

LAB SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

November 2007

EPA VISIT: As many of you are aware, we were inspected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on October 30 and 31, 2007. The inspector was looking *only* at how we handle our hazardous waste. First of all, we'd like to thank everyone that met with the inspector. We appreciate your courtesy and diligence. While we did receive several notices of violations, most were not severe. However, we will not find out for approximately 3 months whether we were fined. EPA does take into account our actions to fix the problems found when deciding our fate, so we need *your* help to stay in compliance – continue coming to lab safety training and taking care of your hazardous waste properly.

We'd like to highlight those violations that affect the labs.

1. Satellite accumulation containers not labeled
2. Failure to make hazardous waste determination
3. Satellite accumulation container not closed
4. Hazardous waste containers stored in excess of 270 days without a permit



The containers that were found without labels had just been generated that morning or the previous afternoon and were next to several other bottles that *had* been labeled. Please remember that all containers need to be labeled immediately upon generation – we never know when we might be inspected by the EPA or Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Also, please be sure to get your full bottles of waste to us in a timely fashion to ensure that they are shipped out in the designated amount of time.

If you are unsure whether a chemical or other item is hazardous or not, do not throw it away. Contact us so we can determine how best to dispose of it. This includes any solvents (including ethanol) and medications you may be using in your lab or clinic.

Also, as a reminder, all waste containers must be closed when not being actively filled. This includes removing funnels from bottles and closing waste bottles when your HPLC is not running. Several options for keeping the HPLC waste bottles closed are available through California Pacific Labs (<http://www.ecofunnels.com>); more information will be forthcoming about these.

Again, thank you for your continued compliance with federal and state regulations. We do appreciate your attention to these details. With your help, we will be able to continue to meet our requirements and maintain safe workplaces.

REMINDER: If you haven't gotten your chemical inventory in to EH&S yet, please do so **immediately**, as we are required to submit our information to DHS shortly.

Please remember that *everyone* in the lab needs to attend our Annual Lab Safety Training, regardless of employment status, if you have not attended one of our sessions yet in 2007. This is your last chance!

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| NEXT HAZARDOUS WASTE PICKUP: | NEXT LAB SAFETY TRAINING: |
| February 2008 | Friday, November 30 1:30 p.m. Criss L57 |

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