

# LAB NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health & Safety Office

## EPA and Hazardous Waste Issues at UCSD

Last fall, all nine UC campuses and their medical centers were asked by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a self-audit of their hazardous waste disposal practices. UCSD's self-audit identified certain areas for improvement. Analysis and discussion of audit results with our faculty, staff, and university safety committees found the **root causes for compliance issues are related to training, communication, and accountability.**

To improve UCSD's performance, the Chemical Safety and Surveillance Committee and the Health and Safety Coordinating Council reviewed and approved these changes to UCSD policy and practice:

- Basic lab safety and waste management training is required for all UCSD personnel who work with chemicals or other hazardous materials.
- EH&S will send periodic summaries of safety performance to PIs, department chairs, and deans.

More information follows in the articles below. If you have questions or comments, please contact Chemical Safety Officer Jim Kapin at (858) 534-2823 or [jkapin@ucsd.edu](mailto:jkapin@ucsd.edu).



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## What's New?

### Lab Safety Training is Required for all New Employees

Providing personnel with the knowledge to safely fulfill their responsibilities is essential. The UCSD Laboratory Training Flowchart illustrates training requirements for lab personnel (a PDF file on the web at [http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/pdf/training\\_flowchart.pdf](http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/pdf/training_flowchart.pdf)).

#### Significant changes from the past:

- As of July 1, 2002 all lab personnel who do not have documented lab safety training are required to attend the new "Lab Safety for Professionals/IIPP" course.

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### Performance Measurement and Reporting: Safety Audit Summaries

It's difficult to improve safety performance if you don't know how you're doing in the first place. To establish a reference point, EH&S is preparing Safety Audit Summaries for distribution to three different levels of laboratory management.

- The first level addresses individual **Principal Investigators**. The summary provides the PI with a concise statement of their lab's safety performance over the past two years, reporting average audit results and any repeat or serious issues found. In addition, it will provide some comparison audit information from other labs in the department. Copies of the PI summary will go to the Department Chair and to Safety Coordinators.
- A second version of the summary addresses **Department Chairs**. This summary compiles overall departmental safety performance for all labs over the past two years. The most frequent problems

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## PI Information Sheets Replace LSP Data Sheets

The laboratory safety program at UCSD is organized around the Laboratory Safety Plan (LSP). Online at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/labsafe.htm>, the LSP is a set of Web pages providing health and safety information that constitutes the Chemical Hygiene Plan for UCSD laboratories, and meets several other regulatory requirements as well. The LSP describes:

- training requirements
- criteria for evaluating and controlling hazards
- use of engineering controls
- selecting protective equipment
- protocol for prior approvals and medical evaluations

**Because the information contained in the LSP is specific to UCSD, PIs no longer need to complete the LSP Data Sheets.** In the past, LSP Data Sheets were used to gather a variety of laboratory-specific information that could be used to communicate safety information within the lab. It's being replaced with a simple PI Information Sheet.

### The PI Information Sheet

**Pis now only need to complete the "PI Information Sheet,"** online as a printable PDF at [http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/pdf/PI\\_infosheet.pdf](http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/pdf/PI_infosheet.pdf).

The PI Information Sheet provides:

- Information necessary for EH&S to manage UCSD's lab safety program. For example, PI room assignments and the safety contacts associated with those rooms.
- Emergency contact information for use by UCSD Police and other emergency responders.

**A PI Information Sheet should be completed once for each PI, and then reviewed annually for changes.** Print out and use a PI Information Sheet whenever you need to submit updates. Send them to EH&S at mail code 0920, or fax to (858) 534-7982.

The LSP is a companion document to the Biosafety Handbook ([http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bio/biobk/biosafety\\_book.pdf](http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bio/biobk/biosafety_book.pdf)) and the Radiation Safety Manual ([http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/rad/radmanual/rsm1\\_02.pdf](http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/rad/radmanual/rsm1_02.pdf)). Consult these manuals for particular information and policies. EH&S is always available to assist with any questions and concerns not addressed in these documents.

Questions or comments? Contact the Research Assistance Program (RAP) specialist for your building. See the RAP Contact page online at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/rap.htm> to find out who the specialist is for your building.

## Safety Audit Summaries...continued

found in the department's labs are listed. Again, some comparison and benchmarking information is provided. Copies of the Department Chair summary will go to Safety Coordinators, as well as the appropriate Deans and Vice Chancellors.

