



Case Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety

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“Safety Comes First”

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The holidays are getting closer everyday. As we begin to prepare for the holidays, safety may not be the foremost thought on our mind. However, the decorations we use can potentially lead to serious safety hazards if we are not careful. We need to be especially aware of increased fire hazards during the holiday season. Here are a few safety measures to keep in mind as you decorate:

1. Decorations must be flame-proofed or made of non-flammable material.
2. If decorating a live tree, be sure to...
 - use a fresh evergreen that has been treated with a flame retardant.
 - equip it with a tree stand that can hold water at the base of the tree; keep it full.
 - remove the tree prior to closing for break.

No electrical equipment or devices are permitted on or under trees; only indirect lighting may be used. Nor are candles or open flames allowed on, under, or within 10 feet of the tree. SEVERAL fires at Case have started this way in the past.

3. If using a metallic tree or decoration, do not place electrical lights or objects on it.
4. Decoration materials must not be exposed to lightbulbs, heaters, or other heat or flames.
5. Gift wrappings should be removed right away.

Holiday Decorations: Play It Safe (con.)

“Turn off lights or other electric devices when not in your office or room.”

6. Door decorations must not overlap the top, bottom, or sides of doors.

7. Do not leave lights unattended.

8. Do not place **any** decorations where they would hinder access to safety equipment (fire alarms, extinguishers) or exits.

REMEMBER that if a fire does occur:

- Warn/remove people in danger.
- Activate a pull alarm (usually near exits).
- Call Protective Services at x3333 and give a complete description of the fire. **DO NOT CALL 911.**
- If the fire is manageable, and **ONLY if you have been trained**, use your fire extinguisher. Only attempt to put out the fire **after** the alarm has been sounded and the evacuation of the building has begun. If you are **NOT** trained to use the fire extinguisher, sound the fire alarm and get out of the building.
- Enjoy the holidays and please, BE SAFE.

A New UV Safety Program Is in the Works at DOES

“If you are using any UV Generating Equipment, please contact Jennifer Ress, Radiation Safety Specialist, via email at jtr10@case.edu”

Currently, an Ultraviolet Radiation (UV) Safety Program is being developed at DOES to protect personnel using UV Generating Equipment. DOES is interested in what kinds of UV Generating Equipment are being used in the labs on campus. If you are using any UV Generating Equipment, please contact Jennifer Ress, Radiation Safety Specialist, via email at jtr10@case.edu. In your email please include PI Name, Building, Room Number, and the type of UV Generating Equipment that is being used. If you have any specific questions about this new program, please give Ms. Ress a call at ext. 8591.

Irradiator Audit Program Coming to Case

An audit program specific to the four irradiators on the CASE campus is in the final stages of implementation and will be officially on-line January 1, 2006. A separate stand alone Irradiator Manual is being prepared and will be posted on the DOES website (<http://does.case.edu>). Audits of all CASE irradiators will be conducted 3 times per year. Issues regarding irradiators will be included in our on-line training.

Security of Radioactive Materials

Security of all hazardous materials is a primary concern of DOES and should be a primary concern for all individuals using hazardous materials. Radioactive materials are no exception to this rule. All radioactive material (this includes stock vials and stock solutions) shall be secured against unauthorized access or removal unless you or someone from the laboratory authorized to use the material is present (reference OAC 3701:1-38-17; ODH Broad Scope License).

Equipment containing radioactive materials, i.e., cabinets, refrigerators, freezers, etc. that is located in hallways must be locked or contain a secure lock-box inside the storage unit. Moreover, a refrigerator containing a secure lock-box should also have a special label posting on the outside of the refrigerator.

If the radiation-labeled equipment does not contain radioactive material and is not being used for radioactive material, then the equipment should be decommissioned. For equipment that is used occasionally for radioactive material storage, the equipment shall be locked even if no radioactive material is currently present. An unsecured refrigerator or freezer labeled as radioactive but which contains no radioactive material is considered a security violation as per RSOF guidelines.

