



Environmentally Speaking

A Newsletter by Environmental Safety Division

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Chematix News

By: Bill Megathlin, Environmental Safety Specialist

Greetings from Chematix! By the time you read this, all chemical labs on the UGA main campus will be using our new web-based system to prepare their hazardous chemical waste for pick up by our waste facility technicians (contact us if we missed you!). As you've probably already heard, Chematix Waste Cards which are completed online and printed have replaced the hand written Blue Tags that have been used in the past. ESD is excited to have this second phase of the Chematix deployment complete. The first phase, online laboratory inspections, has been in use since January of 2007.

Print – Cut – Sign – Attach

Cut it out! During the beginning stages of the Chematix Waste Module Deployment we asked that you fold the sheet of paper that the Waste Card was printed on so that the card could be clearly seen when it was attached to the waste containers. That has changed. We now ask that you use scissors to **cut out** the Waste Card before attaching it to the waste container. Also, don't stick labels or pouches over original labels on containers if the original contents of the container are still inside! The labels provide the waste facility with information that they need to make decisions about proper storage and disposal. Also, use a rubber band to attach the waste card to small containers. **No pouch is needed for small containers.**

Sign those Waste Cards. As was mentioned in each training session, it is critical that the person preparing the waste for pick-up **sign** each waste tag in the space provided.

Finally, please make sure that all waste containers have their corresponding Waste Card **attached to the container before submitting your request for a pick up**. The waste facility technicians will not pick up unlabeled waste; tagging the waste is the responsibility of lab personnel.

In other Chematix news, Radiologistix will be here soon. Radiologistix will handle the Radiation Materials Permit application process, isotope ordering, inventory, and radioactive waste. This module is still under development and testing. We expect Radiologistix to be ready for deployment within the next six months.

Chematix is in a constant state of change and improvement. We work closely with our developer, Sivco, Inc., to provide the best experience for the lab user. Please be sure to contact us with your ideas and suggestions chematixsupport@esd.uga.edu. Also, for those of you who

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RAD DAWG News

**By: Jody Jacobs
Radiation Safety Manager**

Radioactive Waste Disposal

In this day of rising costs for services, I'm pleased to announce that the Environmental Safety Division recently funded a radioactive waste disposal that cost in excess of \$11,000. The waste was generated by twenty-two different research laboratories on the main campus. Radiation safety personnel prepared and shipped out twenty-three drums of dry, long-lived radioactive waste. In addition, with the assistance of ESD's Hazardous Materials personnel, we consolidated and disposed of thirty gallons of liquid, mixed waste. The mixed waste contained a variety of hazardous chemical constituents that were contaminated with radioactive tritium and carbon-14. The waste was picked up for disposal by a commercial radioactive waste disposal vendor. The vendor was selected for their ability to provide cost-effective and environmentally safe disposal methods that meet or exceed all regulatory requirements.

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(Chematix, cont. from page 1)

have already been using Chematix, please complete our short survey at <http://www.esd.uga.edu/chematix>. The survey can be accessed by clicking on the bottom link on the left side of the page. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Don't Burn The Biscuit!

By: Tori Outlaw, Fire Safety Inspector

As pleasurable as cooking can be, things like heat, oil, flames, grease, and electricity can form a dangerous and combustible recipe. The number one cause of home fires in the United States is cooking related mishaps. If you follow the recipe provided below, your kitchen will be a safer place.

- Never leave what you are cooking unattended. Turn off the appliances as soon as you are done using them.
- Keep flammable items such as towels, pot holders, boxes, or paper items away from your cooking area.
- Keep your appliances clean. Cooking grease and oil ignite easily and burn rapidly.
- Avoid reaching over the stove while cooking. Store items that are frequently needed in other areas of the kitchen.
- Keep pot handles turned inward, where they will not be accidentally bumped and will be out of a child's reach.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.
- Use pot holders when handling anything hot.
- Heat cooking oils slowly. Cooking oils can catch fire if heated too quickly.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and a box of dry baking soda in your kitchen.
- Never use water on a grease fire. Smother the fire with a metal lid.
- Do not try to carry a burning pan outside or to the sink. The fire could spread.
- If a fire starts in an oven or microwave, shut the door, keep it closed, and turn off the heat source or electricity.
- If the fire will not go out, evacuate, and call 911 from another location.

