3653
 Clark County: 937-328-4590
 Greene County: 937-562-5925
 Miami County: 937-440-3488
 Montgomery County: 225-4999
 Warren County: 513-695-1209

Our region's water
 Protecting
 Preserving
 Promoting

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection

If you are a homeowner, you probably have old cans of paint, paint remover, garden chemicals and other hazardous household materials that you no longer want stored in your garage or basement. How do you get rid of this stuff? Your local solid waste management district (SWMD) may have a solution for you. Many SWMDs hold household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. If you live in a SWMD that has a collection program, you can take your old chemicals and other nasty stuff to the collection site for free disposal. If you live in a county that is part of a SWMD, call the phone number provided to find out when and where to take your HHW and what materials will and won't be accepted. If your county isn't listed, call Ohio EPA at (614) 644-2621 for information on how to dispose of your HHW safely.

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/pages/recycpro.html>

From the Miami Conservancy District

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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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