Keep Foot-and-Mouth Disease OUT of America

Researchers: If you or anyone you collaborate with plans to import cells or cell cultures from the United Kingdom, or anywhere else from out of the country, they must be grown on US fetal bovine serum before coming into U.S. Customs. All imported cells and culture must receive permits from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Permit applications are available at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/forms/index.html.


Questions? Contact Brenda Wang, UCSD Biosafety Officer, at (858) 534-6059, bwang@ucsd.edu.

April is California Earthquake Preparedness Month
Are You Ready To Ride It Out?
The University of Washington reported that damage from the February 28th earthquake centered near Seattle included 171 buildings with relatively minor damage—mostly cosmetic cracking and other superficial damage. No significant injuries were reported on campus. The university credits its non-structural mitigation program with preventing significant damage to most buildings. No significant hazardous material spills were reported due to good shelving and container restraint systems, and good chemical storage practices. However, many library stacks continued on page 2.  see Earthquake

Hot Flashes: Radiation Safety Sealed Source Round-up
EH&S is asking for your assistance in collecting unwanted sealed sources of radioactivity. In light of escalating prices and current legislation restricting access to radioactive waste disposal facilities, EH&S must carefully plan disposal components and account for individual items distributed under UCSD's radioactive materials use license. With your assistance, UCSD can obtain the best pricing and make efficient use of these limited disposal facilities.

Your assistance is simple:
1. Review your current radioactive materials inventory and determine which radioactive sealed sources you still need.
2. Individually package and label the unwanted sealed sources with a Radioactive Waste Tag.
4. Update you inventory to reflect the transfer/disposal of the item(s) to the EH&S Environmental Management Facility.

If you need assistance or guidance, contact the Radiation Safety Division at (858) 534-2753.

New Radiation Safety Forms
All of the forms associated with Radiation Safety at UCSD have been updated and are now available for download in both Word and PDF format from the EH&S web site at http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/rad/rad2.htm. Please disregard any previous versions you have on hand and begin using the new forms.
Earthquake Preparedness—continued
failed or were damaged, causing damage to books and
destroying several libraries. Asbestos (especially
spray-on fireproofing) created many problems, as
it became dislodged and friable, leading to building
closures. Damage estimates now total about $29
million (including both building damage and asbes-
tos abatement cleanup).
Glance around your research facility
and imagine what it would look like if
the quake had happened to
UCSD instead—and it could.
Geologists consider several of
San Diego county’s faults ca-
pable of producing at least a
6.5 earthquake. There’s a lot
you can do now to prevent
and minimize injury and dam-
age when an earthquake occurs. UCLC, UCSD, UCSC
and UCI all have experience with earth-
quake damage. We know from their experience,
and now from the University of Washington, what
worked to minimize damage and what didn’t work.

Shell lips and cabinet door locking systems do work.
Where shelf lips are in place, containers of chemicals and lightweight equipment were pre-
vented from sitting off shelves and landing on the floor.
They vibrated right up to the edge and stopped at
the shelf lip. Bungee cords used as restraints
across shelves did not work quite as well; in some
cases, smaller items slipped under them. Equip-
ment sitting unrestrained on shelves or in un-
latched/unlocked cabinets by and large ended up
on the floor (one slide that’s been circulated shows
a pile of microscopes that fell to the floor in a
教學 lab).

Tall storage cabinets and bookcases that
were not bolted to secure mounts generally tumbled
over, their contents breaking, spilling and mixing
into chemical soup (what do you know about reac-
tives and incompatibles—to imagine the possi-
ble combinations, especially with flooding from broken
waterlines). The fallen cabinets frequently blocked exit
paths.

Compressed gas cylinders which had been
down-chained and bolted to a secure surface
stayed in place. Single chain restraints were not
as successful. C-clamps did not work at all. Fol-
lowing the 1994 Northridge quake, UCLC respond-
ers reported that several doorways were blocked by
tall cylinders, especially those that had been
stored behind doors. As the CSM-Northridge cam-
pus where three of the four science wings
suffered major fires, over 50 cylinders exploded.

