

Environmentally Speaking

The University of Georgia
Environmental Safety Division

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Director Notes

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Dear Colleagues:

To many of you, our services to the University of Georgia are “invisible.” We test the food served on campus, the pools you swim in, we recommend modifications to work areas to prevent injuries, we pick up the hazardous waste generated by a premier research university, we ensure that laboratory and cleaning chemicals are used safely, and we ensure that radiation sources on campus are controlled. These are only a few of our many services.

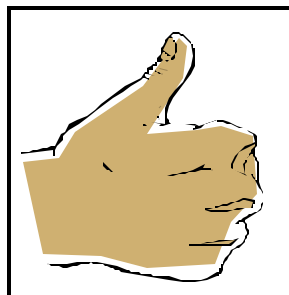


Most of you, even those in the UGA research community, may never have had the opportunity to visit our offices on the second floor of the campus mail building or the hazardous materials treatment facility on Will Hunter Road. We invite you to stop by anytime to meet our staff, tour our facilities, and find out more about our services so we can forge a mutually-beneficial relationship. We are celebrating our first year as a division with a renewed commitment to expertise, service, and visibility. Our goal is for UGA to be among the top 10 safest universities in the nation.

Come see a support office of the University that is seen by few, yet has an essential role in the continued health and safety of the UGA community.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Scott, Director



Increasing Our Expertise By Bob Wentworth

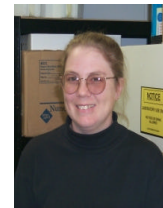
During the past several months, more than a dozen staff with various disciplines in the Environmental Safety Division have taken 24 hours of training in emergency response to hazardous materials incidents (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, or HAZWOPER). This training will increase the University’s ability to reduce risks to health and the

environment in the event of hazardous materials spills. Several staff members have already completed the initial HAZWOPER training and gone on to receive an additional eight hours of Incident Command training. These staff are now working to identify University-specific resources and procedures required to respond to a release of hazardous materials.

Lab Spotlight

The culmination of radiation safety inspections performed this year in the bioscience building has brought recognition to Dr. Anne Summers. Dr. Summers' work in microbiology emphasizes labeling DNA with fluorosine probes without using radiation. Typically, this labeling utilizes radioactive tracers, but Dr. Summers has been successful in this new method. Dennis Widner, radiation safety officer, states, "Dr. Summers has kept the level of radiation safety in her

laboratories at the pinnacle of perfection and has the personnel to keep excellent marks." Widner also adds, "for the past three years that I have inspected Dr. Summers' laboratories, she has always exceeded the requirement expected of her as a licensed researcher. Her record keeping is immaculate." Dr. Summers credits her research coordinator, Joy Wireman, who has been at UGA for fourteen years with this accomplishment.



Joy Wireman,
Research Coordinator

Defensive Driver Training Offered



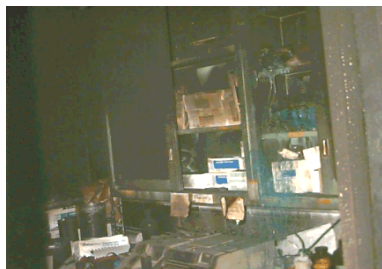
Environmental Safety is taking applications for the AAA Driver Improvement Program. Completion of this six-hour course by drivers who have committed no traffic offenses and have filed no claims based on fault against an insurer for the previous three years could qualify the participants for a 10% discount on his or her automobile insurance. You should check with your insurance company to see if they offer a discount. The course is limited to 10 people, so sign up now! The six-hour course will be taught in two, three-hour sessions in the CCRC auditorium on Riverbend Road. The course is offered at no charge to UGA employees, however, employees' spouses and children are not eligible. Sign up on-line at www.esd.uga.edu. or by calling 542-5801. Classes will start at 9 a.m. and end at 12 noon on the following dates:

Feb 24 - 25

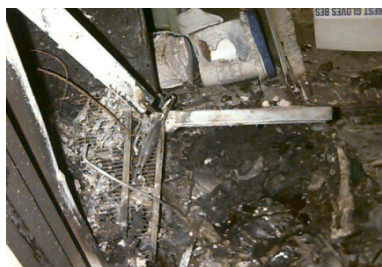
March 30 - 31

April 27 - 28

Explosive Potential By Chad Jordan



Damage to room from an explosion of solvents in a household refrigerator.



