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## 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.



Welcome to another edition of “**The Safety Guide Wire**” UConn’s Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter



**Happy New Year.** Environmental Health & Safety is reminding you to keep your trainings up-to-date for the new year. You can check to see if you need Initial training or Refresher training by going to our Laboratory Checklist at <http://ehs.uconn.edu/forms/labtrainingchecklist.php> and our Occupational Checklist at <http://ehs.uconn.edu/Occupational/occutrain.php>.



### **Stefan Wawzyniecki Receives American Chemical Society Award**

Stefan Wawzyniecki, CIH, CHMM, Chemical Safety Manager at EH&S was the recipient of the **2008 Tillmanns-Skolnick Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS)**. The Tillmanns-Skolnick Award recognizes and honors outstanding, long-term service to the ACS’s Division of Chemical Health and Safety. **Congratulations Stefan!**

## ~ Occupational Safety ~



### **Green Cleaning** – Why “Eco-friendly” does not always mean “People-friendly”

In 2007, the Connecticut Legislature passed Public Act 07-100 mandating that cleaning products used in State buildings meet environmental standards set by an approved environmental certification program. Previously, many products contained hazardous volatile organic compounds, petroleum-based compounds, and other chemicals that proved hazardous to humans and/or the environment. Additional information on the Green Cleaning Program at UCONN can be found at [www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/greenclean.htm](http://www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/greenclean.htm).

Since that time, it’s been common to hear, “the products in use now are completely safe,” or to see an employee not using the manufacturer’s recommended personal

## 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.

protective equipment (PPE) when using the approved cleaning products because he believes that they are “safe”.

While it's true the new cleaning products are safer and better for the environment, they may not be completely free from hazards during use. “Eco-friendly” is not necessarily “People-friendly.” The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the product label must be reviewed prior to use of the product. Often times PPE, such as gloves and eye protection may still be warranted. And some products, such as disinfectants (e.g., bleach) and pesticides are not covered by the green cleaning standard. There may be a misconception that they are safe, since they have not been discontinued and are in use today. Disinfectants and pesticides are designed to destroy a living organism and will cause harm if used improperly.

To avoid any problems associated with cleaning products, or any other product in use in your department, comply with the University's [Hazard Communication Program](#) (applicable to non-laboratory settings only). Maintain and review MSDS of **all** products, label containers appropriately, and most importantly, know the hazards of the products in use in your department. Contact [Val Brangan](#) for further information



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## Personal Protective Equipment and the WORKPLACE HAZARD ASSESSMENT —OSHA Compliance for Supervisors

### *What is personal protective equipment?*

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is designed to protect employees from injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, biological, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Besides face shields, safety glasses, hard hats, and safety shoes, PPE includes a variety of devices and garments such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, earplugs, and respirators.

### *When is PPE necessary?*

Using PPE is often essential, but it is generally the last line of defense after engineering controls, work practices, and administrative controls. Engineering controls involve physically changing a machine (like installing a guard) or work environment (like using a fume hood) to eliminate or reduce a hazard. Administrative controls involve changing how or when employees do their jobs, such as scheduling work and rotating employees. Work practices involve training workers how to perform tasks in ways that reduce their exposure to hazards. When these controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, OSHA requires employers to protect their employees with personal protective equipment (PPE).

### *How do I know what kind of PPE is necessary?*

As a supervisor, you must first assess your workplace to determine if hazards are present that require the use of PPE. This is done through a **WORKPLACE HAZARD ASSESSMENT**. OSHA **requires** employers to make a written certification that a hazard assessment has been performed (29 CFR 1910 Subpart I).

**UConn supervisory personnel must use the following form to comply with this**

## EH&S Services

<http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/serv.html>

for a list of all  
EH&S Services  
including;

\* Training  
schedules are  
updated on a  
regular basis.

\* Waste Pickup  
and Delivery  
Request Forms

**OSHA requirement:** [www.ehs.uconn.edu/forms/WHA.doc](http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/forms/WHA.doc). Completed forms must be submitted to EH&S U-4097 and a copy kept at the work location.

