



Environmentally Speaking

The University of Georgia
Environmental Safety Division

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Changes

- New Division
- New Mission Statement
- Environmentally Speaking, formally Flashes

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

The University of Georgia Environmental Safety Division's mission is to work in partnership with the University community to develop and maintain the highest possible standards of health and safety.

Vision

In carrying out our mission, we will work with integrity and commitment to excellence for the University's students, faculty and staff in a fiscally-responsible manner. We will:

- be customer-oriented with a clear focus on continually enhancing customer satisfaction;
- identify and satisfy the needs of our customers and earn their respect by communicating openly, clearly, courteously and promptly;
- be aware of the impact of our actions on our customers;
- provide for the educational needs of our customers; and
- be a resource for the most current information involving health, safety and the environment.

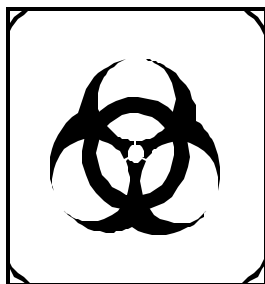
Values

Our values will be:

- encouraging teamwork;
- fostering a challenging, creative, and healthful work environment that is in harmony with our needs as individuals and provides for professional and personal development;
- treating each other with respect and courtesy, encouraging open dialog and communication and recognizing that the work of every employee is important to the success of the division; and
- continually evaluating the substance and process of our work.

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Bioterrorism Initiative Conference by Judy Harper



The Bioterrorism Initiative Conference was held on May 26, jointly sponsored by Dr. Joe L. Key, Vice President for Research and Associate Provost; Dr. Daryl E. Rowe, Biological Safety Program; Dr. Allan W. Barber, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration; and Mr. Kenneth A. Scott, then Acting Director, Environmental Safety Division. Mr. Mark Demyanek, Director of Environmental Affairs for the Board of Regents, welcomed more than 150 individuals from universities and lo-

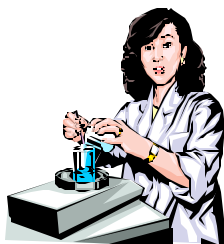
cal fire, police and health departments.

Dr. Joe L. Key, spoke regarding "Terrorism and the Research Community;" and Mr. Jere Morehead, Legal Affairs, spoke on "The Cost of Terrorism and the University." Dr. Jonathan Y. Richmond, Director, Office of Health and Safety for the Centers for Disease Control gave a speech entitled "Rational Response for Bioterrorism Part I." Dr. Peg Tipple, Medical Officer for External Affairs, Office of Health and Safety for the Centers

for Disease Control gave a speech entitled "Rational Response for Bioterrorism Part II."

A panel discussion to initiate planning closed the meeting. Also in attendance were local newspapers and the UGA Communications staff. Plans to form a bioterrorism committee were implemented, and the group held its first meeting last month.

Safety in the Lab



Always stand while working with chemicals.

A recent issue of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst environmental health and safety newsletter related the following fatal accident involving hydrofluoric acid. While sitting at a fume hood processing mineral samples, a laboratory technician knocked approximately 100 ml of hydrofluoric acid onto his thighs. Immediate burns ensued on 10% of the technician's body. Despite rapid flushing with water and emergency hospitalization, he died 15 days later.

This accident, while more drastic, is very similar to an incident which occurred this past year on the UGA campus. A worker sitting at a fume hood inadvertently knocked over a 500 ml container of trifluoroacetic acid. The liquid spilled onto her upper thigh. The chemical penetrated her jeans and, despite immediate flushing, the worker sustained burns to her thigh and leg.

These incidents illustrate the need to stand while working

with any hazardous chemical. A worker sitting at a bench is much less capable of deflecting and avoiding spills or splashes. Another safety practice to remember is always to place hazardous chemicals containers in a chemical-resistant, non-breakable secondary container.

Biosafety with GHENEHS by Maria Kuhn

The University of Georgia Environmental Safety Division served as host for the May meeting of the Georgia Higher Education Network of Environmental Health and Safety (GHENEHS).

GHENEHS is a network of environmental health and safety representatives from colleges and universities throughout the state of Georgia, including members of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, the 34 system schools, and some private institutions, such as Mercer University and Spelman College. We had a fantastic turn-out of approximately 40 people with 18 representatives from UGA and

the remaining guests from around the state from as far south as Valdosta.

The topic of discussion was biosafety. Dr. Daryl Rowe from the office of the Vice President for Research and Mr. Alan Baca, Director of Health and Safety from Mercer University, gave excellent presentations, and we thank them for their participation. All aspects of biosafety were discussed, from bloodborne pathogens to understanding universal precautions when a biohazard is present. Personnel who should be concerned with biosafety include custodians, health care workers,

research personnel, public safety officers, and health and safety professionals.

For information concerning biosafety, you can visit the UGA Biosafety Office's web site at www.ovpr.uga.edu. Mercer University has a site dedicated to bloodborne pathogens at www.mercer.edu/uro/departments/health/bloodbp.html. Thanks to everyone involved in putting this meeting together. We look forward to continuing our relationship with GHENEHS as ESD's lab safety officer Maria Kuhn is serving as the new chairperson.

**Visit the
Environmental
Safety Division
Web Site at
www.esd.uga.edu**

Safety Shower Checks by Wes Kolar



Keep safety shower area clear for easy access.

