



Wilson Pharmacy Fire by Russell Dukés

On October 1, 2003, the University community woke to the news that the Wilson Pharmacy Building was on fire. The fire was first detected at approximately 7:00 a.m. by a smoke detector on the third floor which automatically notified the University of Georgia Police. Within minutes, the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department was on the scene to extinguish the fire. The fire was extinguished within a short time after the arrival of the fire department, but the impact is still being felt.

The fire was caused by a spill of isoamyl-nitrite by graduate students. The spill was not cleaned up properly, and a portion of the chemical ran under the refrigerator in which it was being stored. The spilled material produced explosive vapors which were ignited by the refrigerator compressor.

Although the fire was contained to one room and was extinguished quickly, smoke and water damage was sustained throughout the building. A melted water line helped to contain the spread of the fire, but water damage was widespread. The building was closed for several days and classes and research were disrupted. The final cost of the fire is yet to be determined.

Due to the nature of research being conducted in the laboratory in which the fire originated, several hazards were encountered in the response and recovery operations. Response to the fire involved the combined efforts of the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department, the University of Georgia Police De-

partment, the University's Environmental Safety Division (including Fire Safety, HART, Laboratory Safety, Radiation Safety, Biosafety, and the Hazardous Waste Disposal programs), the State Fire Marshal's Office and the University's Business Services, Physical Plant and Food Services Divisions. Many other individuals and programs were involved. The gratitude of the University community is extended to all who participated in the effort.

To avoid a reoccurrence of this tragic and difficult situation, remember to take the following precautions:

1. Know the chemicals in the laboratory in which you work.
2. If any chemicals are explosive or highly flammable, use appropriate precautions and storage.
3. Train all personnel working with the chemical in proper handling, storage and emergency procedures.
4. If you have a chemical spill, contact the HART team for assistance immediately. The HART team is on call for emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
5. Contact the Environmental Safety Division at 542-5801 if you have questions or need assistance.



ACC firefighters going into the Pharmacy School to extinguish the fire and assess damage.



Objects are in disarray in the burned-out room because of the water and efforts to extinguish the fire.



Another part of the room and the damage caused by extinguishing the fire and securing the room from further fire outbreaks.

Move from the Old CCRC Building to the New

The efforts of the ESD staff made the move from the old CCRC building to the new a smooth transition.

Hazardous materials staff, Brian Adams, Mike Foster and Jeff Shirey, and the lab safety staff, Chad Jordan and Bruce Hild assisted with lab cleanouts of the old CCRC building.

The labs were all notified to tag and leave the hazardous materials in place in their old labs, where hazmat staff would provide cleanout services beginning Monday, November 3, 2003. A total of 1,100+ containers of hazardous waste materials were picked up in a building-wide hazardous materials removal. This effort included the cleanout of a large stock room of old chemicals.

Lab safety staff removed all hazardous chemicals, including solvents, acids and bases, and dry chemicals, from the labs of the old building to the labs in the new building.

This project totaled 108 man-hours of labor for Hazardous materials staff and 100 man-hours for lab safety staff, which included preparation of the paperwork, transport of the chemicals, classification and consolidation at the ESD annex.

All labs from the old CCRC building and two biochemistry labs from Life Sciences were moved to the new CCRC building.



Chad Jordan (left) and Bruce Hild (right), lab safety specialists of ESD, are moving labeled chemicals to the new CCRC building from Life Science.



Above is the new CCRC building on Riverbend Road.

Five of the researchers that moved from the old CCRC are authorized users of radioactive materials. Radiation safety provided these individuals with the appropriate paperwork to amend their radioactive materials permits to add their new laboratory locations and to delete the old locations. The amendment paperwork must be approved by the Radiation Safety Officer and Chairman of the Radiation Safety Committee.

ESD's radiation safety technicians removed radioactive materials waste from the old laboratories. Support was also provided for safe transportation of radioactive materials and radioactively contaminated equipment to the new locations.