- The third version summarizes safety performance at the **Dean or Vice Chancellor** level. Similar to the departmental summary, this report compiles overall safety performance for all labs in that School or Division over the past two years. The most frequent problems found in the School or Division labs are listed, along with some comparison and benchmarking information. Copies of the School or Division summary go to UCSD's safety committees.

Departmental and School or Divisional summaries for the January – June 2002 audit cycle are expected in early autumn. PIs should begin receiving Safety Audit Summaries at approximately the same time as part of their audit report from scheduled EH&S lab audits.

Safety Audit Reports currently only contain information from laboratory audits. Over time, information from other EH&S and regulatory activities will be incorporated.



Draft versions of the three levels of Safety Audit Summaries have been reviewed by the Health and Safety Coordinating Council, the Chemical Safety and Surveillance Committee, representatives from departmental administration, Deans offices, and other interested parties.

**Safety Audit Summaries will provide a valuable tool for identifying what's working, what's not working, and where best to allocate our resources.**

Questions or comments? Contact Chemical Safety Officer Jim Kapin at 534-2823 or [jkapin@ucsd.edu](mailto:jkapin@ucsd.edu).

### Reduce the Hazards in Your Life

These products can be used as substitutes for their more hazardous counterparts:

- **Substitute Vista Green Nucleic Acid Stain** from Amersham Pharmacia (catalog no. RPN-5787) **for Ethidium Bromide (EtBr).**
- **Substitute Bacdown** from Fisher Scientific (catalog no. 04-355-13) **for bleach.**

## New at UCSD Storehouse! Wescodyne Disinfectant in Handy One Gallon Containers

One gallon containers of Wescodyne disinfectant are now available from UCSD Storehouse (<http://storehouse.ucsd.edu>). Ask for part number 5472. For a list of disinfectants available from UCSD Storehouse, see the Biosafety Handbook's Appendix 12, online at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bio/biobk/bioap12.htm>.

### Lab Safety Training...continued

Combining the Lab Safety for Professionals seminar with the Illness and Injury Prevention Plan training required by state law allows employees to **attend one class to meet two basic safety training requirements**. A similar Shop Safety/IIPP class for new shop workers is in development.

- Another new change for the better: EH&S has begun a phased partnership with Enrollment Central to offer safety training. Use Enrollment Central to register for many of our safety courses. A training history of classes registered for and completed via Enrollment Central can be viewed online.

Browse Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu/>. Under "Browse Courses by Topic," click on "EHS - Safety" to view schedules and register for safety training courses.

**Enrollment Central includes many—but not all—available safety training programs.** EH&S will continue to offer special courses to UCSD at large, SIO, UCSD Healthcare employees, and customized group training upon request. Continue to check the Safety Training page at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/training.htm> for all training options.

- More to come: A web-based refresher training option for employees who've already taken Lab Safety training will be available soon. Employees will be able to answer questions online to demonstrate their understanding of hazardous waste and contingency plan issues, and print out a completion certificate for documentation. This program will satisfy the annual refresher training requirement for employees working with hazardous materials.

Combining two basic training requirements in one class, partnering with Enrollment Central, and integrating electronic tools to help deliver and track training will make it easier for everyone to benefit from and meet their training requirements. Questions or comments? Contact Chemical Safety Officer Jim Kapin at (858) 534-2823, or [jkapin@ucsd.edu](mailto:jkapin@ucsd.edu).

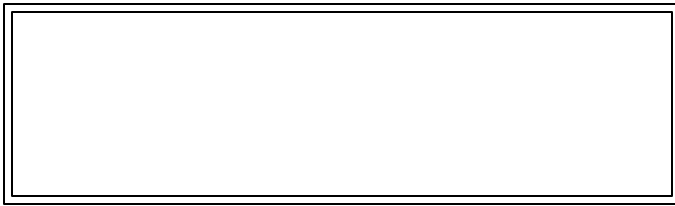
## Guidelines for Sewer Discharge of Common Acids and Bases

UCSD has received a notice of non-compliance from the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department for pH levels in sewage below allowable permit limits. Recent 24-hour monitoring by the Wastewater Department found pH levels between 2.8 and 4.5 in two different sewer lines. The UCSD Industrial Wastewater Permit requires that discharges to sewer must be between pH 5.0 and 12.5 to prevent degradation of the City's concrete sewer mains by acidic wastewater. The permit and hazardous waste regulations further prohibit discharge of any hazardous waste into the sewage system. **To ensure regulatory compliance at UCSD, follow these guidelines for discharging common acids and bases to the sewer:**

Measure the pH with pH meters or pH strips that have a resolution of 0.5 pH unit or smaller increments.

