



THE SAFETY GUIDE WIRE



University of Connecticut's Environmental Health & Safety Newsletter

January 2007

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Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.

~Chemical Safety~

Laboratory Closures



Whether it is to change jobs, relocate to another laboratory, or even possibly retire, at some point all researchers find themselves leaving UCONN. One of the challenges we face at Environmental Health & Safety is figuring out how to handle and identify unlabeled chemicals that often times get left behind. These unknown chemicals can present potential hazards not only to workers at EH&S, but also to new professors and students taking over the labs being vacated. So if you do decide to leave, here are some steps we encourage you to take before you go:

- Call or email EH&S at least 3 months prior to moving out (**486-3613**)
- Alert EH&S to the approximate quantity of chemicals to be removed as well as any particularly hazardous or shock sensitive materials that might require special arrangements for disposal or transport
- Complete the form found on our website at <http://ehs.uconn.edu/Word%20Docs/LabClearForm.pdf>
- Make sure every bottle in your lab has a label
- Attempt to identify unknown chemicals. Remember, your best guess is better than our best guess.
- Share unwanted chemicals with other researchers. As long as the chemicals are still usable, why throw them away if another researcher can use them?
- Deface and place all empty bottles in the regular trash or a glass receptacle

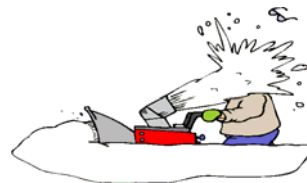
The chemicals and samples generated in the lab are the researcher's responsibility. Leaving EH&S with unlabeled bottles can be both costly to the University and dangerous to those who have to handle them. With your cooperation, we can further minimize the hazards associated with laboratory closures and allow us to more safely manage your chemical wastes.

~Occupational Safety~

Snow Removal Safety

New England winter weather is finally upon us and with it comes the potential hazards of the season during snow removal activities: slips and falls on ice, back strain and overexertion, frostbite and hyperthermia, to name a few. Whether you remove snow at work or at home, follow these links for tips to keep you safe on and off the job:

- ❄ [Safe Snow Shoveling](#)
- ❄ [Using Snow Blowers Safely](#)



~Biological Safety~

Animal Handlers

The *University of Connecticut Occupational Health and Safety Program for Animal Handlers* has recently been revised. This revision includes revised forms for animal handlers. Key changes to the program include:



- A section for visitors and other non-University affiliated people who will have animal contact has been added to the program.
- Sections have been re-arranged to provide easier access to the information you may be looking for, and links have been updated to provide further information for those seeking more detailed safety information.
- Form A, The Personal Profile, is now a 2-page form that includes the Declination page. Minor changes have been made to clarify the information that is needed.
- Form B, the optional Confidential Personal Health History, has also been updated and is for University of Connecticut animal handlers.
- Form C is now a Personal Profile for Non-University Affiliates. This will be used for visiting scientists, visiting students, and other short term non-University of Connecticut animal handlers. This would be used in place of Form A.

The updated program and forms can be found at <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/BIOL.HTML>

Our Vision

To promote and maintain a safe and healthful environment by ensuring the highest level of environmental health and safety services for faculty, staff, students and visitors at the University of Connecticut.

~Radiation Safety~



Laboratory Security

Nature calls, you are the only one in the lab, and it is necessary to leave for a moment. What should you do? **SECURE ALL RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.** This includes all radioactive stock solutions, samples, packages and waste.

The door to the lab should never be left propped open for any amount of time. When leaving the lab unattended, ensure the main door to the lab is locked.



Words Spoken in Radiation Labs (word find)

G	S	O	U	R	C	E	M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L
A	A	Y	Y	U	L	E	R	E	U	Q	C	E	B	X
M	R	M	O	L	S	N	R	M	Z	O	R	S	V	W
M	A	A	R	U	O	U	G	H	R	A	T	O	M	E
A	L	I	R	R	S	E	J	A	D	K	N	M	Q	S
R	A	V	T	O	P	F	D	E	T	X	R	A	Y	O
A	E	U	P	O	R	I	L	S	U	A	R	R	L	D
Y	E	X	T	V	A	L	W	Y	T	Z	O	Y	O	D
N	E	O	X	T	O	F	L	E	A	T	E	T	C	E
B	S	C	I	R	D	L	B	E	A	R	N	I	O	B
I	F	O	T	G	I	A	H	R	E	I	T	V	T	R
J	N	N	K	P	L	H	O	S	M	O	G	I	O	O
N	O	P	S	Q	R	B	U	S	U	T	E	T	R	S
C	U	R	I	E	A	R	E	S	A	L	N	C	P	B
E	S	O	D	L	A	N	R	E	T	X	E	A	V	A

Find the words below that are hidden in the puzzle above. They may be oriented either horizontally, vertically, diagonally, top to bottom or bottom to top.

ABSORBED DOSE
ACTIVITY
ISOTOPE
BECQUEREL
CURIE
RADIATION
EXPOSURE
LABORATORY

SOURCE MATERIAL
CONTROLLED AREA
ROENTGEN
SURVEY
EXTERNAL DOSE
HALF LIFE
ATOM
GAMMA RAY

NEUTRON
SPILL
BETA
USER
ALARA
PROTOCOL
XRAY
LASER

Our Mission
To provide comprehensive environmental health and safety services for the University community by developing and administering effective policies and procedures that prevent personal injuries and maintain regulatory compliance in the areas of biological, chemical, occupational and radiation safety, thereby supporting the University's mission of teaching, research and public service.