### *I've completed a WORKPLACE HAZARD ASSESSMENT FORM, what's next?*

Once you've determined which PPE is required, communicate your PPE selection decisions to your employees. Make sure to select PPE that fits your workers properly. An improper fit can undermine the PPE's performance. Also, an employee is more likely to resist wearing PPE if it is uncomfortable. Provide the necessary PPE to your employees and require them to use it. This last point is often missed by some supervisors, who leave it up to the employee to decide for themselves on whether or not they will wear their PPE. Ultimately, in OSHA's eyes, the supervisor is responsible for ensuring that their employees are properly protected. Lastly, you must also train employees who are required to wear PPE on how to do the following:

- Use PPE properly
- Be aware of **when** PPE is necessary
- Know what **kind** of PPE is necessary
- Understand the limitations of PPE in protecting employees from injury
- Put on, adjust, wear, and remove PPE; and
- Maintain PPE properly

For PPE training assistance, contact EH&S at 6-3613 and ask to speak to a staff member who specializes in the hazard/area of concern. Several safety training programs are available through EH&S that cover PPE selection, use, and care requirements. Visit [www.ehs.uconn.edu/training](http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/training) to see and register for the scheduled training sessions.

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### ~ Biological Safety ~

 **Reminder** – to all who have attended Bloodborne Initial Training at the EH&S building that **Bloodborne Pathogens (Retraining)** needs to be attended yearly, either by classroom or Web Vista. To check the schedule and register, please go to [Biological Safety Training Schedule](#)

### ~ Biological Health ~

#### Hand Washing **True** or **False**

- T** or **F**✓ Rinsing hands under running water removes enough germs.
- T** or **F**✓ Anti-bacterial soap is needed to remove germs from hands.
- T** or **F**✓ Hand Sanitizer is just as good as hand washing.
- T**✓ or **F** Hand washing for 15 – 20 seconds is best.



## Why?

**F** Soap helps remove grease and dirt on your hands that can hide germs. Scrubbing hands with soap, rinsing with clean water and drying with a paper towel will remove the most germs from your hands. Turn off the water with a paper towel if possible.

**F** For general purposes, regular soap is just as effective as anti-bacterial soap in removing germs from your hands.

**F** Hand sanitizer is great to use when water is not available or in addition to hand washing. Nothing beats thorough hand washing for removing germs from your hands.

**T** Hand washing for less time may not remove enough germs. Need a timer? Sing the Alphabet song, Yankee Doodle or twice through Row-Row Your Boat while you wash your hands.



## ~ Chemical Safety ~

Annual **Laboratory Safety & Chemical Waste Management Training** has been scheduled for the Spring Semester.

Wednesday	2009-01-28	12:00 - 1:00 PM	CLAS 110
Tuesday	2009-02-03	8:30 - 9:30 AM	CLAS 110
Monday	2009-02-09	1:00 - 2:00 PM	CLAS 110
Friday	2009-02-13	1:30 - 2:30 PM	CLAS 110
Tuesday	2009-02-17	8 30 - 9:30 AM	CLAS 110
Wednesday	2009-02-25	12:30 - 1:30 PM	CLAS 110
Friday	2009-02-27	1:00 - 2:00 PM	CLAS 110
Tuesday	2009-03-03	8:30 - 9:30 AM	CLAS 110
Wednesday	2009-03-04	1:00 - 2:00 PM	CLAS 110
Friday	2009-03-06	2:00 - 3:00 PM	CLAS 110

Please go to [www.ehs.uconn.edu/training/login.html](http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/training/login.html) to register.

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## 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 **Laboratory Clearance Form** found on our website at [Laboratory Clearance Form](#)
- 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.

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## ~ Radiation Safety ~



### *OUT OF THE OFFICE?*

## From the Radiation Safety Manual

[Radiation Safety Manual](#)

### Appendix C

#### Responsibilities of the Licensed Investigator

A Licensed Investigator (LI) with an active protocol is required to notify the RSO if he or she is to be absent from the University for more than one month. Arrangements shall be made to have another LI, preferably from the same Department, take responsibility for the absent LI's licensed materials and subordinate research staff. The RSO can be contacted at: [martin.graham@uconn.edu](mailto:martin.graham@uconn.edu).