



# Environmentally Speaking

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## HART Drill Prepares Students for Threats By Wes Kolar

On March 27, the University of Georgia's Hazard Assessment Response Team conducted an emergency response drill in conjunction with UGA's newly developed Security Leadership class. The class is offered by the Center for International Trade and Security and is intended to help students from all disciplines prepare for the national and international security issues that they may encounter during the course of their careers. Security Leadership examines such issues as threats from weapons of mass destruction, port security and harbor defense, border security, and military and civilian preparedness. Experts from many fields have been utilized as instructors for the class which meets twice a week.

The recent drill was held at Campus Transit and involved the simulated release of Sarin gas, a potent neurotoxin, on a UGA bus. The purpose of the exercise was to teach students about the many aspects of and agencies involved with an emergency response. In addition to the class, several other parties also partici-



HART members treating a fictitious casualty of Sarin gas

pated in the drill including Campus Transit, the UGA Police Department, Athens-Clarke County Fire Department, and representatives from both St. Mary's Hospital and Athens Regional Medical Center. The representatives from St. Mary's Hospital provided medical monitoring for the team while representatives from Athens Regional Medical Center provided simulated medical treatment for the victims. Also present during the drill were representatives from the Red and Black, Athens Banner-Herald, as well as several observers from various departments.

Members of the Security Leadership class participated in all phases of the drill including patient extraction and decontamination. Two student volunteers, Kevin Caspary and Enoch Varner, were selected at random and paired with HART members in order to enter the hot zone, or area of highest contamination. The initial hot zone entry was performed in fully encapsulated level A suits (moon suits) which provide the greatest protection available to a

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## HART Drill cont'

first responder. The purpose of the first entry was to assist in moving injured parties to the decontamination line where chemical agents are removed prior to medical treatment. A second hot zone entry was executed in order to stabilize the situation by identifying and isolating the source of the contamination. Two students from the class, Rebekah Black and Jonathan Dalrymple, dressed out in less protective level B suits and assisted with the decontamination process. The part of the attack victims was played by Jodi Green of the Security Leadership class and Bryan Fuller of Campus Transit. The remaining members of the class teamed up with other HART members in order to observe some of the varied aspects of an emergency response. Ben Fry of the class commented, "I was surprised by how slowly everything seemed to go. In the movies and on TV, these operations are shown as fast paced and hectic with everybody running around and confused. Instead, the crew responding came across as in control and methodical."

The Athens-Clarke County Fire Department set up an emergency decontamination line which is employed for the rapid decontamination of first responders in emergency situations. The University of Georgia's HART team will soon be teaming up with the ACC Fire Department in order to respond to hazards county wide. The partnership between a major university such as UGA and a county fire department is a unique arrangement. Most universities do not have fully equipped hazmat teams and must often rely on outside agencies to assist with hazardous materials events. This can slow the process down and



**During the HART drill, Charles Meaders records decontamination information**

jeopardize lives.

The HART team conducts drills simulating various emergency response scenarios on a monthly basis. Several more drills have already been planned including an upcoming scenario to be conducted in tandem with the University of Georgia's police department.

## New and Improved Website

The Environmental Safety Division website has a new look, thanks to Charles Meaders and Muzel Chen who worked many hours on this project. A new site map with reorganized categories makes navigation much easier throughout the site. Fire Safety, Biosafety, and Outlying Facilities Support were added to the website to make these resources more available. Changes have also made it easier to submit PDF forms. The new website is a tremendous asset in facilitating the division's mission to work in partnership with the University community to develop and maintain the highest possible standards of health and safety. Thanks guys!

Visit the new and improved interactive website at [www.esd.uga.edu](http://www.esd.uga.edu).

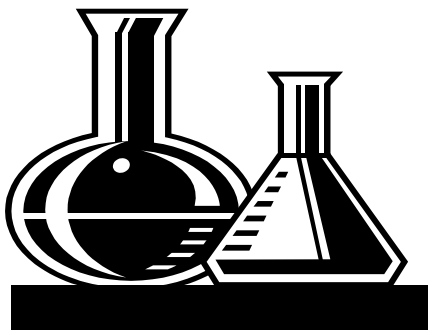


**Decontamination Team evaluates situation**

## Chematix Chemical Tracking System to Begin Summer '03

The University of Georgia's Environmental Safety Division in collaboration with the Office of Research Services is in the final testing phases of the Chematix chemical tracking and electronic procurement system. Implementation will begin this summer.