Fire walls and closed fire doors worked. Rooms
doors to each area that were completely consumed
by flames did not burn where fire doors were shut
and fire walls had not been compromised. An
example of a "compromised fire wall" was seen
where a display case had been installed in a wall
extending through to the hall on the other side.
Flames easily consumed the display case and
escaped into the hall through the hole in the fire
wall where the display case had been.

Where do you begin? Much of earthquake
preparedness is common sense and can be ac-
complished at little or no expense often by you and
your co-workers. Store heavy items on lower
shelves—less damage will be done should they fall.
Devise some sort of restraining system to hold
equipment in place when not in use. When placing
items on an upper shelf, picture them falling off
during a temblor; that image may help you decide
where to store the heavy stuff. Are tall cabinets and
shelves bolted to the wall? The taller and narrower
they are, the more likely they are to tumble over.

Wide-based storage (deeper shelves) is more
stable. Check the area around your work area; any tall
bookcases, storage cabinets, stacked items or
equipment that could fall over and block your way
out are high priority—have them bolted securely
to the wall or moved.

Cabinet door locking systems, just like the ones
many parents use to keep small children from
getting into dangerous household products, are
Safety Alerts

HOAT Safety and Shipping Notice

Product Numbers: GEN076511, GEN076513, GEN076515, GEN076519, GEN076517, GEN076910, GEN076517C

Applied Biosystems has suspended shipment of their HOAT product pending completion of testing to determine whether HOM should be reclassified as an explosive category substance pursuant to U.S. Department of Transportation requirements and UN guidelines. HOAT is currently classified as a highly flammable gaseous material. Initial test results indicate explosive characteristics under confined conditions. Users should continue to avoid exposure of HOAT, or any container containing HOAT, to heat or heat sources, flames, sparks, or other sources of ignition. The current Material Safety Data Sheet for HOAT is on the Applied Biosystems website at http://www.appliedbiosystems.com/search/inside.html. Contact Applied Biosystems at (800) 554-2191 if you have questions.

Mercury Warning: Couter-brand Cell Counters

A recent incident at another research institution raised concern regarding Couter-brand cell counters. During the incident, two Couter cell counters were lost on their ride following a laboratory move from one building to another. While setting up the new lab, staff noted a small amount of mercury inside one of the units. Investigation revealed a significant volume of mercury had been released. The cell counters bore no indication, including warning labels from the manufacturer, that they contain mercury or that mercury may be released if the unit is not maintained in an upright position.

Beckman-Coulter advised that open-looped mercury manometers were used in the cell counters until as recently as 1994 or 1995. As the name implies, the manometers are open to the atmosphere on one end which allows mercury to escape when the unit is placed in a non-upright position. Each cell counter contains between 6 and 12 milliliters of mercury. Coulter reports that once released from the manometer, the mercury will readily contaminate the electronic circuitry and commonly disrupts the normal operation of the unit. Coulter states that in most cases, once contaminated, the unit cannot be effectively repaired. According to Coulter, the following cell counter models contain mercury-filled manometers and should be handled with due caution:

- Model K2M
- Model K2M II
- Model Z

The Beckman/Coulter Service Department will no longer provide calibration or repair services on these models after December 31, 2002. Cell counters of these main and model numbers may continue to be used as long as the unit is functional.

If one of the above models is in use in your lab, identify it with the following warning label:

CAUTION:
This device contains mercury. Maintain in an upright position. Report any mercury spillage by calling 534-2753.
Disposing of this unit by requesting collection by the Environmental Management Facility. Do not discard in trash or Surplus Sales.

To dispose of these units, submit a standard request via the Hazardous Waste Collection Request Form http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/dazwaste/forms/ p14040.htm. Do not discard them in the trash or send them to Surplus Sales.