The joy of cooking can quickly go up in flames. Stay safe by using these precautions during your time in the kitchen. If you cannot work safely, stay out of the kitchen!

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Driver Improvement Program

Classes will be held two days for the driver improvement program, on July 16 and July 17 from 8:30 until 12:30 noon at the Training and Development Center.

You can reduce your car insurance by 10%; therefore, why not sign up for the course. It's fun!!!



Fire Extinguisher Classes Held at ESD FIRST Bldg.

Fire Extinguisher classes will be held at the FIRST Building starting on June 18, 2008 at 10:00 am by Tori Outlaw, fire safety inspector, and another class later (please consult Training and Development for next class).

If you don't know how to use a fire extinguisher, now is the time to learn. It is needed when playing or working. You never know when you'll be called upon to stop a fire or prevent one.



Waste Minimization Tips

By Brian K. Adams, Hazmat Facilities Coordinator

Waste minimization is any action that reduces the amount and/or toxicity of chemical wastes that must be *shipped off-site* for disposal as hazardous waste. It is incumbent upon every member of the university community to be aware of the environmental and financial impacts of hazardous chemical waste and to actively seek to minimize the volume of hazardous waste that is generated. The management of this waste should be an integral part of the laboratory setup and operating procedures and laboratory managers should conduct an annual review of their waste management procedures.

The most desirable method of waste minimization is source reduction. This is defined as, *any activity that reduces or eliminates the generation of chemical hazardous waste at the source*. This can be accomplished by good materials management, substitution of less hazardous materials, and good laboratory procedures. The following are some examples for reducing chemical waste generation at the source:

- Implement a departmental/laboratory waste minimization policy and train all employees and students.
- Do not mix hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.
- Evaluate procedures to see if a less hazardous or a non-hazardous reagent can be substituted.
- Centralize purchasing of chemicals within the department or laboratory.
- Date all chemical containers when received so that the older chemicals will be used first.
- Keep on file, updated MSDS's for all chemicals in laboratory inventory.
- Inventory chemicals and identify their location at least once a year.
- Update inventory as chemicals are purchased or used up.
- Purchase chemicals in the smallest quantities needed.
- Label all chemical containers to prevent the generation of unknowns.
- When considering a new procedure, initially obtain the chemicals needed from another lab or purchase small quantities.
- Consider the use of micro scale experiments.
- Consider the use of demonstrations or video presentations as a substitute for some student experiments.
- Consider using pre-weighed or pre-measured reagent packets where waste generation is high.
- Avoid the use of reagents containing arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver.
- Eliminate the use of chromic acid cleaning solutions altogether. Use non-hazardous solutions such as Alconox and Pierce RBS35.
- Substitute red liquid (spirit-filled), digital, or thermocouple thermometers for mercury thermometers.
- Consider using detergent and hot water for cleaning parts instead of solvents.
- Use latex-based paints which are typically non-hazardous.
- Dispose of excess, non-latex paints as a hazardous waste.
- Utilize vendors that will recycle used antifreeze.

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Cell Phones and Driving: Worth the Risk?