Results of an explosion in a household refrigerator.

Following recent laboratory safety surveys, it appears that many University research personnel do not understand the dangers of storing flammable solvents in household refrigerators. This misunderstanding could result in the loss of property, grants, and years of research.

Refrigerators, cooler/cold rooms, and freezers are considered to be a confined space. A confined space is defined as something that can hold a concentration of vapor for an extended period of time. The wiring of household refrigerators, freezers, and coolers/cold rooms is not sealed to prevent contact with flammable vapors. When given the correct amount of flammable vapor to air mixtures followed by an ignition source, an explosion may occur. Explosion-proof

or intrinsically-safe refrigerators are recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). If your laboratory operation requires the storage of flammable solvents in a refrigerated space, you must purchase an NFPA approved refrigerator or freezer in accordance with the standards described in Article 501 of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, as referenced in NFPA 45, page 19, section 9-2.2.2.

For additional information regarding this matter, please reference the University of Georgia Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual section 2.VIII.B, 2.I.E.2.g, and Appendix J-20. If you have any questions or concerns, please call laboratory safety at 542-5801.

Did You Know? By Rose Samaniego

I currently work for the Environmental Safety Division (ESD) at the University of Georgia, a position I've held for a few months now. My major in college was business and marketing, yet what brought me to ESD's front desk? The foremost reason is their commitment to the University and to its community. The division's professional business approach is bringing UGA a high quality level of customer service. These professionals hold many years of diversified experience in safety and training, and have the expertise to handle almost any challenge.

The Environmental Safety Division employs specialists from a variety of disciplines, including occupational health and safety professionals, right-to-know trainers, lab safety professionals, hazardous material technicians and radiation safety professionals. This accomplished staff endeavors to create a safe and healthful workplace for personnel and students by reducing workplace injuries. It may sound corny, but these dedicated professionals are providing a safer world for you and me. The realization of what these folks do made me gain a higher respect for their desire in securing the University's future.

Did you know that ESD is aiding laboratories, securing safety in crosswalks, ensuring food quality, protecting air quality, ensuring University chemical-specific training and much more? It is the grand environmental protector of the University of Georgia. Their mission is not only to solve problems, but also to prevent problems from ever occurring. They strive to understand your needs. Furthermore, they do this in a technically superior manner, based on proven scientific and engineering practices, and at reasonable costs. They are UGA's inside safety consultants. ESD provides oversight of all University operations to ensure that these operations are conducted using appropriate standards of safety and are in compliance with University policies and all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

To fulfill its mission, ESD develops safety policies and programs, provides safety training, conducts inspections of laboratories and facilities, responds to emergencies, and provides technical services that identify, evaluate and control potentially hazardous chemicals and situations. The office is staffed with professionals trained in the recognition and control of hazardous situations involving chemicals, radiation, and physical agents.

Together these people are focused and creating exciting changes. And this is why I have chosen to work for the University of Georgia's Environmental Safety Division.



Rose Samaniego,
Administrative Secretary



A Very Successful Year at HAZ MAT! By William Favaloro

The Hazardous Material Treatment Facility (HMTF) has undergone many changes. Since Environmental Safety became a division and added Mr. Ken Scott as director in 1999, the focus has been to supply staff with the tools needed to perform their work in a first-class manner. As a result, there have been significant improvements in quantity, timeliness, quality and customer service. Rarely are all these factors improved at the same time, as was the case in 1999. As an example, the removal of hazardous materials from campus increased from 395 pick-ups in 1998 to 503 in 1999 with no increase in staff. While pick-ups were on the rise, the time required to remove hazardous materials from campus was reduced from 2-4 weeks to 2-3 days. Meanwhile, customer service has increased significantly, with numerous compliments and thank you notes from the faculty, staff and students on campus. In addition, the newly revised hazardous materials course, which has been refocused to educate everyone in the lab, has trained more personnel in four months than in the previous year. My personal thanks go to Brian Adams, Greg Bell, Mark Harrison, and Judy Harper, who made 1999 an outstanding year. Additional thanks to Rose Samaniego, Jeff Shirey, and Mike Riegert for their support. Through everyone's efforts, contributions, and teamwork, the Environmental Safety Division is gaining the respect of faculty, staff, students, and federal and state agencies while providing a safer workplace and protecting the environment.

