

# LAB NOTES

JULY/AUG 2006

SAFETY NEWS FOR UCSD RESEARCHERS

NO. 73

## New Material Safety Data Sheet System for UC



UC has selected Chemwatch ChemGold II Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) management system to be the University's primary MSDS source.

Access Chemwatch ChemGold II from any UCSD Internet-connected computer:

- Open your Web browser. **Make sure pop-up blocker is off.**
- Enter the Chemwatch URL: <http://ucmsds.chemwatchna.com/>
- The Chemwatch homepage appears, then immediately opens the MSDS database search page called ChemGold II.

To access Chemwatch from a non-UCSD computer, contact the Chemical Safety Officer for assistance: [ehschem@ucsd.edu](mailto:ehschem@ucsd.edu), (858) 822-1579.

MSDSs are one of many tools for evaluating chemical hazards. Consult multiple sources to develop safe work procedures. See "MSDS Sources" in Blink (<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/msds>) for an extensive list of chemical hazard information resources.

**If you have questions** about the chemicals you intend to work with, contact Environment, Health & Safety at [ehschem@ucsd.edu](mailto:ehschem@ucsd.edu), (858) 534-3660.



Unauthorized equipment obstructs this corridor.

In general, nothing may obstruct the required minimum width of a corridor. Only equipment or material authorized by EH&S is permitted in a corridor.

**EH&S may authorize** items that comply with state fire marshal regulations to be placed in a corridor.

continued on back...see Corridors

## UCSD Corridor Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, you need a clear way out of your building, and emergency responders need a clear way in! Corridors are the most important means of fast, safe evacuation.

UCSD's Health & Safety Coordinating Council, with input from other faculty-led safety committees, has developed new guidelines for permissible and prohibited use of equipment and storage of materials in corridors.

## Research Assistance Program

The EH&S Research Assistance Program (RAP) specialists assist researchers with their chemical, radiation, and biological laboratory safety needs. RAP unifies support and auditing services into one efficient group, with specialists assigned by building. Concentrating on specific buildings enables RAP specialists to understand the unique needs of each facility and research area. Laboratory employees develop relationships with their representatives which improves customer service.



Ken Jacoby,  
RAP specialist  
for School of  
Engineering  
buildings

**RAP specialists also audit labs** for safety and compliance twice a year. Audit results help both researchers and EH&S identify and correct problems to maintain a safe work area and ensure compliance with regulations.

Find out who the RAP specialist for your building is on Blink at: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/rap>

Questions about RAP? Contact Lance Scott, [lscott@ucsd.edu](mailto:lscott@ucsd.edu) or (858) 534-7651.



## Go to Enrollment Central for Safety Training

<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

Browse "EH&S-Safety" under Course Topics for schedules.

**Find research safety training at:**

**General Lab Safety & Chemical Safety Training**

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/labchemtrain>

**Radiation Safety Training**

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/radtrain>

**Biosafety Training**

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/biotrain>

**Hazardous Waste Training**

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/hazwastrain>

## Ergonomics Resource Fund



Stool with footrest

**EH&S has funding assistance available** to help purchase ergonomically-designed lab products from Marketplace for employees who have completed ergonomic training.

Find out how to use the EH&S Ergonomics Resource Fund on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergofund>.



Microscope armrests

## Corridors ... continued

EH&S will tag authorized items to indicate approval has been granted. All authorized equipment and material must be secured against movement during an earthquake.

**Noncombustible or limited-combustibility equipment and materials that may be authorized by EH&S include the following:**

- Metal file cabinets equipped with positive-locking drawers
- Pressurized containers of liquefied cryogenic gases (e.g., nitrogen) secured to a substantial, fixed surface with upper and lower chains
- Bulletin boards that meet specific requirements (read UCSD Corridor Policy on Blink for details: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/corridor>)

**Contact EH&S Fire & Life Safety**, (858) 822-5706 or 534-3660, to request authorization to place equipment or materials in a corridor.

**Unauthorized items** must be removed promptly by the responsible party immediately if it is a hazardous material (compressed gases, hazardous chemicals, etc.) , or within 30 days if the item is non-hazardous. Anything that interferes with the use of a corridor eyewash, safety shower, or fire extinguisher is prohibited.

**Examples of materials that are not permitted:**

- Refrigerators
- ATMs
- Cardboard or wooden boxes
- Trash or recycling receptacles
- Flammable liquid storage cabinets
- Decorative materials
- Compressed gas cylinders containing toxic or flammable gases
- Copy machines
- Storage cabinets (metal or wood)
- Pallets of chemicals
- Water bottles
- Small cryogenic liquid dewars
- Hazardous materials

**Fire Safety requirements in a healthcare setting are more restrictive** than non-patient care environments. No items may be stored in hospital or clinic corridors.

**Questions?** Contact EH&S Fire & Safety, (858) 822-5706 or 534-3660.

## Whose Safety Is It?

**Who has primary responsibility for safety in your lab or work area?** Take safety personally. Preventing workplace injury and illnesses and protecting the environment depends on every UCSD employee taking appropriate safety and environmental measures each day as we plan and conduct our work activities.

**Participate in your own workplace safety. Here's what you can do:**

- Follow written and established procedures for the equipment and materials you use.
- Get safety training appropriate for the kind of work you perform.
- Evaluate the hazards and environmental impacts associated with your work activity, from design through completion, then figure out the safest, most environmentally sound way to do it.
- Ask questions if you need more information.
- Report safety concerns and potential problems to your PI, lab supervisor, or EH&S.

**Questions?** Contact EH&S at (858) 534-3660 or [ehsweb@ucsd.edu](mailto:ehsweb@ucsd.edu).