Chematix is a web-based chemical



tracking system that utilizes bar codes on containers to assist with the management of laboratory chemicals, tracking those materials until their final disposal destination. This system will assist with procurement and purchase processing, laboratory delivery and facility inventory management, surplus distribution, and hazardous materials disposal. It also will assist the laboratory teaching and research community with their daily environmental compliance needs including Right to Know chemical inventories and management of chemical wastes. Additionally, procurement of most laboratory items will be possible through this system, providing an easier ordering process with the ability to

check order status from the web.

To learn more about the new system, please access the Chematix website—[www.chematix.com](http://www.chematix.com). This project combines the expertise of staff from various university units: Environmental Safety, Research Services and UGA's Chemical and Laboratory Safety Committee. We will continue to keep the teaching and research community informed about training opportunities as implementation is achieved.

## ESD Wins Water Resource Award

The University of Georgia Environmental Safety Division has been awarded the "Water Resources Project of Excellence" award for 2003 from the Georgia Chapter of the American Water Resources Association. The award was given in recognition of the water remediation efforts at the Milledge Avenue hazardous waste landfill site. Ken Scott accepted the award on behalf of the University at the GAWRA banquet held April 23, 2003 at the Botanical Gardens.

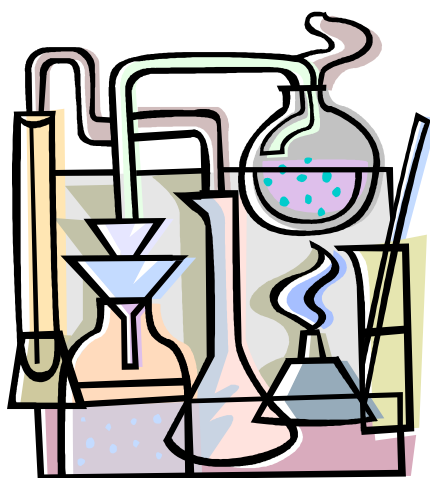
The Milledge Avenue landfill was an approved chemical disposal site active from before 1969 to 1979. The chemicals deposited at the site resulted in impact to soil, groundwater, and a downgradient stream. The Environmental Safety Division worked for many years at this site to investigate and address these conditions. Our efforts have included the following:

- investigation and delineation of soil and groundwater impact
- installation of a surface water treatment system
- semi-annual groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling
- installation of a cap on the landfill
- design and planting of a phytoremediation system in the area along the stream
- public involvement including an open house, meetings with specific neighbors, development of fact sheets regarding the site history, the landfill cap, and the phytoremediation system, and ongoing communication with members of the local news media
- educational outreach including guest lectures and site field trips for various environmental courses on UGA's

main campus.

In addition to the positive impacts on surface water and habitat quality, wetlands were created through the construction of the phytoremediation system. Wetlands are well known as valuable assets in promoting ecological diversity. We expect to see continued improvements to the water and habitat quality as the phytoremediation system becomes truly established in the current ecosystem. Additionally, the installation of groundwater extraction wells, which we anticipate will be installed later in 2003, will compound the improvements from the technologies and systems currently in place.

## Laboratory Safety Inspection Program BY Chad Jordan



Beginning in 2000, the laboratory safety inspection program changed its procedure for inspecting laboratories in UGA research and non-research facilities. Inspection procedures and the form were streamlined. This revision enabled the number of inspections performed per year to increase from 500 to 1200.

Additionally, Lab Safety created a database in which all inspection findings are entered to create monthly summary reports for department heads and annual reports for deans and vice presidents. These reports identify problem areas and provide information so safety concerns can be addressed. Three years of results have been provided to the administrators of each unit and to the Chemical and

Laboratory Safety Committee.

As illustrated in the graph ([click here to see the graph](#)), the inspection program has had tremendous success over the past three years. The new reporting procedure has increased the overall safety awareness starting with the principal investigators and continuing all the way up to the provost for academic and research level.

These results would not have been possible without the continued support from the principal investigators, the department heads, the deans, the vice presidents, and the provost.

Congratulations to the research and non-research community on an outstanding three years of improvements in safety performance.