After the moves were completed, the old laboratories were carefully monitored for the presence of any residual radioactive materials or radioactive contamination. Potentially contaminated locations are slowly scanned with portable monitoring instruments capable of detecting very low levels of radiation.

When the documentation is verified to be adequate and correct, the rooms are released to unrestricted use. This process ensures that no radiological hazards will be encountered by future occupants of the laboratory locations.

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The cooperation among ESD staff and lab personnel made the move from the old to the new building a successful venture.



Above is the interior lobby of the new CCRC building.

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Redesigned Hazardous Waste Pickup Inventory Form

The Hazardous Materials Program has a new improved Hazardous Waste Pickup Inventory form. Although the form remains basically the same, it has the following new features:

- An “other service section” that allows you to order supplies, including consultation services and carboy return;
- A choice of two preferred pickup dates and times for us to pickup at your convenience;
- Availability in three software formats: MS Word, Excel and Adobe;
- For now, it can be submitted online in addition to fax or campus mail. (See change below.)

The form is set up with two pages: a first page for all the pertinent lab information, as well as waste chemical information; and a continuation page that allows you to keep adding waste to your inventory if it doesn't all fit on the first page.

Click the link below to view the form. Once the form is submitted you will be contacted to confirm your pickup appointment.

In **January 2004**, the Hazardous Waste Pickup Inventory form will be online. ESD and HMTF will only accept inventories online. Therefore, start familiarizing yourselves with the new form now. It can be found at:

<http://www.esd.uga.edu/hazmat/forms.htm>.



Safety Tip for Your Pooch During the Holidays.

Don't feed your dog chocolate. Dogs are allergic to the **caffeine** in chocolate.

Close Call at Miller Plant Science

Only two weeks after the laboratory fire at Pharmacy, Miller Plant Science had a near miss. A faulty thermostat in a drying oven, left unattended, got too hot and set the contents (plant materials in paper bags) on fire. It was the quick action of a building occupant with knowledge of how to use a fire extinguisher that saved that lab and possible the entire building from burning down. The fire was burning so vigorously that it required two fire extinguishers to put it out.

Inspection of this lab following the fire revealed problems that might be found in other labs at UGA. Do any of the following conditions exist in your lab?

- Do you have your flammable cabinet located next to your drying oven or other heating device?
- Do you use mercury thermometers where a non-mercury thermometer would work as well and present less hazard if broken?
- Do you know the location of the fire extinguisher(s) in your lab and how to use it?
- Do you knowingly use faulty lab equipment that creates a hazardous or dangerous situation in your lab?
- Do you leave experiments or other processes unattended that you should not?

Recent experience has shown that fires in labs and disasters to labs in general are very costly, easily exceeding a million dollars. The damage will not effect just the lab in question but surrounding labs as well with smoke and water damage. The high tech equipment many labs use is not only expensive but often requires special environmental conditions and is finicky when it gets wet or full of smoke and soot. In most cases, a price can not be put

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on lost research data, resources and lost productivity.

You may think you can't afford to replace a faulty piece of equipment, but you can not afford not to. The consequences can be too costly.

The staff of Environmental Safety Division are available to help with consultation on identifying and correcting hazardous lab conditions, hands on fire extinguisher training, hazardous waste cleanouts, and selecting alternatives to mercury thermometers.

New Building at ESD Annex to Benefit the HARTeam

The new building at the Hazardous Environmental Safety Division Annex will benefit HART greatly in the storage of the HART crew-cab truck and other hazard response supplies and equipment.

There is also a training room which will be used for drills and conferences.

Wes Kolar, environmental safety specialist for ESD, has an office in the building and will maintain the operations of the building and its contents.

Below are pictures of the building and the interior bay that will house the HART truck and other equipment and supplies.



Holiday Food Safety and Fire Safety Tips

Happy Holidays! It's that time of the year again and to help everyone have a safe and enjoyable time, we have some practical food preparation and fire safety practices to observe while in the kitchen or around fire.