The Environmental Safety Division has tested all emergency safety showers and eyewashes on campus this summer. Great effort is put forth annually by ESD to ensure that all campus emergency equipment is tested. Some showers and eyewashes, however, may not be on our current test list due to recent building renovations. If you have had a safety shower or

eyewash installed in your laboratory within the past 12 months, please let us know so that we can add them to our current list. Send an email with your name, phone number, building name, and laboratory number to Wes Kolar at wkolar@esd.uga.edu.

Additionally, some major renovations and repair funding has been acquired by ESD for

new installation of showers and eyewashes. Priority will be given to the buildings with the greatest need for emergency equipment.

Please contact us if you would like to investigate the possibility of receiving a free shower or eyewash installation or have any questions about laboratory emergency equipment.

1998 Injury Summary by Mike Stover

Beginning the new fiscal year is a good time to look at the safety experience of the University of Georgia. There were a total of 722 accident reports submitted to Environmental Safety last year.

Improper lifting and falls were large contributors to injuries in 1998. Environmental Safety has educational materials to assist you in preventing these and other injuries. Please call Mike Stover at (706) 542-0077 for these materials.

Causes		Injuries	
Struck by	129 or 18%	Back	109 or 15%
Lifting	103 or 14%	Finger	75 or 10%
Fall (same level)	100 or 14%	Hand	62 or 9%
Cut/puncture	70 or 10%	Eye	53 or 7%
Fall (different level)	35 or 5%	Arm	45 or 6%
Foreign Matter in Eye	30 or 4%	Ankle	42 or 6%
Twisted	29 or 4%	Knee	41 or 6%
Caught In	23 or 3%	Thumb	38 or 5%
		Leg	37 or 5%
		Foot	34 or 5%



Remember to use proper lifting techniques to avoid back injuries like this one.



Construction on the new Hazardous Materials administrative building began this summer. The new building will house the offices of the staff in this department. In addition, there will be a training room, break area, showers and a welcome area. The building should be completed near the end of fall. The existing building will remain as the treatment facility and equipment and chemical storage.

Year to date hazardous waste material pick-ups are up 56 from the previous year.

1997 – 269

1998 – 270

1999 – 326



These helpful chemical web sites will help you locate CAS Numbers, chemical characteristics, etc.

<http://msds.pdc.cornell.edu>

<http://siri.uvm.edu>

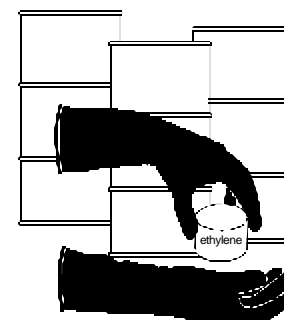
www.chemfinder.com

Now you see it, now you don't by Mark Harrison

Many researchers have noticed that the Hazardous Materials Department has dramatically reduced the pick up time for materials. Researchers typically have had a 2-4 week wait before their materials were picked up. Hazmat is

working on a 35 day pick up schedule and is providing a better customer service system to departments. Hazmat appreciates everyone that is using their service, and encourages others to contact us about the "proper" way to dispose of their waste.

Feel free to contact us with any questions at (706) 369-5706 or check out our website at www.esd.uga.edu/ and click on Hazardous Materials.



Kenneth A. Scott, Director

WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://WWW.ESD.UGA.EDU](http://www.esd.uga.edu)



Kudos:

Thanks to everyone who has helped us along during our reorganization! Special thanks to Dr. Allan Barber and his staff, the staff from Physical Plant, and the Office of Human Resources!

Thanks to all of those people on campus working to bring themselves up-to-date with right to know training: Dawn Garn and the Department of Anatomy and Radiology, Dr. Maier's group in Microbiology, Dr. Patricia Yager of Marine Science, Dr. Amelia Woolum of Large Animal Medicine, Susan Wilson and the Department of Textiles, Merchandise and Interiors. Dr. Parshall Bush's lab and Geannie Dawson's lab are congratulated for having their entire staff up-to-date on right to know training.

Thanks also to those people who have been working to get our laboratory chemicals cleaned out! Mary Price of Sapelo Island, Kathy Wickwire of Foods and Nutrition, and Dr. Alan Jaworski of Botany.

Congratulations to Ted Shanks who has been promoted to Radiation Safety Officer with ESD.

Mark it on your calendar !

Responsible Management of Hazardous Waste

This course will be offered at Staff Training and Development on October 19 and November 2, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Registration forms can be found in the Staff Training and Development flyer or by contacting Greg Bell at 369 - 5706 or by e-mailing him at gbell@esd.uga.edu. Refresher training will be offered "at your location" this fall; please call 369-5706 for details.

Right to Know Classes

Congratulations to Maria Kuhn who has become the new right to know coordinator at UGA. Right to know chemical-specific training is held the first Thursday of every month from 1-3 p.m. in room 242 Poultry Science building. This course is designed to provide chemical safety training to laboratory and research personnel. Maria can be contacted at 542-3571 or by e-mail at mkuhn@esd.uga.edu if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

Welcome Aboard

The Environmental Safety Division would like to welcome new staff members Mr. Ken Scott, Director; Dr. Robert Wentworth, Program Coordinator; Eddie Fuller, Management Information Specialist; Amy Andrews, Senior Administrative Secretary; Rose Samaniego, Administrative Secretary; and Kim Kerr, Administrative Secretary. On behalf of the entire division, we welcome you all.

Dennis Widner, a Radiation Safety Officer with ESD, recently returned from Chernobyl, Ukraine. During his visit Dennis evaluated field and laboratory operations of the International Radioecology Laboratory. The Laboratory is funded and operated jointly by the University of Georgia, the United States Department of Energy, the government of Ukraine, and the international radioecology community. Welcome back!