



The Safety Guide

Department of Environmental Health & Safety

Division of Public & Environmental Safety

Welcome Our New Director: On March 11, 2011, the University welcomed Terence Monahan as the new Director of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. His appointment followed a national search conducted by a committee representing various university interests and included meetings with key stakeholders during the interview process.

Terence is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and has over 25 years experience in the field of Environmental Health and Safety, managing complex operations at large research institutions. He joins us, most recently, from Michigan State University (MSU) where he worked for seven years, serving as the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory's (NSCL) EH&S Manager and as MSU's Occupational Safety Compliance Officer. Before working with MSU & NSCL, Terence worked for Brookhaven National Laboratory for 15 years in various capacities in the Environmental Health and Safety program. Brookhaven is recognized as a national research laboratory under the U.S. Department of Energy.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering Technology from DeVry Technical Institute in New Jersey; a Master of Business Administration from Dowling College in New York; a Master of Science in Technology Systems Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook; and a Master of Science in Environmental & Occupational Health Science from the City University of New York at Hunter College.

Terence expressed his sentiments about joining UConn: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to work for a prestigious institution like the University of Connecticut. As Director of the EH&S Department, my goal will be to enhance working relations between EH&S and other university departments. An effective environmental health and safety program requires active participation of all involved."

Robert Hudd, Associate Vice President for Public and Environmental Safety as well as all of the EH&S staff extend their thanks to Professor Larry Silbart, chair of the search committee, and to the members Professor Ashis Basu, Nancy Wallach, Mike Kurland and Terri Dominguez. Terence's extensive knowledge and experience in large research institutions will be an excellent fit for our community. Please join us in congratulating Terence and welcoming him to UConn.

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Free Laboratory Ergonomics Workshop!

For Researchers, Technicians and Animal Handlers

On Wednesday, April 6th, EH&S, the Office of Research Compliance, and the Office of Animal Care will be sponsoring a two-part ergonomics workshop for individuals in the research community. Ergonomics is the science of fitting the job to the worker to reduce workplace injuries and enhance productivity and safety. The workshop will provide helpful information and tools for laboratory researchers and technicians to identify and reduce ergonomic risk factors in the laboratory and animal care environments to help them work safely, comfortably and more efficiently.

The workshop facilitator is Josh Kerst, a Certified Professional Ergonomist and Certified Industrial Engineer of Humantech, Inc., a leader in ergonomics consulting and training. The workshop is being offered at no cost to University faculty, staff, and student employees.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register online.



Contact Us:

Department of Environmental Health & Safety
3102 Horsebarn Hill Road, U-4097
Storrs, CT 06269-4097

Phone: 860-486-3613
Fax: 860-486-1106

Web: www.ehs.uconn.edu
Email: ehs@uconn.edu

[Environmental Health & Safety Directions](#)

Liquid Scintillation Cocktail Policy Revised

Radiation Safety has reviewed Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) data for liquid scintillation cocktails and has determined that all cocktails have some form of harmful health and environmental effects; some of the effects are unknown. Liquid scintillation cocktails listed as flammable generate a mixed waste and are forbidden to be used.

Be very careful when ordering and using liquid scintillation cocktails. It is strongly recommended that you refer to the manufacturer's MSDS for the particular liquid scintillation cocktail you are using. The MSDS contains information regarding the hazards associated with the liquid scintillation cocktail, first aid measures, exposure controls and personal protection.

The approved list is not all inclusive and modifications may be required. If you are using or plan to use a scintillation cocktail that is not on the [approved list](#) please contact Radiation Safety prior to ordering so that the liquid scintillation cocktail can be evaluated. Additional handling and processing steps may be required of the laboratory to ensure proper disposal.

“All LS cocktails have some form of harmful health & environmental effects.”

Changes for the Institutional Biosafety Committee

Dr. Paulo Verardi (Pathobiology) is the new Chair of the IBC. Dr. Verardi has served on the committee since 2009, and he brings great knowledge and enthusiasm to this role.

Dr. Carol Auer (Plant Science) stepped down as Chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) as of January 11, 2011. The six years of her tenure as IBC Chair brought many changes to the IBC. Biosafety has evolved into one of the most important research review committees on campus, and faces many new issues and challenges in the future. Dr. Auer's contributions to the evolution of the IBC are greatly appreciated, and the University research community thanks her for her time and service to the committee and University.

