

LAB SAFETY NEWSLETTER



February 2007



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 100°F; EPA uses a flashpoint of 140°F. 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:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, March 22	9 a.m.	Criss II L62
Friday, March 23	9 a.m.	Criss II L57
Friday, March 23	2 p.m.	Criss II L57
Tuesday, March 27	11 a.m.	CUMC Morrison Seminar Room
Thursday, March 29	1 p.m.	Criss II L57

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.

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