Food Safety:

1. Wash hands thoroughly and repeatedly using soap and warm water before food preparation, especially after handling raw meat or eggs.
2. Clean and sanitize food contact surfaces and utensils while cooking.



ESD would like to introduce Michael Hodgson as its new fire safety inspector.

Michael retired from the Air Force on September 1, 2001 after almost 21 years as a firefighter. He holds an associate's degree in Fire Science Technology from the Community College of the Air Force.

After retirement, he worked as a civilian fire prevention inspector at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he moved from to Georgia.

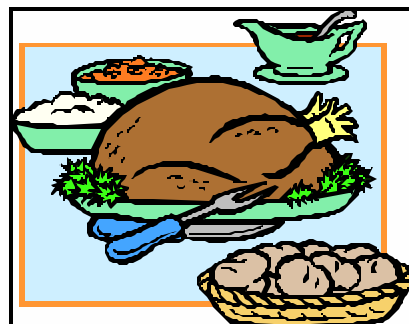
Michael's duties as fire safety inspector are to ensure that all federal, state and local fire codes are adhered to at the University.

ESD would also like to introduce Hector Finol as the new fire extinguisher inspector. Hector's position is part-time, which suits him because he is normally a student at UGA.

3. Use one tablespoon of bleach to a gallon of water or sanitize surfaces with Lysol Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner which is EPA registered and approved for killing both E.coli and Salmonella.
4. Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature, especially poultry. Thaw in the refrigerator or in the microwave.
5. Cook meats to the proper temperature (165 degrees F or ham to 155 degrees F). Use a cooking thermometer.
6. USDA recommends that stuffing be cooked **outside** the bird to guarantee its temp reaches 165 F.
7. Place leftovers in refrigerator as soon as possible.

For further information on food safety, visit these websites:

www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/foodsafety/ or http://www.fightbac.org/holiday_fact.cfm



Fire Safety:

1. The safest way to put out a stove fire is to smother the fire by covering a pan with a lid or closing the oven door. Fire extinguishers or spraying water risks splattering and spreading the fire.
2. Don't leave cooking food unattended, but ban children and pets to a "safe zone" away from the stove.
3. Roll up sleeves and don't wear loose clothing while cooking over a heated stove. Keep pot holders, dish towels and other flammables off the stove top.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season; and if you have questions, contact the UGA Fire Safety office at 369-5706.

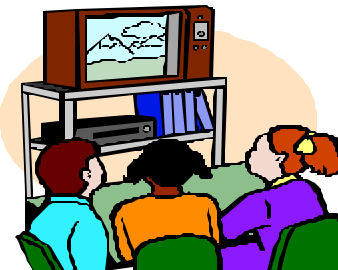
Kudos to . . .

- Jo Ann Chitty, president of the UGA Real Estate Foundation for helping to finance the relocation of the Butler building at HMTF.
- Mike Alden who moved the building and did the reconstruction of it.
- Cherlyn Roberts, professor of Anatomy and Radiology at Vet Med, for coordinating the Vet Med volunteer students who will operate as the labor force for the animal shelter, which ESD's emergency response coordinator envisioned as a necessary facility for animals in an emergency situation.
- Charles McPeake and Robert Stewart, both of the College of Ag and Environmental Science, who offered the facility at the instructional arena on So. Milledge for the animal shelter.
- Mark Shell for his personal assistance and demonstration of great patience on an issue related to new federal requirements.
- Parshall Bush, Natalie Bond, Chris Bond and all others who were involved with a quick response and data turn around in water testing during a campus emergency.
- The Animal Care and Use department for allowing the use of their facility for data retrieval during an emergency response.
- Mike Orr and Physical Plant grounds crew for their assistance with mowing the Milledge Avenue site.

