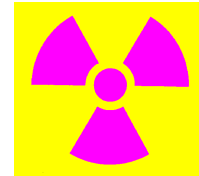


Radiation Safety Newsletter

Published by the SUNY Upstate Radiation Safety Office
Volume 2, No. 1 2005



On behalf of the Radiation Safety Office, I wish you a very happy new year and welcome you to another info packed edition of the Radiation Safety Newsletter.

Soon, your lab will be receiving a call from us to schedule our “announced” inspection for this year. To help you cope with your dread – indeed, to help you understand how unnecessary that feeling is, we offer tips on how to make it a good experience for all.

HOW TO DO WELL ON AN INSPECTION:

Ask yourself the right questions.

The proper way to prepare for an inspection is to do things routinely and properly. Always follow the institution's safety policies and procedures. Document required information and keep it organized. Keep work areas clean and orderly at all times. Individuals who follow these suggestions should never be concerned about an inspection. The following are examples of questions you might expect from an inspector.

- What radiation sources do you work with?
- What training have you had?
- How do you obtain your radioactive material?
- Where is your radiation source(s) stored?
- What do you do with the empty box from radioactive material deliveries?
- How much radioactive material do you use at a time?
- How do you keep track of your radiation source inventory?
- What do you do prior to working with a radiation source?
- How do you survey your work area?
- How do you know your meter is working?
- What do you do after you have finished working with radioactive material?

- What do you do if you find contamination?
- How would you decontaminate a contaminated work area?
- If you use tritium, how do you perform a survey?
- What option concerning radiation exposure do you have if you become pregnant?
- Where/how is your radioactive waste stored?
- How is your radioactive waste disposed?
- Where do you eat your lunch?
- What do you do if you leave the radiation source use area and you are the last individual to leave?
- What do you do if a stranger walks into the radiation source use area?



RAM need not be feared (as a god), but still ought to command our respect (as in ritual-like adherence to policies and procedures)!

Of course, this list is not exhaustive; so don't be surprised if we ask questions that pertain to your particular situation. We may even come up with the occasional curve ball. For more information, consult the Radiation Safety Manual online at <http://www.upstate.edu/radsafeo/rsm.pdf> , the Pre-Inspection Checklist that is given

prior to announced inspections (and upon request). If you are still stumped, please ask us. We will be happy to address whatever issue you may have. Our office Number is 464-6510.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

5 things our inspectors would rather hear when they arrive at your lab. (Humor alert! We don't really want to hear this, we just like to put a smile on your face... :)

(5) "We have not used RAM within the last 12 months."

(4) "Wow, is that a new lab coat? Dashing...."

(3) "We have based our lab security procedures on Fort Knox's model."

(2) "That last newsletter is so interesting, fresh, and intellectually stimulating, we've had it *framed*."

And... * Drum roll, please *

(1) "let's do lunch!"



*"Heyyyyy, let's do lunch!"
Sorry, We don't like cheese.*

Finally, in honor of The World Year of Physics, <http://www.physics2005.org/>, and Women's Self-Empowerment Week, I offer a brief, but informative web site on one of my greatest heroes, Marie Curie. Her desire to learn and advance scientific knowledge despite some significant personal challenges, is an inspiration to us all. She was instrumental in conducting the research that has allowed the wide usage of radioactive materials in the laboratory setting we do today. She even coined the word "radioactivity"!

http://www.radiochemistry.org/nuclearmedicine/pioneers/curie_m.shtml

Any comments about the content of this newsletter may be directed to its author, David Salerius at saleriud@upstate.edu or at 464-5081