Kenneth A. Scott, Director
(706) 542-5801

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.ESD.UGA.EDU



Kudos:

Thanks to everyone for their hard work in compliance with the state-mandated hazardous chemical list due in December. Special thanks to training and development for working with ESD to update and simplify the Right to Know basic training program associated with new employee orientation. Requests for annual refresher training were phenomenal this fall. Thanks to the departments of housing, genetics, biochemistry and molecular biology, research services, and the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab for bringing their departments up to date with right to know training requirements.

Thanks go to Mr. Bruce Hild, an environmental safety specialist for ESD, for his diligent work effort with the chemical fume hood certification program. Mr. Hild's cooperative work with the Physical Plant Division's preventative maintenance department and contractor has enabled the program to achieve an all time high of 95 percent properly-functioning fume hoods. This is a 20 percent increase over last year's performance.

Thanks go to Dr. David Puett, biochemistry department head and Dr. John McDonald, genetics department head, for their participation in correcting the safety issues discovered during the recent safety surveys performed in the life sciences building.

Congratulations to Dr. Eddie Fuller, management information specialist for ESD on completion of his Ph.D in mathematics, and the birth of his son Ethan Jackson Fuller.

The radiation safety office would like to give a tremendous thanks to all of the folks who distribute radiation film badges in their departments: Francois Cote, and Sheng-Cheng Wu, CCRC; Linda Brawner, genetics; Gina King, cellular biology; Susan Watkins, entomology; Nancy Humphries and Brenda Luke, microbiology; Mandy Latimer, foods and nutrition; Joe Vaughn, poultry science; Pat Smith, animal and dairy science; Georgia Phillips and Pam Page, dental clinic; Sarah Covert, forest resources; Peggy Ozias-Akins, Coastal Plains Experiment Station, Tifton; Jenny Calkofen, biochemistry; Judy Bates, pharmacy; Brenda Mattox, botany; Tanya Cooper, physiology and pharmacology; Shelia Powell, biological and agricultural engineering; Charles Davis, physics; Sue Clanton, avian medicine; John Rema, crop and soil sciences; Chris Fleisher, geology; David Peterson, parasitology; Clarence Rawlings, small animal medicine; Eric Mueller, large animal medicine; Jaroslava Halper and Randy Brooks, pathology; John Leary, medical microbiology; Clark Alexander, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography; Cathy Carver, ecology; Timothy Denny, plant pathology; Page Lutrell, wildlife disease; Kim Huband, anatomy and radiology; Michael Neary, Center for Applied Isotope Studies; Michelle Lewis, chemistry; Warren Safter, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory; Samantha Joye, marine sciences; Katy Rainey, plant genome mapping; Martha Cagle, C-Arm; and Robert Jarrett, Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin.

Greg Bell, hazardous materials officer, has qualified at the master level as a certified hazardous materials manager (CHMM). This premier credential provides national recognition to professionals in industries, government, and academia engaged in the management of hazardous materials or related areas who have attained the required level of education, experience and competency, including successfully passing a rigorous national examination.

Ink-jet Cartridge Recycling! By Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Commission

The Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Commission is asking all area businesses and residents not to throw empty ink-jet printer cartridges away! An ink-jet cartridge producer, EnviroSmart, has provided the commission with bins containing rolls of postage-paid envelopes which have been placed at EarthFare and Athens Public Library. For every undamaged ink-jet cartridge received, EnviroSmart will donate \$1 to the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Commission. EnviroSmart has made recycling easy and beneficial for every individual to do his/her part. Each ink-jet cartridge the company recycles helps decrease the amount of solid waste entering the landfill, as well as reduce the amount of limited natural resources required to produce new cartridges. Please call the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Commission at 369-5708 or e-mail at athenscl@negia.net if you would like a bin to be placed in your office or if you would like a few postage-paid envelopes. Volunteers will pick up any used ink-jet cartridges as well.