

LAB

NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health & Safety Office

Fines are UP for Failing to Immediately Report Workplace Serious Injury or Death

State legislation now imposes a minimum \$5,000 fine on employers who fail to report a workplace death or serious injury within eight hours. Assembly bill 2837 doesn't change existing reporting requirements, but it does increase existing fines tenfold.

A serious injury is defined as:

- An injury requiring a hospital stay longer than 24 hours (for care other than medical observation)
- An injury involving loss of a member of the body or a serious degree of permanent disfigurement

Report serious injuries or a workplace death immediately to Environment, Health & Safety at (858) 822-2979. EH&S will report the incident to Cal/OSHA within the required eight-hour time frame.

If you have questions about accident and injury reporting, contact Mike Fouquette at mfouquette@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-2112.



Buying Radioactive Materials for Research

Are you responsible for purchasing radioactive materials for your laboratory? Buying and receiving radioactive materials is strictly

regulated. Placing online orders for radioactive isotopes requires special authorization, regardless of cost, and all orders are received at the EH&S Isotope Lab for release to authorized personnel only.

Go to Blink's "Buying Radioactive Materials Overview" page at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/buyradio> to learn about:

- Requirements and authorizations
- Ways to order radioactive materials
- Picking up your order



Annie Townsend wins the Safety Award For Excellence

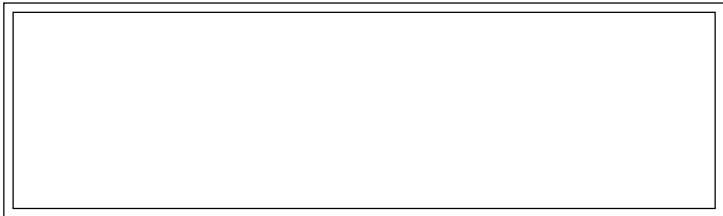
Congratulations to Annie Townsend of Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Museum Collections, Spring 2003 winner of the **Safety Award For Excellence.** Consistent attention to safety by Annie, a senior museum scientist, really paid off when she recognized a mold problem in the pelagic invertebrates collections. Annie embarked on a determined campaign to defeat it, ensuring both her staff's safety and preservation of the largest collection of its kind. It wasn't quick or easy. Annie worked with PPS to install appropriate air conditioning equipment, and with EH&S to develop cleanup procedures. Funding had to be secured and staff trained to safely and efficiently handle the decontamination work. Each phase lasted for months, and often Annie's persistence alone kept the ball rolling. **Annie's dedication to safety benefited her staff and fellow scientists, and secured a valuable research collection for the future.**

Nominate someone! Read about the SAFE program and submit a nomination form at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safe>.

Biohazardous Waste Disposal Chart

A graphical flow chart showing proper disposal of biohazardous and medical waste is available to print from the Web at http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bio/pdf/biowaste_poster.pdf (PDF). Packaging and disposal procedures for a variety of lab equipment, materials, and contaminants are illustrated.





Go to Enrollment Central for Safety Training

<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

Looking for biological, chemical, hazardous waste, and radiation safety training? Register for safety training online via Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>. Browse “EH&S – Safety” under Course Topics for schedules.

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Risk Management – Cars and Property: Your Personal Risk

Intended for employees driving personal, UC, or rental vehicles for university business; taking UC property off campus; and/or bringing personal property onto the premises.

August 20, 10 – 11 a.m.

Price Center, Santa Barbara-Los Angeles Room

Register via Enrollment Central at:
<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

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Laboratory Ergonomics: A Common Sense Approach to Maximizing comfort in a Research Laboratory

Research work typically involves performing prolonged tasks such as pipetting, microscopy, dissection, and other repetitive procedures.

October 16, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Price Center, San Francisco-Santa Cruz Room

Register via Enrollment Central at:
<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

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Basic Cell Culture Workshop

Presented by the CORE Cell Culture Facility, staff research associates and other employees who use cell culture procedures in university research will learn techniques and information for working more efficiently, effectively, and safely.

Check schedules and register via Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>. Browse under “Laboratory.”

Labeling Chemicals

Chemical labels are required by law to contain specific information. Extra information is required on high hazard materials. Follow these steps for proper labeling.

Make sure labels include the following required information, written legibly:

- Chemical name or abbreviation
- Concentration
- Hazard warning

Include the following additional required information for chemicals that degrade over time:

- Date(s) received, opened, and tested

Prominently post a chemical abbreviation sheet in the lab when abbreviations are used on labels.

- Print out a list of common substances and abbreviations from the Web at <http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/pdf/abbrev.pdf> (PDF). Extend the list as necessary with your lab-specific abbreviations.

Label refrigerators used for chemical storage with a “Laboratory Use Only” sticker. Label refrigerators that are not approved flammable storage units with a “No Flammable Storage” sticker. Stickers are available from EH&S at (858) 534-3660.

When you transfer a chemical from its original container into a handier size jar, bottle, box, or can, make sure you accurately label the new receptacle.



Managing Your Chemical Budget

When purchasing chemicals, buy only what you plan to use in a reasonable amount of time. Over-stocking chemicals clutters up your lab and storage space, and increases UCSD’s waste management costs when unused chemicals are disposed of.

Before you buy chemicals, check ChemCycle at <http://chem-tech.ucsd.edu/Reuse/>. With over 5000 chemicals in our inventory, there’s a good chance we’ve got what you need. And it’s free! Good for the pocketbook and the environment.

To donate usable surplus chemicals:

- Use the online Hazardous Waste Collection Request form at http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/hazwaste/cgi-forms/collection_request.html.
- Indicate on the request form under “Comments” that the material may be suitable for ChemCycle.
- Write “For CHEMCYCLE” on the yellow waste tag attached to the item.