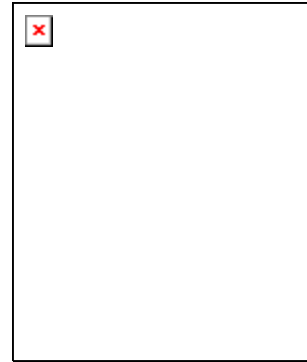
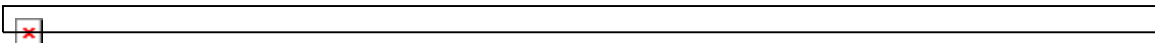


# *Environmental Health & Safety News*



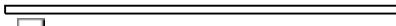
December, 1996



## *Creighton University Dept. of Environmental Health & Safety*

The Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter is published by the Creighton University Environmental Health and Safety Department. It is provided to disseminate safety information to Creighton University Employees and Students inclusive of regulatory updates and policy changes. Questions regarding newsletter content and suggestions for ways to improve the newsletter should be addressed to Paul Nichols, Director, Environmental Health and Safety at [pnichols@creighton.edu](mailto:pnichols@creighton.edu)

**Welcome** to the wonderful world of safety and the first issue of the Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. This will be a quarterly newsletter via internet only. We hope to be able to publish safety information and articles of general interest. We welcome any and all constructive criticism via E-mail ([pnichols@creighton.edu](mailto:pnichols@creighton.edu)), Fax at (402)449-6403, or Telephone at (402)449-6400.



## ***HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS***



A live Christmas tree can use plain fresh water daily, however, during the first 24 hours after it is brought home, the tree can "drink" as much as a gallon and a half of water. (From: Brian Myrland, Dir. of Freshness, 1-800-flowers)

A live Christmas tree should be setup away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and heat vents. Keep the tree away from TV sets and other major appliances. If you have

small children who are likely to be at eye level with protruding branches, place the tree in a corner or a part of the room where they don't have to pass often.

Use only decorative lights and cords that are UL (Underwriters Laboratories seal approved.) Whether the Christmas tree is live or artificial, inspect all electric lights and connections for cords with frayed insulation, exposed, or loose connection or plugs.

Unplug tree lights at night and whenever you leave the house.

(From: Dave Heberle and Richard Scutella, coauthors of "The Complete Guide to Making Your Home Safe.")

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### ***SAFETY HITS THE INTERNET:***

For those on the internet, there are a number safety web sites that can provide an absolute wealth of safety information and related data. The following are just a few that I have found to be of great value and that I urge you to take a look at and use as reference sources:

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) - <http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/kinder>  
AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI) - <http://www.ansi.org>  
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) - <http://www.bis.gov>  
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) - <http://www.cdc.gov>  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) - <http://www.epa.gov>  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) - <http://www.dot.gov>  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) - <http://www.fda.gov>  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE (GPO) - <http://www.access.gpo>  
MSDS ON LINE FROM U OF UTAH - <gopher://atlas.chem.utah.edu:70/11/MSDS>  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (NIH) - <http://www.nih.gov>  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) - <http://www.osha.gov>  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (SHO) - <http://www.who.ch>

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### ***LABORATORY SAFETY***

Experimentation in the laboratory always requires a great amount of forethought to assemble necessary apparatus, obtain and purify required chemicals, and formally plan the experimental process. Consideration should always be given to the types of hazards that may be posed by toxic, flammable, explosive or reactive chemicals proposed for use. But even in the most carefully thought out procedure, accidents can and do occur.

It is often the near miss or close call that goes unreported to supervisors, management, or safety personnel. Near miss reporting is a valuable tool in that it enables the reviewer to look at potential hazards before serious incidents occur. When near misses go unreported, the cause may go uncorrected, thus leaving the potential for more serious incidents to occur. Nothing is learned from an unreported near miss. To report a near miss, contact the laboratory supervisors and/or EH&S at 449-6400. All accidents and near misses should be reported.

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***SAFETY HUMOR***  
***JACK HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT -***  
***Whose to Blame?***



- A. Jack, who threw the banana peel on the a floor?
- B. The manufacturer of Jack's floor wax?
- C. The newspaper that advertised the bananas?
- D. The store that sold them?
- E. The importer?
- F. The farmer who grew the bananas?

**Answer:**  
If you said B, C, D, E, F - you are probably Jack's lawyer.  
(From: Allen's Safety Humor Page  
<http://pwl.netcom/oraton/funny14.html>)

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 Environmental Health and Safety Staff: Director-Paul A. Nichols Chemical Specialist-Lenore Koliha Admin. Secretary-Cathy Schroder	Emergency Telephone Numbers, etc.  Public Safety (emergency)-- 280-2911 Public Safety (general)----- 280-2104 Environ.Health & Safety---- 449-6400 Radiation Safety-----280-5570
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	Chemical Safety----- 449-6404 Chemical Waste----- 449-6404 Physical Plant-----280-2780
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*Created: 9/10/96 Updated: 11/25/96*