Radioactive waste does not need to be secured in the same manner as other radioactive material. *However*, waste is to be kept in the waste area of the laboratory and its activity sensibly minimized.

For clarity remember, *if you or someone from your lab authorized to use radioactive material is not present, all radioactive material must be secured.* Call DOES at ext. 2906 with any questions regarding security procedures for radioactive materials.

“If you or someone from your lab authorized to use radioactive material is not present, all radioactive material must be secured.”

Laboratory Equipment Repair Service

If you need someone to fix your aging or new laboratory equipment, do not hesitate to take it to the Scientific Instrument Repair Center (SIRC) (<http://mediswww.cwru.edu/sirc/default.htm>). SIRC is located on campus at The School of Medicine, TB07. These services may be much cheaper than using a contractor. Please contact William Frank at 368-3225 if you are interested in utilizing SIRC's services or check the website for further information and bookmark the site as a useful lab tool. Below, in Mr. Frank's own words, he estimates how much money he has already saved the Case Community.

“I have saved researchers approximately 1.2 million dollars in repair labor costs alone since 1984, with literally thousands of capitol and non capitol equipment items returned to the labs that were completely reconditioned or repaired. About 1/4 were slated for disposal and pressed back into service for about 30 percent the new equipment replacement cost. (continued on page 5)



Allergic to Latex?

Gloves are an integral part of PPE in laboratory situations. However, if your hands are red and itchy and/or you are sneezing or your nose is running when you are around your gloves, then you may be allergic to latex.

Latex allergy is an extremely common reaction to certain proteins in natural latex rubber. While many experience a contact dermatitis of dry skin, this is not a true allergy, which manifests as several symptoms and must be diagnosed by a doctor.

Mild reactions range from itching to redness while more severe symptoms may involve asthma or even shock. Even if you are not wearing gloves, latex proteins can become fastened to the lubricant powder used in some gloves and can become an airborne inhalant. The best way to avoid latex contact dermatitis is to follow these guidelines:

- Use non-latex gloves for activities that are not likely to involve contact.
- While latex gloves will provide adequate protection from infectious materials, *latex gloves are not designed for chemical protection and should not be used when handling chemicals.*
- *Nitrile gloves* will provide adequate protection from infectious materials while eliminating the problem of latex allergy.
- If you choose latex gloves, use only powder-free gloves with reduced protein content. So-called hypoallergenic latex gloves do not reduce the risk of latex allergy. However, they may reduce reactions to the chemical additives in the latex (e.g., allergic contact dermatitis).
- After removing latex gloves, wash your hands with a mild soap and dry thoroughly.
- Practice good housekeeping: Frequently clean areas and equipment contaminated with latex-containing dust in order to reduce the risk of airborne inhalants.

If you feel you might have a latex allergy, consult Health Services and follow the above steps to avoid unnecessary exposure. **Always observe proper PPE procedures; if an allergy prevents you from wearing gloves, find an alternative and DO NOT CARRY OUT THE PROCEDURE UNTIL YOUR ALLERGY PROBLEM IS ALLEVIATED.**

“Latex gloves should not be used for chemical protection, and are not appropriate for handling infectious materials.”

Remember, the Case Campus will be closed from December 26 through December 30. DOES, however, will have personnel on staff during this period. (ext 2906/2907)

Laboratory Equipment Repair Service (con.)

(continued from page 3) A fair estimate for all benefits to researchers at this point in time would be approximately 2.75 million for my 20 years of service. I have always been pro-active on energy conservation as a final touch to any repair is performance optimization. This is usually and undetermined savings to the university and researchers as it improves efficiency for all.”

Bill Frank,
Scientific Instrument Repair Center

Lab Relocation Advice

Unfortunately, many of the labs in our Case Community will be relocating in the next few months. In order to expedite this process and assure a smooth transition, there are a few simple things you can do to ensure a relatively painless move.