There are 3 new IBC voting members: Ashis Basu (Chemistry), Akiko Nishiyama (Physiology and Neurobiology) and Gerald Berkowitz (Plant Science). Drs. Basu, Nishiyama and Berkowitz bring many years of research experience to the IBC and expand the areas of expertise represented on the committee.

To better serve the University research community, the IBC is working to increase the meeting frequency from quarterly to every 6 weeks.

Cindy Hall (Office of Research Compliance-860-486-5813) continues to serve as IBC Coordinator and should be a point of contact for all general questions regarding the recombinant DNA (rDNA) registration process.

Leslie Delpin (EH&S-860-486-2436), the Institutional Biological Safety Officer (IBSO) and Responsible Official (RO) for Biological Select Agents is a point of contact for questions related to the registration and use of biological agents (microorganisms, plants, fungi, invertebrate and vertebrate animals) and sub-viral particles, biological toxins and products and materials of microbial, human, animal, plant or fungal origin.



Eggstravaganza!

Don't find a food-borne illness at your egg hunt this year. Follow these tips to ensure your eggs are safe to handle and eat:

Cook eggs thoroughly. Place a layer of eggs in a pan and cover with at least an inch of water. Cover the pan, bring to a boil, then remove from heat and let the eggs stand; 18 minutes for x-large eggs, 15 minutes for large, 12 minutes for medium. After the standing time is over, run cold water over the eggs until they are cool enough to handle. Place them in an uncovered container in a cold part of your refrigerator.

Use egg dye, food coloring or fruit drink powders to color your eggs. Don't use cracked eggs. Bacteria could enter through the cracks. Hide the eggs in places that are protected from pets, wild animals, dirt, lawn chemicals or other possible contaminants.

When decorating, displaying or hunting for eggs, remember the **2 hour rule**. Make sure eggs are back in the refrigerator or eaten within two hours. When handled properly, hard boiled eggs are safe to eat for one week after cooking. ([for more egg safety tips](#))



MSDS: Your Informational Resource

The Material Safety Data Sheet or MSDS is required to be available for every hazardous chemical used in the workplace. But besides ensuring that we retain the document, what information does it provide? The following is a list of some of the pertinent data on the MSDS:

- The name and contact information for the manufacturer
- The ingredients that make the chemical hazardous
- Physical properties of the chemical, including appearance and odor
- Fire and explosion hazard data
- Reactivity data, or what materials and situations are incompatible with the chemical
- One of the most important sections is health hazard data: how can I get exposed, what are the symptoms, what are first aid methods, is the chemical a carcinogen?
- Control measures, for example, what type of personal protective equipment should I be wearing, do I need a respirator for use, or are there specific ventilation methods I should be using?
- Storage and handling: how should I be storing this product?
- Accidental release measures: what should I do in the event of a spill?

“Information on MSDS's can be found in the University's [Hazard Communication Policy](#)”

These are just some examples of the information available on the MSDS. Most of the information is important to know *prior* to actually using the product or hazardous chemical. So it's important to read and understand the MSDS before filing it away. Further information on MSDS's can be found in the University's [Hazard Communication Policy](#) or in your department-specific Hazard Communication Program. Any questions on MSDS or the Hazard Communication Program can be directed to [Val Brangan](#) at 6-3613.

Asbestos Awareness Refresher Now Available Online

For individuals that have already taken an asbestos awareness training session from EH&S in the classroom setting, there now is another option for annual refresher training. The Asbestos Awareness Refresher course is available online through Husky CT. To take this course, just register for the Asbestos Awareness Refresher Husky CT course on EH&S's website at ehs.uconn.edu/training/schedule/OccuTrainingSchedule.php. Once you register,

you will be given access to the Husky CT course within 2 business days. Then all you need is your NETID and password to review the presentation and take the quiz at your convenience. Questions about registration can be directed to [Diane Bolduc](#) at 6-3613. Questions about content of the course can be directed to [Val Brangan](#) at 6-3613.

Proper Syringe Disposal

Health and Safety Specialists responded to several incidents this past winter concerning the inappropriate disposal of syringes found in and around regular trash receptacles.

Please keep in mind that others including custodial groups and facilities personnel may handle these trash receptacles and should be able to do so without the fear of injury. Needle sticks can result in physical injury and illness.