By Greg Bell, Right to Know Coordinator

Safe drivers always limit distractions to their fullest extent when driving a vehicle. Any event or object that takes our attention off the operation of our vehicle can be listed as a distraction and their causes are many. Loose CDs, GPS systems, fancy vehicles, billboards and uncontrolled emotions are just a few distractions that must be managed properly, but no other item provides more risk to safe driving than using a cell phone, and yes this includes speakerphone operation. Most drivers understand this concept of decreased safety but most fail to comprehend the additional risk to liability a cell phone's usage introduces if an accident occurs simultaneously. For example, International Paper Co. will pay \$5.2 million to settle a personal injury suit after one of its employees was involved in a collision when using a cell phone while driving for their employer. It's illegal for drivers to perform distracting tasks in Georgia and the plaintiff's attorney used this law as leverage to negotiate this large settlement. In Arkansas, a company lost \$20.9 million in an injury lawsuit because an employee was using a cell phone when an accident occurred. In Hawaii, the state agreed to pay \$2.5 million as its share of liability when a tourist was struck with the vehicle driven by an employee who was allegedly talking on their cell phone. Today's driving environment provides more than enough challenge, without introducing the additional distractions that cell phones provide. Minimizing all distractions including cell phones makes perfect sense when safety and liability concerns are factored in.

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(Waste, cont. from page 3)

- Keep laboratory clean and orderly.

The success of the University of Georgia's waste minimization efforts depend on the willing and active participation of the whole university community, with your help we can make a difference.

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Tifton News

By: Bill Favaloro, Outlying Facilities, Environmental Safety Manager



Joe West to Lead UGA Campus in Tifton

New Assistant Dean Named

Article Contributed by: Faith Peppers
Office of Communications, University of Georgia

A national search ended today with the announcement that Joe West will be the assistant dean for the Tifton, Ga., campus of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. West will oversee the college's research and extension operations and academic program on the campus and at its outlying centers in south Georgia.

"I am very pleased that Dr. West has accepted this important position," said CAES dean and director J. Scott Angle. "Our Tifton Campus is located in the heart of Georgia's agricultural community. We need someone who can provide seasoned leadership for such a demanding position, but will also be a good listener. Angle said West is "the right person to keep agricultural research, extension and education in Athens connected to vital resources and producers in south Georgia."

Twenty-two Years with UGA

A UGA animal and dairy science professor, West has been with CAES for 22 years. He has spent almost all of that time working on research and extension programs on the Tifton campus. His work focuses mainly on dairy cow nutrition and heat stress management.

West holds degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee and Texas A&M University. He has served on editorial boards of the Journal of Dairy Science and as an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Animal Science and other journals. He's on the planning committee for the Western Dairy Management Conference.

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New Safety Location Sign

By Chad Jordan
Lab Safety Manager

The "Safety Location Sign" should be used to help individuals working in the laboratory to identify the location of emergency equipment and required training records, etc. You can also use this sign in other laboratory(s) to identify items on the sign which are located in your main laboratory. The best location for posting the sign should be at the entrance door(s) inside the laboratory. This will also help the ESD lab inspectors during the inspection process.

The link to the safety sign on our website is:

<http://www.esd.uga.edu/chem/safetylocsign.htm>

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(Dean, cont. from page 4)

Row Crop Research

The CAES Tifton campus is a focal point for row crop farming in Georgia. What began in 1918 as the Coastal Plain Experiment Station is now an integral part of the college's teaching, research and extension programs.

The campus includes 7,000 acres with research farms and center at Alma, Attapulgus, Camilla, Midville, Lyons and Plains.

UGA researchers in Tifton work closely with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service scientists on the campus, a partnership that dates back to 1924.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve as the assistant dean of the University of Georgia's Tifton campus," West said, "This campus is a key component of the college. We have an excellent group of scientists and staff at Tifton, and with our USDA ARS partners, I believe the campus is well positioned to continue to make advances in agricultural and environmental issues."

The Tifton Campus Conference Center provides services that include classrooms and meeting facilities for educational and nonprofit organizations, including youth groups, farmers, homeowners and Cooperative Extension agents.

Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

The campus also has a growing teaching program. College level instruction on the campus is aimed at undergraduate and graduate level study. Students can earn a UGA Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree without leaving Tifton.

