

LAB SAFETY NEWSLETTER



March 2008

GOGGLES: As a reminder, goggles are the *only* appropriate eyewear in labs where there may be a chemical splash hazard. Glasses or safety glasses with side shields do not offer adequate protection against splash hazards because they do not fit snugly against the skin. Remember, an estimated 90% of eye injuries could be prevented through the use of proper protective eyewear on the job. (Source: National Eye Institute)



MERCURY THERMOMETERS: In the past few months, we have been called to clean up several broken thermometers. We recommend that you do not use mercury thermometers if at all possible. However, if your research requires that you use them, please have a spill kit on hand in case we are unable to get to the spill immediately. Fisher Scientific has several economical options available, including the "Hg Absorb" sponges and jars.

TRASH: Please keep items such as syringes, needles, and other sharp objects out of your lab trash. Even if they are not contaminated or infectious, they can still scratch or cut you or the custodians in the lab. We recommend placing these items into sturdy cardboard boxes; tape the boxes shut and the custodians will remove them. Also, please be careful to not leave pipet tips on the floor; your custodians should not be picking them up, since they have no way of knowing whether the tips are contaminated.

CHEMICAL INVENTORY: *THANK YOU* very much for complying with our request for chemical inventories in our format. This made it much easier for us to search the over 14,000 chemicals we have on campus to establish which of the Department of Homeland Security's Chemicals of Interest we have here. With your help, we determined that while we do have quite a few of the DHS's Chemicals of Interest, we have none in quantities high enough to require reporting to the DHS.



EPA VISIT: The EPA sent us a letter in January, requesting further information on several of our violations. We have not yet heard the resolution of this inspection; we will inform everyone of the outcome.

LAB SAFETY TRAINING: Lab Safety Training for 2008 has been announced. Please remember that *everyone* in the lab needs to attend this training, regardless of employment status each *calendar* year.

NEXT HAZARDOUS WASTE PICKUPS:	NEXT LAB SAFETY TRAINING:		
May 2008	Tuesday March 25	11:30 am	Criss L57
August 2008	Friday March 28	8:30 am	Criss L57
November 2008	Thursday April 3	1:30 pm	Criss L57
	Tuesday April 1	10 am	CUMC Morrison Seminar Rm

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