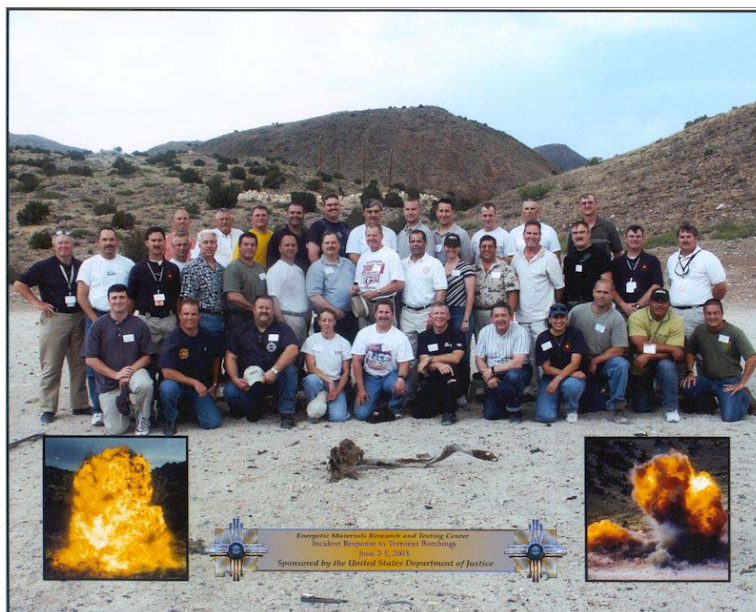
Keep up the good work and visit our new and improved website at [www.esd.uga.edu](http://www.esd.uga.edu)

## Members of HART Go to Training in New Mexico

Recently, several members of the UGA Hazard Assessment Response Team from the Environmental Safety Division traveled to Socorro, New Mexico to attend a course called "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings" given by the U.S Department of Justice at New Mexico Tech. This four day course provided awareness level training for firefighters, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical personnel, and other emergency responders who have significant responsibility for providing specialized support during incidents involving terrorist activities and particularly those that involve explosives or incendiary materials. Upon completion of the training, these First Responders now know how to evaluate and respond effectively to terrorist

incidents that involve these dangerous materials. They also have a better understanding of the key actions that have to be taken in order to rescue and recover victims, complete a successful criminal investigation, and restore normal operations, services, and conditions. The majority of HART members are now certified to conduct training and

answer questions that may arise concerning this subject. Several others are scheduled to attend training in the near future.



## SARS Update

On April 4, 2003, UGA representatives from the Environmental Safety Division, International Education, University Health Center, Student Affairs, and Student Housing met to address concerns regarding SARS. The group discussed the creation and implementation of a response plan in the event that one or more cases of the disease were to present itself amongst our campus population. Since then, key players such as Georgia Public Health and area hospi-

tals have joined the group, and a proactive plan has been developed by the University Health Center to combat the potential threat of a SARS outbreak.

For further information and updates on SARS, please visit the ESD website at [www.esd.uga.edu](http://www.esd.uga.edu) and click on corresponding links. To view the University Health Center SARS plan for students and faculty, visit [www.uhs.uga.edu](http://www.uhs.uga.edu).

## KUDOS

### Congratulations to Griffin, Tifton, Brunswick, Sapelo, Skidaway, Blairsville, and Rock Eagle

by Bill Favaloro, Environmental Safety Coordinator for the Outlying Sites

My special thanks for the continuing effort of the outlying sites to improve their environmental, health and safety programs. Since the inception of the "Support and Outreach for the Outlying Facilities" program about a year and a half ago, there has been a very positive improvement in all of the sites environmental, health and safety programs. Aside from the regular inspections aimed at helping the facilities to be as safe as possible while remaining in compliance with federal and state regulations, much more has evolved. Some of the most notable progress is seen in the opening of the lines of communications between the sites and the Environmental Safety Division, the creation of programs that educate and inform, and the highly successful effort to work very closely with each site to support its needs.

As the number of deficiencies for inspections continues to decline, there are a number of reasons for this improvement which I would like to share:

- A more proactive approach by every site to be mindful of environmental, health, and safety conditions
- An ESD commitment to work closely with every site to improve safety
- Increased education tailored for each site
- Increased visits by the ESD, allowing more time to be spent at each facility to deal with specific concerns
- ESD effort to solve as many inspection deficiencies as possible at the time of the visit
- Having a position dedicated to working solely with the outlying sites

Each site continues to be a pleasure to work with, and it is

this cooperative and supportive environment that has been the catalyst for many of the improvements. My thanks again to all the sites on their commendable effort.

## Bye Bye Bye Amy Andrews

### Movin' On Up....To the North Campus

Hearty thanks go to Amy Andrews, who served ESD faithfully for nearly four years. Amy accepted a position in the office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. Although we were sad to see her move on, we are excited that Amy has a chance to work on beautiful North Campus in a building that embodies her love of historical preservation.



Keep in touch, Amy!

## Hello Leslie Armstrong

### And.....A Big Howdy to Leslie Armstrong

ESD welcomed Leslie Armstrong to our office staff in May. She hails from the Pacific Northwest, where she spent 15 years in the forestry industry in Oregon. Leslie has a minor in Environmental Science and will definitely have an opportunity to put her knowledge to work here!



## 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](http://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

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