Adapted from UP&I's "Lab Notes", EH&S Office, October 2000

Keep An Eye On Your Eye Wash

When you need an eye wash, you need it NOW and you need it to work. Keep an eye wash on your work area...the one you're counting on. Make sure it's clean, the cover is on, the eyes are clear and you're wearing goggles. Keep an eye on the contents. Don't place on the work bench where debris from other sources may fall into the unit.

http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu
EH&S Training Days

EH&S Training Days are the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. For up-to-date schedule, see the EH&S Training Days Schedule online at:

http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/training/train_scheidhtm

Injury & Illness Prevention Program

http://www.vro.ucsd.edu/ivp/issp.htm

Register by emailing bhomas@ucsd.edu

April 5 8:30-9:30AM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
April 19 8:30-9:30AM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
May 3 8:30-9:30AM Price Or, Gallery A
May 17 8:30-9:30AM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

Radiation Safety Training

http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/rad/radtrain.htm

No registration is required.

Basic Radiation Safety Seminar on campus

April 5 1:00-3:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
April 24 2:00-4:00PM Price Or, Berkeley Room
May 3 12:30-2:50PM Price Or, Gallery B
at the Medical Center
Aug 22 9:00-11:00AM CTF-A Room 101

Topic-specific Radiation Safety Seminars

Register by emailing bleeks@ucsd.edu

P-32 Safety Seminar
May 17 11:00-12:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
Aug 2 3:00-4:00PM Price Or, Riverside Room

Liquid Scintillation Counting Methods
June 7 10:00AM-11:00AM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

Radiation Safety Seminar
April 17 3:30-4:30PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium

Safety Aspects of Radiation Producing Machines
May 17 3:00-5:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

"The Unseen Cost of Risk Management"

April 24 1:30-4:00 PM

Learn how to manage costs related to work-related injuries, employment/generalliability and auto accidents, thefts, flood and fire damage. Register online via Staff Education & Development’s Enrollment Central at:

http://www/hr.ucsd.edu/staffeducation

Laboratory & Chemical Safety Training

http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/labtrain.htm

Register by emailing bhomas@ucsd.edu

Lab Safety For Professionals

April 19 10:00AM-12:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
May 3 2:30-4:30PM Price Or, Gallery B
June 21 10:00AM-12:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

Safe Handling of Carcinogens
April 5 3:00-4:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
Sept 6 3:00-4:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
Nov 1 3:00-4:00PM Price Or, Gallery B

Assessing Chemical Hazards
April 5 10:00AM-12:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
July 6 10:00AM-12:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
Aug 12 10:00AM-12:00PM Price Or, Riverside Room

Bloodborne Pathogens Training

http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/lab/bbtrain.htm

Register for biosafety courses by emailing bhomas@ucsd.edu.

on campus

Virat Vectors
April 19 1:00-2:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
May 17 1:00-2:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
June 21 2:00-3:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

Bloodborne Pathogens
April 19 2:00-3:00PM SIOD: Summer Auditorium
May 17 2:00-3:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
June 21 3:00-4:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

Principles of Biosafety
June 21 1:00-2:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room
July 19 1:00-2:00PM Price Or, Santa Barbara Room

at the Medical Center

Viral Vectors
April 1 1:00-2:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility
June 11 1:00-2:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility
Aug 13 1:00-2:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility

Bloodborne Pathogens
April 19 2:00-3:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility
June 11 1:00-2:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility
Aug 13 2:00-3:00PM Multi-Purpose Facility

Cell Culture Classes

from Staff Education & Development

Two classes, Basic Cell Culture Workshop and Primary Cell Culture, were taught in the CORE Cell Culture Facility, Basic Science Building. Browse the online Staff Education & Development's Course Catalog under the "Laboratory" section for current schedules. Register online via Enrollment Central at http://www/hr.ucsd.edu/staffeducation

For more information on laboratory & chemical safety, visit the UCSD Health Blogs, Medical Response and Prevention, and Lab Safety Resources.