"With our teaching program, we're producing college graduates who will help meet the future needs of agriculture," West said. "I'm enthusiastic about working with Dean Scott Angle's administrative team as the college continually strives for excellence in our contributions to agriculture and the people of Georgia. West has served on the UGA University Council, the CAES Faculty Council and the UGA President's Advisory Committee.

He assumes the assistant dean responsibilities from CAES entomologist Steve L. Brown. Brown was interim assistant dean for a year and a half after former assistant dean David Bridges was appointed president of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

(Faith Peppers is a news editor for the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.)

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What's New?

By Wes Kolar
UGA Hazmat Response Coordinator

With all of the recent recalls on several children's toys along with various other products, the US Consumer Product Safety Committee has developed an official product recall website at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prereel.html>. The site allows consumers to search for recalled items by product type, manufacturer, product description, hazard type, and date of recall. The product safety website contains information on over 4,000 products that have recently been recognized as potentially hazardous. So remember, before purchasing that new product that you have your eye on, consider the Latin phrase "Caveat Emptor" (buyer beware), and do your homework.



Masters in Public Health Students Receive FIRST Responder Training at the ESD FIRST Building

By Wes Kolar, UGA Hazmat Response Coordinator

Students from UGA's Masters in Public Health (MPH) program who are taking the course HADM 8910 recently participated in first responder training at the Environmental Safety Divisions' FIRST building (Facility for Incident Response and Safety Training). The purpose of HADM 8910, "Problems in Health Administration," is to prepare MPH students for their future roles as first responders to emergency events. During the semester, HADM 8910 students are introduced to a number of emergency response scenarios including those involving both natural and manmade disasters.

On February 29th, HADM students received an introduction to Hazmat or hazardous materials response. Training involved an introduction to the Incident Command System, an overview of an actual Hazmat response, and a demonstration of some of the equipment used by Hazmat technicians in the field. In order to gain a better understanding of the many tools that are typically needed at the scene of a hazardous materials response, students were encouraged to examine the UGA HART (Hazard Assessment Response Team) team's trucks, trailer, equipment, and supplies, all of which are housed permanently at the FIRST building. Students also participated in the "suit out" procedure which involves dressing out or "dawning" various levels of personal protective equipment (PPE).

On March 7th at the FIRST building, HADM 8910 students were introduced to various medical response scenarios involving the use of human patient simulators or HPS. HPS are highly advanced medical mannequins that can simulate many of the human symptoms that would result from conditions such as the contraction of a given disease, or exposure to chemical hazards. The simulators have a pulse, a heart beat, and can mirror many human activities such as tearing and blinking. HPS are connected to a computer, allowing the simulator operator to run various scenarios that will cause the HPS to mimic symptoms that would be displayed by a human under the same scenario conditions. When students working on the HPS take appropriate corrective actions to the displayed symptoms, the human patient simulator will produce a corresponding positive result. Conversely, when students do not perform appropriate actions, the HPS will become progressively worse and may even mimic death. By practicing with human patient simulators, students gain knowledge on how to approach certain clinical situations in a nonthreatening environment.

Through courses such as HADM 8910, the UGA School of Public Health (<http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/>) is preparing MPH students to work as first responders to future emergency events. The broad scope of the problems in a health administration course will allow MPH candidates to work with a wide range of health care professionals throughout their careers.

As we encounter the many challenges facing us during the twenty-first century, it is comforting to know that UGA MPH students are preparing to respond to whatever events the future has in store for us.

(pictures cont. on page 7)

Next Newsletter

Expect to see the next newsletter around Sept. 2008. This will be the **Fall 2008** newsletter.

Remember, if you need to see a past issue, the most recent issues are archived on our website (www.esd.uga.edu). Go there to read the issue you want; or, run it off; also, you can save it to your computer and read it later.



(HADM, pictures for page 6)



HADM 8910 students in Level A (left), and Level C plus (right) personal protective equipment (PPE).



MPH students work with human patient simulator.