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Welcome to another edition of the Environmental Health & Safety's Newsletter. Check out the information and articles. There is even a game to brush up on your knowledge! There's something for everyone. Our web page has recently gone through a few changes also. We now have a **Forms** page and a **Training** page.

EH&S now has **on-line** registration for **Biological, Chemical, Radiation** and **Occupational** training classes. All schedules are on-line, also.



- ☞ Go to <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/> and click on **Training**.
- ☞ Click Training Schedule for the appropriate section and to see which dates are scheduled
- ☞ Click [HERE](#) to register

You will need your **NET ID** to register. If you are not sure what your NET ID is, go to <https://netid.uconn.edu> and follow the prompts.

Thank you for registering for our training classes on-line. Please call 486-3613 for assistance.

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.

~ Chemical Safety ~



Do you work in a lab? Do you work with chemicals? Do you need training for **Laboratory Safety/Hazardous Waste Management**?

On-line registration is now required prior to attending the Laboratory Safety/Hazardous Waste Training. Check out our **JUNE** training dates. To sign up from the EH&S Main page click <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/> then click **TRAINING** to see the training schedule under Chemical Health & Safety. Pick a date/time and click on the word "**here**" to register. Any questions please call 486-3613.

~ Biological Safety ~

The arrival of beautiful spring and summer weather finds many of us spending more time outside. However, this is also the time of year when black-legged ticks (deer ticks) are the most active.



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.

Ticks have four stages of development: egg, larvae, nymph and adult. The majority of people who get Lyme disease have been bitten by nymph stage ticks, which are active during the spring and summer months. These tiny ticks (less than 2mm) often go unnoticed on skin and clothing.

Taking a few precautions can help prevent tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease.

Connecticut has the highest incidence of Lyme disease in the nation. If you plan to be out in wooded, shrubby, tall vegetation or lots of leaf litter, walk in the middle of wooded trails and avoid contact with shrubs and other vegetation at trail edges.

1. Consider using insect repellent with 20 – 30% DEET, 10% DEET on children. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations when using these products.
2. Check clothes for ticks before going inside. Wearing light colored clothing will help you see ticks on your clothes more easily. Wear long sleeves and tuck in your clothes to keep ticks from crawling on your skin.
3. Contact your vet for tick control products to use on pets. Check pets too, so that ticks don't get a ride into the house.
4. Check your body for ticks daily, even if you have only been in your own yard. Ticks must be attached for about a day before they transfer the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, so early removal of ticks may prevent Lyme disease.

If you find an embedded tick

- Grasp it with tweezers close to the skin and pull it out with a steady motion.
- Clean the area of the bite with soap and water, and then apply an antiseptic.
- Try not to crush the tick during removal and do **not** use a hot match, petroleum jelly or nail polish on the tick because these may cause it to expel the Lyme disease-causing bacteria into your body.
- Mark your calendar on the date you were bitten and note the part of the body where the tick was embedded.

Consult your physician if you develop an expanding rash with a characteristic bull's-eye pattern or flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, chills and fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, swollen lymph nodes within eight weeks of being bitten.

New Clean Air Devices (CAD) Certifier on Campus

MicroClean Inc, (www.microcln.com/) has been selected as the preferred CAD certification services company.

In order to have a smooth transition from B&V to MicroClean, and to facilitate service, **Biosafety** staff will coordinate all service calls. Contact Dave Judd at david.judd@uconn.edu or 486-1804 to schedule service appointments. For further assistance contact EH&S at 486-3613.

You will need to provide the following:

- name and telephone number of person to contact
- make, model, serial number, date of last certification, and building/room #
- nature of the service request (certification, repair, decontamination).
- P.O. number (MicroClean will **not** send a certifier to campus without having purchase order information, beforehand).

[EH&S Services](#)

<http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/serv.html>
for a list of all
EH&S Services
including;

Training
schedules which
are updated on a
regular basis.

Waste Pickup and
Delivery Request
Forms

It is your responsibility to decontaminate the interior surfaces of the CAD with appropriate disinfectant, before permitting the certifier to service the equipment. It will be helpful if you label the glass view screen with the date, disinfectant and dilution (if applicable) used (for example, 6/6/06 Lysol spray or 6/6/06 bleach 1/20).