Federal and state regulations require the proper disposal of biomedical wastes including syringes. Syringes should ALWAYS be disposed of in a proper sharps container. EH&S provides a variety of sharps containers to university research groups at no cost. EH&S will deliver empty sharps containers

to any university lab at your request. Requests can be made online at www.ehs.uconn.edu/bwc/request.php

“Where are you located?”

Find the EH&S office using this [Interactive Search Map](#). Type “ehs” in the search field.

Traveling South on Rt. 195: the blue UConn sign will be on your right. From there, turn left at the 3rd traffic light onto Gurleyville Rd. bear left immediately onto Horsebarn Hill Rd. Travel 8/10ths of a mile. Take the second right at the University sign "Horsebarn Hill Sciences Complex, 3107". Environmental Health and Safety is the third building on your left. Short-term parking is available.

Traveling North on Rt. 195, the blue UConn sign will be on your right at the corner of 195 and S. Eagleville Rd. Continue north on 195 and turn right at the 5th traffic light - Gurleyville Rd. Continue with the directions above.



EH&S Training FAQs :

Workplace Safety should be at the top of every department's priority list. Environmental Health & Safety offers various training year round to employees and students. We hope that by sharing these most frequently asked questions, we can save our safety trainees some time and effort. Watch for new user-friendly updates to our web site this spring. Send us your questions at ehs@uconn.edu.

Q: I am new at UConn. How do I know which safety training I need? OR, I was told to call EH&S to find out what safety training I should sign-up for.

A: Please speak with your PI/ Supervisor and refer to the following tools: [Laboratory Training / Occupational Safety](#) checklists and the [Workplace Hazard Assessment Form](#) for your area. [EH&S staff](#) can also be consulted for assistance.

Q: How do I register for EH&S safety training classes?

A: You can view [Course Descriptions](#) and click on any Class Title to sign-in to the [Training Schedules and Registration](#) Form using your NetID and password. Choose one or more classes before hitting the 'Submit' button.

Q: I clicked the 'Submit' button on the EH&S Training Schedule and Registration Form but nothing happened.

A: Please check that you have completed all fields; they are all required. If the choices you need are not provided in one of the drop-down lists provided, please complete the applicable 'Other' field.

Q: How can I access the training history for myself or a group?

A: From <http://www.ehs.uconn.edu/training/> individuals can **View** their training history. PI/Supervisors or their designees can **Build** a Group training history Report or **Search** an individual's training record. Individuals can also '[View Training History](#)' after signing-in to the Class Registration Form.

Q: Can I see which classes I am currently registered for?

A: When you sign-in to the [Training Schedule and Registration](#) Form, the classes for which you are currently registered will be listed at the top of the page.

Q: Why did I receive an annual re-training reminder even though I took the class within the last year?

A: When this happens, please contact [EH&S](#) so that we can ensure you will only receive the retraining reminders you need in the future. Automatic retraining reminders is a new function of our database and we appreciate your patience while we work through any programming glitches.

Q: When I registered for EH&S HuskyCT on-line training the class date was "Fall Semester 12/17/10." What does this mean?

A: Within two days after [pre-registering](#) with EH&S, your [HuskyCT](#) on-line class can be taken at your convenience. As a functionality of our database, classes are only open for registration through the scheduled class date. By using a semester date, on-line classes are open for registration until the end of a current semester.

Q: I just pre-registered for EH&S on-line training and received the registration confirmation e-mail, but I don't have access to it when I sign-in to HuskyCT. Did I do something wrong?

A: As indicated on our web site and in your registration confirmation e-mail, please allow up to two business days to be given access to the HuskyCT class.

Q: Which EH&S classes are available on-line?

A: We currently offer five on-line classes (see below). The on-line training completion date will be added to your training history within two weeks.

Husky CT Classes

- ⇒ Lab Safety & Chemical Waste Management (annual Retraining only)
- ⇒ Bloodborne Pathogens Retraining (annual retraining only)
- ⇒ Asbestos Awareness Retraining (annual Retraining only)
- ⇒ Laser Safety
- ⇒ EHS X-Ray Safety



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3102 Horsebarn Hill Road, Unit 4097

Storrs, CT 06269-4097

Phone: 860-486-3613

Fax: 860-486-1106

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