First and foremost, send an email to Arif Peshimam (azp1) and let him know the date your lab is planning to move. If you are in a radiation lab, send the email to Karen Janiga (kej2). Once we've received notification of your move, two specialists from DOES will visit your lab with important relocation information. Below are a few additional tips you should be aware of before you initiate the move:

- A Safety Clearance Protocol and Request Form must be completed for each room you are moving out of, including a list of lab equipment that is to be cleared by DOES.
- Some chemicals must be packed and moved by a professional contractor; *check first with Safety Services.*
- RAM inventory and chemicals that will not be taken to the new location must be either disposed of or transferred to another PI.
- All chemical, radioactive, biohazard and sharps waste must be removed prior to moving.
- All equipment must be decontaminated prior to moving.

These tips are highlights and should not be considered all inclusive. For further information, be sure to contact DOES. Please contact Safety Services: Arif Peshimam (368-2739) or Radiation Safety: Joanna Bielawski (368-4601).

If these guidelines are adhered to, you will have a safe and smooth transition into your new lab location.

“A Safety Clearance Protocol and Request Form must be completed for each room you are moving out of, including a list of lab equipment that is to be cleared by DOES.”

*Upcoming Training Sessions**

***As always, consult our website (<http://does.case.edu>) for a full schedule of training sessions**

New Radiation Safety Training

DOES conference room - Service Building 1st Floor

PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-2906

Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

X-Ray Safety Training

DOES conference room - Service Building 1st Floor

PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-4601

or email jxb153@case.edu

Laser Safety Training

DOES conference room - Service Building 1st Floor

PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-4600

or email hwj@case.edu

Classes will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the DOES conference room, Service Building.

Thursday, December 1, 2005 1:00 p.m.

New Bloodborne Pathogen Training

DOES conference room - Service Building 1st Floor

PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-2907

There is an online version of this class. You do not have to attend the class if you take the online version.

Held every Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Additional training classes schedule:

Formaldehyde, Benzene, Methylene Chloride, and Vinyl Chloride Retraining

Please call 368-2907 to preregister for this class.

There are online versions of Formaldehyde and Benzene retraining. If you take the online versions of Benzene or Formaldehyde you do not have to take the class.

Class Objective: Chemical specific training

(continued on page 8)

*Laser Safety Manual, Retraining Slides and Exam—all now
Available at <http://does.case.edu>*

The laser program has now posted for your convenience the Laser Safety Manual, retraining slides and the laser safety exam. Simply go to the DOES website at <<http://does.case.edu>>. Additionally, a pamphlet of laser calculations will soon be posted to assist in Hazard evaluations.

Please remember that a copy of ANSI Z136.1-2000 is required in order to have access to all the graphs, tables, diagrams and correction factors used in the many examples of laser calculations.

If you have any questions, please email Wayne Justice (hwj@case.edu).

DOES Staff News

Please join us in welcoming Paul Holter (Specialist I) to DOES. Paul comes to us from the Case School of Engineering.

Also, please join us in congratulating and saying good luck to DOES staff member Mahdi Fahim (Specialist II) who is leaving DOES at the end of December. After 5 years of service to DOES, Mahdi is moving to North Carolina. Look for a detailed article in the next issue.



OSHA Laboratory Safety and Regulated Chemical Training

DOES conference room—Service Building 1st Floor
PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-2907

Held every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Hazard Communication Training (Right-to-Know)

Crawford, Room 209

Held every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Additional training classes schedule (Note: additional classes will be held in the DOES conference room located in the Safety Service Building):

Thursday, December 8, 2005 9:00 am

Radiation Safety Retraining

PREREGISTRATION IS *REQUIRED* ! - Please call 368-2906

DOES conference room—Service Building 1st Floor

You can also retrain on the Internet @: <http://does.case.edu>

DOES STAFF

W. David Sedwick, Ph.D., (wds), Director and RSO

Felice Thornton-Porter (fst2), Q.A. Specialist II

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Arif Peshimam (azp1), Specialist II

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Edward Traverso, RRPT (ejt), Radiation Operations Supervisor, Specialist II

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Joanna Bielawski (jxb153), Specialist I

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