So, once again, I want to make the same point I did in 1993: have you seen any fire doors in your building propped open, or having had their closers removed? Every fire door not maintained self-closing and latching represents an increased threat to your life, your property, and your research. PLEASE learn from the tragic lessons of the past—make it your job to watch for and correct any blocked or otherwise-nonfunctioning fire doors you see. And if you can't correct the situation yourself, let me know; rbenton@ucsd.edu or 534-1062.

Workplace of Distinction WINNERS!
for Fall/Winter 1999

Environment, Health & Safety is delighted to announce Workplace of Distinction Award winners for Fall/Winter 1999. The WOD Award celebrates UCSD individuals and work groups who have excelled in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace consistent with EH&S policies. And who shines? In alphabetical order, the winners are...

* Kathy Caro, Dept. of Medicine-Business Office
  WOD Outstanding Individual
* Nimitz Marine Facility Group
  WOD Outstanding Work Group
* Resident Marine Technician Group
  WOD Outstanding Work Group

Find out why these people are outstanding at the WOD website http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/wod/wod.htm. While you’re there admire their photographs, picture your nominee as the Spring/Summer 2000 individual or group winner! Nominations are due by April 5th.

“Wedges of Death II”
from UCSD Fire Marshal Dick Benton

About seven years ago, I wrote an article for this newsletter entitled “Wedges of Death.” It was a melodramatic-sounding title, but, unfortunately, it accurately described what had just been identified as the significant contributor to the large number of fatalities in a Los Angeles apartment house fire in May of that year. Fire, smoke and toxic gases had spread throughout the older three-story apartment complex in large part because a number of the fire doors had been blocked open. Had they been closed, so as to contain the fire within the portion of the building in which it started, nine people—seven of them children—might still be alive.

Why revive this ancient subject now? Three students recently perished in a residence hall fire at Seton Hall University in New Jersey; at least three more were hospitalized and are currently still in critical condition with extensive burns. While the final report is still being written, some witnesses reported there was considerable smoke in the stairwells, suggesting the possibility of doors having been blocked open.

New Safety Training Director and Campus Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Environment, Health & Safety is pleased to introduce Garrett McLeish, our new Safety Training Director and Campus Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Garrett will also be overseeing the Departmental Safety Coordinator Program. Garrett has been an EH&S Specialist for seven years at UCSD, and has developed and taught Health and Safety courses for the Environmental Studies Program at UCSD Extended Studies for six years. Contact Garrett at gmcleish@ucsd.edu or 534-1064.

AB1127 Employee Safety Legislation
(Steinberg Employee Safety: violations)

AB 1127 Employee Safety Legislation was recently signed by Governor Davis, effective January 1, 2000. While this new law does not change the requirements for campus health and safety programs, it does repeal the provision that exempts public educational institutions from paying monetary penalties for occupational safety and health violations. EH&S technical staff are available for consultation and can provide an overall evaluation of your unit’s safety program to make sure your workplace and procedures are in compliance. Contact Jon Schmidt (534-5242, jschmidt@ucsd.edu) if you have questions or need assistance.

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SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS

Injury & Illness Prevention Program
http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/iipp.htm

IIPP classes are in the Price Center 9:00-10:00 AM.
Register with Garret McLeish at 534-1064 or
gmcleish@ucsd.edu.

- February 22 Gallery B
- February 29 Gallery B
- March 7 Santa Barbara Room
- March 14 Santa Barbara Room
- March 21 Gallery B

Computer Ergonomics
May 3, 2000 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Whether you use a computer at work or at home, with just a two hour investment of time you can learn how to achieve maximum comfort by arranging an ergonomically correct computer workstation, revising job tasks and applying proper body mechanics. Classes are in the Staff Education Learning Center located at TPCSouth, suite 265A. Enroll electronically at http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu/.

Laboratory Ergonomic Awareness
February 23, 10:00-11:00 AM, Medical Teaching Facility Room 168

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD) account for one-third of all occupational injuries and illnesses reported each year. Researchers are susceptible to MSD by performing repetitive tasks like pipetting, enduring the prolonged awkward posture of using a microscope, and applying force when opening and closing vial caps. Learn methods to alleviate discomfort and reduce injuries by attending the Laboratory Ergonomic Awareness Class. To host a class at your department (with a minimum of 12 people), contact Daphne Thaung, dthaung@ucsd.edu, to schedule a session.

What You Don’t Know About Risk Management Is Costing You Money$
http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/riskmgmt/classes.htm

March 7, 2000 8:30AM-11:00AM
Classes will be taught in the Staff Education Learning Center located at TPCSouth, suite 265A. Enroll electronically at http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu/.

Basic Radiation Safety Classes
http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/radtrain.htm
(No reservation is necessary for these classes)
Classes are in the Price Center

Tues, Feb. 29 12:30-4:30pm San Francisco Rm
Thur, Mar 23* 8:30am-12:30pm San Francisco Rm

*Attention native Chinese speakers: there will be an 18 minute video introduction in Mandarin presented at 8:10am before class.

Topic-specific Radiation Safety Classes
RSVPs are REQUIRED! Call x46138 to register.

#2 P-32 Use
Feb 23, 9:00-10:30am, Price Ctr-Berkeley Rm

#3 How To Handle A Radiation Spill
Mar 8, 9:00-10:30am, Price Ctr-Berkeley Rm

#4 Safety Aspects of XRD Units
Mar 16, 9:00-10:30am, Urey Hall, Room 2102

Bloodborne Pathogens
http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/bbptrain.htm

RSVPs are REQUIRED! Call x46138 to register.

CAMPUS CLASSES
Presented in the Price Center

Adenovirus
Thurs, Mar 2 1:00-2:00PM Davis/Riverside Room
Tues, April 4 10:00-11:00AM San Francisco Room

Bloodborne Pathogens
Thurs, Mar 2 2:00-3:00PM Davis/Riverside Room
Tues, April 4 11:00AM-Noon San Francisco Room

MEDICAL CENTER CLASSES
Presented in the Multi Purpose Facility

Adenovirus
Wed, April 19 1:30-2:30PM 450 MPF

Bloodborne Pathogens
Wed, April 19 2:30-3:30PM 450 MPF

Campus Casualties

* Aboard a research vessel off the North Carolina coast, an employee’s ribs were fractured when a wave rocking the vessel flung him against the ship’s railing.
* An employee holding up a roll-up gate with a screwdriver received a puncture wound to the nose when the gate fell and the screwdriver was thrust down.
* A fractured rib and contused spleen were suffered by an employee who walked into a forklift’s raised tines.
* An employee strained her back and hip moving a heavy plant and file cabinet. Another strained back injury occurred as an employee was maneuvering in a very tight space to install a cafeteria grill.