Biosafety expects that many of the investigator complaints/concerns regarding the previous certification company's customer service or performance will be addressed with this change of vendor.

Investigators are reminded that annual certification of CAD is a University policy requirement (see bullet 3 in the CAD policy <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/Biological/CADSpolicy.htm>) and not an option. Units not in use or **not** certified annually will be disabled and considered to be in storage. There may be a cost to you associated with disabling/enabling CAD.

~ Occupational Safety ~

Are you planning a renovation of your office or lab space this summer? If so, there are a few items to keep in mind. Many building materials can contain asbestos. State and federal regulations require that suspect building materials be inspected for asbestos and removed if they will be impacted, prior to the renovation or demolition taking place.



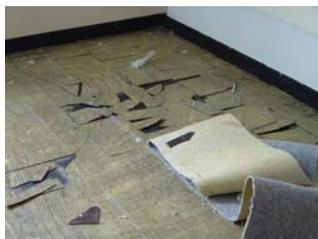
What are typical suspect building materials?

Some examples are:

- ◆ floor tiles and mastics
- ◆ carpet glues
- ◆ plasters and wallboard materials
- ◆ ceiling tiles and their associated glues

The list is actually very extensive. Check out our website for information on the impact of regulations on purchasing and project request, <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/Word%20Docs/asbleadDDD2006.doc>.

You will also find information on carpet removals on campus, <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/Word%20Docs/CARPET%20FACT%20SHEET.doc>, and how to proceed, especially if suspect floor tile is located underneath.



Finally, keep in mind that all renovations can impact other building occupants, even under the best of circumstances. Dust, odors, and noise can all have a negative effect. Take care in the selection of the materials used, such as cleaners and paints. Solvent-based products are not to be used in occupied buildings unless effective controls are in place to prevent vapors from migrating to occupied areas.

Engineering controls, like ventilation, should always be used to minimize the accumulation of dust and odors.

And remember, to keep things running smoothly, communication to all building occupants is vital prior to the start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact Val Brangan at 486-3613 or Valerie.brangan@uconn.edu.



Not So Common Lead Paint Facts

The walls in my office are going to be sanded and repainted this summer. Should I be concerned about lead?
YES!

It is common knowledge that paint applied prior to 1978 can contain lead. Airborne exposure studies have found that even hand-scraping and hand-sanding activities on lead paint can release harmful levels of lead into the air. Only appropriately trained personnel using lead-safe work practices can conduct this type of work, to prevent lead paint exposures.

But my walls were painted after 1978, so there isn't a lead problem, right?
WRONG!

While the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the addition of lead to paint after 1978, lead can still be present as a contaminant, in concentrations up to 600 parts per million. EPA and HUD do not recognize this as a lead paint hazard and consider this paint to be lead-free, but OSHA is concerned that any level of lead in paint could produce an airborne hazard to employees from common renovation activities, such as sanding and scraping. The burden is on the employer to make sure that even these miniscule amounts of lead in the paint are not producing an airborne hazard.

So, how do I deal with my painted walls?

Employees or contractors performing work in University buildings that will impact paint, *regardless of its age*, must have OSHA lead awareness training which teaches them the appropriate lead-safe work practices, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment that must be utilized, as well as appropriate cleaning techniques. EH&S can provide the appropriate OSHA training to University employees. Go to our [EH&S website](#) for information on training dates.

What about paint renovation activities at home?

If your home was built prior to 1978, you should assume that the paint contains lead. Lead-safe work activities must be utilized. Lead poisoning can result in serious harm, especially to young children. [The Homeowner's Guide to Lead-Safe Painting and Home Improvement](#), published by EPA provides useful information. In addition, check out the [Connecticut Department of Public Health's Lead Program](#) website. While OSHA doesn't regulate homeowners, utilizing the lead-safe work practices in houses built after 1978 makes good sense.

If you have any questions, contact Val Brangan at 486-3613, or Valerie.brangan@uconn.edu.