Safety Videos Available

The Environmental Safety Division has a library of safety videos which can be borrowed free of charge by University employees. Call us at (706) 542-0113 or place a checkmark by the videos you wish to borrow and return this completed page to us. Videos can be borrowed for up to two weeks or longer, if necessary; they can also be reserved for upcoming training classes you might be conducting. For a description of each video, including its length, go to our website:

www.esd.uga.edu/info/pub/vlibrary.pdf.



Art Safety:

(A1) ___ Health Hazards and the Visual Arts

Chemical and Laboratory Safety:

(CL2) ___ Chemical Storage Hazards

(CL3) ___ Chemical Hazards

(CL4) ___ A Place for Everything: Chemical Storage in the Laboratory

(CL5) ___ Practicing Safe Science

(CL6) ___ The Keys to Laboratory Safety

(CL7) ___ Introduction to Reactive and Explosive Materials

(CL8) ___ Radionuclide Hazards

(CL9) ___ Science—Live to Tell About It

(CL10) ___ Glassware Washing Hazards

(CL11) ___ Centrifugation Hazards

(CL12) ___ Fume Hood Test and Training

(CL13) ___ Safety Showers and Eyewashes

(CL14) ___ All Washed Up

(CL15) ___ Safe Handling of Laboratory Glassware

(CL16) ___ Whose Job Is It Anyway?

(CL17) ___ Laboratory Fume Hood Safety

(CL18) ___ Assessing Risks of Toxic Chemicals

(CL19) ___ Flammables and Explosives

(CL20) ___ Mammalian Cell Culture Hazards

(CL21) ___ X-Ray Diffraction Hazards

(CL22) ___ Controlling Your Risks—HIV in the Research Laboratory

(CL23) ___ Working Safely with HIV in the Laboratory

(CL24) ___ Preventing Contamination

(CL25) ___ Get Your Checklist Ready—A Guide to Lab Safety Inspections

(CL26) ___ Laboratory Safety: Potential Hazards II

(CL27) ___ Ether Removal at Mercer University; Reactives/Explosives, AETC

(CL28) ___ Hazardous Materials

(CL29) ___ Lab Safety

(CL30) ___ Chemical Lecture & Demonstrations

(CL31) ___ It Only Takes a Second

(CL32) ___ Confined Spaces—Silent Killer

(CL33) ___ Virtual EPA Inspection of a College or University

(CL34) ___ Environmental Health: The Invisible Profession

Driver Safety:

(DS1) ___ Just Another Saturday Night

(DS2) ___ Breaking the Accident Chain of Events

(DS3) ___ Night Driving

Emergency Procedures:

(EP1) ___ Tornado—Nature’s Fury 2000

(EP2) ___ Chernobyl—Legacy of a Meltdown

(EP3) ___ Emergency Response

(EP4) ___ Preparing for a Crisis on Campus

(EP5) ___ An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises

(EP6) ___ Bioterrorism and Mass Casualty Presentation; UGA; 10/31/01

Fire Safety:

(FS1) ___ Fire Safety in the Laboratory

(FS2) ___ Fire Escape—Getting Out Alive

(FS3) ___ How Fast It Burned!

(FS4) ___ Ready to Respond

Gas Cylinders:

(GC1) ___ Gas Cylinders—Welding, Cutting, and Brazing

(GC2) ___ Compressed Gases Can Be Dangerous; An Explosion Case History

(GC3) ___ Handling Compressed Gas Cylinders

(GC4) ___ Gas Cylinders—Overview

Right to Know/Hazard Communication:

(RTK1) ___ Cracking the Code

(RTK2) ___ Material Safety Data Sheets

(RTK3) ___ MSDS—Roadmap to Safety; Read that Label

(RTK4) ___ Your Right to Know

(RTK5) ___ Right to Know: Administrator’s and Trainer’s Guide

(RTK6) ___ Your Right to Know; MSDS? Roadmap to Safety

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| Name _____ |
| Date Requested _____ Department _____ |
| Room No. _____ Building _____ |
| Mailing address (if off-campus) _____ |
| Phone _____ E-mail _____ |