

# LAB SAFETY NEWSLETTER



September 2009

**LAB SAFETY TRAINING:** Lab Safety Training is now **online**. We hope you find this a more convenient and effective means of updating your training each year. Three modules are available: one for people who are new to Creighton (faculty, staff, and students), the annual refresher for people who have been here a while, and one for people who visit the labs occasionally, such as computer technicians, delivery people, administrative personnel, and the like. As in the past, the 10-minute Radiation Safety Basic Education video is required for all laboratory workers annually. Access the training at our website <http://www.creighton.edu/ehs>.



**CHECK YOUR EYEWASH:** Inspecting your eyewash weekly is important to ensure that this emergency equipment is safe and ready to use in case you need it in a crisis. It only takes a few minutes a week. More information is available on our website – just click on the Lab Safety tab and then Eyewash Inspections. This is the single biggest item we find on our periodic lab audits.



**MERCURY REDUCTION UPDATE:** As you know, the department of EH&S developed a mercury reduction Supplemental Environmental Program (SEP) as a part of the settlement for the enforcement action taken by the EPA for hazardous waste violations in 2007. Over 300 lab thermometers, 100 home thermometers, 100 sphygmomanometers and 30 thermostats, along with several manometers and barometers and containers of elemental mercury, were removed from campus and the homes of our employees. Thank you to everyone who participated in this program!

**FREE ETHANOL:** Using ethanol to disinfect in your lab? Recycled ethanol is available at no charge to you through Creighton Medical Laboratories. Additionally, they can recycle your ethanol, xylene, or formaldehyde for you. Contact Winston Yapp at x3976 or [WinstonYapp@creighton.edu](mailto:WinstonYapp@creighton.edu) for more information. Using recycled solvents saves you money, both for purchasing and disposal, and reduces the amount of hazardous waste created.

**TRAGEDY AT UCLA:** Earlier this year, a research technician in a lab at UCLA died after a chemical fire in her lab. An excellent summary of what happened is available from the American Chemical Society here: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/87/8731sci1.html>. This tragic incident highlights the importance safety in the academic lab and reminds us that we need to work together to ensure that everyone – students, faculty, staff – has a safe working environment.

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