ALL ALCOHOL, ALL THE TIME!  We’re taking this issue of the newsletter to focus on issues associated with ethanol and other flammable materials in the labs. Flammable is defined by OSHA as a material having a flashpoint below 100ºF; EPA uses a flashpoint of 140ºF. The flash point of a flammable liquid is the lowest temperature at which it can form an ignitable mixture with oxygen.

Flammability of ethanol mixtures  Keep in mind that mixtures of ethanol and water are flammable (by both OSHA and EPA definitions) in concentrations as low as 10% ethanol.

Storing flammables  All flammable materials must be stored in appropriate flammable cabinets or safety cans. Please make sure that you have sufficient storage for any flammables that you purchase. Also keep in mind that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) limits the amount of flammable and combustible liquids that can be stored per 100 ft² of lab space.

Working with flammables  Handle flammable liquids so that the amount of vapor above the container is minimized. Keep the containers closed when not in use. Transfer materials in a fume hood. Remember that many flammable vapors are heavier than air.

Waste flammables  As a reminder, flammable liquids can not be poured down the drain. This includes, of course, ethanol and most ethanol mixtures. All ethanol and other flammables must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Alcohol alternatives  Fisher Scientific has several options available for disinfection that do not require the large minimum order needed to buy high-purity ethanol. And remember, they ship materials free to Creighton.

NEXT LAB SAFETY TRAINING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 22</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Criss II L62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 23</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Criss II L57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 23</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Criss II L57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 27</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>CUMC Morrison Seminar Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 29</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Criss II L57</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NEXT HAZARDOUS WASTE PICKUPS:
February 13, 2007
May 2007
August 2007

CHECK YOUR EYEWASH!
Don’t forget to check your eyewash and initial the log sheet. Just run the water for a few minutes and report any leaks or other problems to Facilities.

Creighton University Department of Environmental Health and Safety
John Baxter  Mary Duda  Curtis Tate
Director  Chemical Coordinator  Fire Safety Specialist
http://www.creighton.edu/ehs