Is the liquid waste* • ignitable? • reactive? • toxic?	pH Range	Action
Yes	Any	Do not discharge to sewer. Dispose of as hazardous waste.
No	< = 2	Do not discharge to sewer. pH <=2 is hazardous waste. Dispose of as hazardous waste.
No	> 2.0 and < = 5	Adjust the pH to between 5.0 and 12.5 before discharging the waste to the sink or sewer drain.
No	> 5 and < = 12.5	Discharge of the waste to the sink or sewer drain is allowed.
No	> = 12.5	Do not discharge to sewer. pH >=12.5 is a hazardous waste. Dispose of as hazardous waste.

**\* To determine if a waste is ignitable, reactive, or toxic, consult the Hazardous Waste Guidelines online at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/hazwaste/hazwaste.htm>.** Questions? Contact the Environmental Management Facility at 534-1065.



## **S A F E Award Winners!**

### **Summer 2002 Quarter**

Three individuals from the **Ken Chien lab in the Dept. of Medicine** have received the **Safety Award For Excellence** for the summer 2002 quarter.

**Congratulations to**

**Janelle Stricker!**  
**Wendy Bardwell!**  
**Sara Meyers!**



EHS&S Director Steve Benedict presents Janelle Stricker, Wendy Bardwell, and Sara Meyers with the Safety Award For Excellence.

Wendy, Sara and Janelle worked closely with EH&S over the past year to implement new safety policies and ensure regulatory compliance in their area. They have promoted EH&S services to their department and encouraged their coworkers to take advantage of safety training, ensuring a safer environment overall. This approach resulted in very high scores on the latest multidisciplinary audits and reflects top-down support of health and safety issues. All of their coworkers benefit from their efforts. You go, girls!

**Nominate** the people you know who are making UCSD a SAFE place. Use the online form at [http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/SAFE/safe\\_nom.htm](http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/SAFE/safe_nom.htm). We look forward to hearing from you.

## **Urgent Product Recall**

### **Fisher Scientific 1.5ml Microcentrifuge Tubes**

Fisher Scientific has issued an urgent product recall for the following catalog and lot numbers:

<b>Catalog No.</b>	<b>Lot No.</b>
05-408-23A (orange)	716780
05-408-23B (lavender)	716247, 716777, 717017
05-408-23C (assorted)	714958, 714959, 714960, 716244, 716245, 716776, 717007, 717008, 717009, 719603, 719604

Tubes from these three catalog numbers may have pinholes. If you have any of the referenced lot numbers and wish to receive replacement product, please call Fisher Customer Service at 1-800-766-7000. Reference Recall #FS-02124.

## **New Services from EH&S**

### **EH&S Signs Up for Sticker Pollution Reduction**

*New!*

EH&S will reduce "sticker pollution" in the coming months by installing improved laboratory room signage. Mounted in permanent acrylic holders, the signs will be updated during your scheduled audit. The new signs will list the faculty members using the space and their emergency contacts to facilitate effective emergency response.

The signs will also indicate the presence of carcinogen usage and biological and radiological hazards so other signs and stickers duplicating that information can be removed, reducing visual clutter.

### **Emergency Response Access Gets Easier**

Laboratories will soon be receiving new first aid kits from EH&S and a permanent holder for the UCSD Emergency Response Guide (the red and black spiral-bound flipchart containing "what to do in case of..." emergency information). Emergency Response Guide holders will be installed in standardized locations near telephones in labs throughout campus over the next several months.

### **The Unseen Costs of Risk Management**

**October 29, 1 - 4 p.m.**

Learn how to manage costs associated with work-related injuries and auto accidents, thefts, flood, and fire damage. Register via Enrollment Central at:

[http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu/sed\\_course.cfm?&cdirs=UCRISK](http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu/sed_course.cfm?&cdirs=UCRISK)