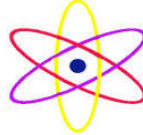


Radiation Safety Newsletter

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Welcome to the first issue of the Radiation Safety Newsletter! Our purpose is to provide timely and important information to users of radioactive materials in our facility and to remind you also of requirements and issues that come up as they arise. We hope that you find this not only informative, but also a little entertaining as well.



Butch here has been brought in to spice up our inspection program.

Handshake or Brass Knuckles?

We all want to be liked. Unfortunately for us, our job can really get in the way of that. Our major objective is to ensure that the University and the hospital be in compliance with Part 16 of the New York State Sanitation Code. Many people see us in the hallway and stiffen up a bit, as if we are some sort of Vice Squad for research laboratories. While it is true that sometimes things come to the point where we have to be strict and address issues in a pressing way, in most cases. Issues and problems that come up with the laboratories can be resolved in much more of a collegial attitude. It is OK to come to us with a concern, even if you think that your lab has been doing something wrong for a while. It is better that you bring up something then if we find out when we are doing our inspections. We are

more than willing to work with you in situations so that from that point on your laboratory is in compliance with applicable regulations. Compliance requires that all of us be thinking about ways to satisfy the regulations of the state and the operating procedures that have been developed for our institution. Now, if in the unfortunate event that a laboratory continuously falls short of the standard of compliance, that is when the police dog in us comes out. But it never has to get to that point, if our attitudes are focused on the little things we need to do. If this article has spurred you to think of something you want to talk to us about, we will shake your hand and talk about whatever is on your mind.

Swipe tests

One of the problems that we have had through the years is getting monthly swipe tests done. Even if they are completed, some labs get them in on the wrong half of the month. The rules for what must be done for laboratory monitoring tests bears repeating, since we really only touch base on it in our initial class in radiation safety for lab workers. First, this might seem obvious, but I think it needs to be said: Please fill out the form properly. All of the blanks at the top of the page need to be filled. Even if you don't have, say, any radionuclides in your lab that particular month, that area ought to have "None" or something similar. One of the most common omissions is the surveyor's name. We really like to know who is doing the surveys because it gives us a definite point of contact to return the survey results. The date line ought to have, at a minimum, the month the survey is for. The form itself is due the 10th of the next month it is for (for example, the survey for March ought to be in by the 10th of April) Another request: please do not send the coin envelopes sealed shut. It is very difficult to open and is unnecessary. There has never been a time where I have opened an interagency mail with swipes and found that some filter paper had escaped from the envelope or gone missing.

Waste Disposal

Pete, Fear the Assistant Radiation Safety Officer, mans the Waste collection point at 227WH from

9:15 to 11:00am every Thursday. There are a few things to keep in mind if you are taking RAM waste there. First, after separating the waste properly, fill out the appropriate forms prior to coming to the waste room. Also it is important that you know, especially if you are not the one that generated the waste in the first place, what is in each container of waste including isotope, chemical form, and activity.

Clutter is your enemy

One of the issues that we focus on conducting inspections is clutter in radiation work areas. We are in the spill prevention business and having a clean and orderly place to use RAM in experiments is an important element to keeping contamination events at a minimum. So if you see a place that might need a little "spring cleaning" now is the time to do it. A good place to start is "looking under your hood"; not of your car, but in the fume hood. Are there things there you could move out of the way so you don't have to look like a pretzel doing your experiment? If so, this article was especially for you! If you ever do have a spill, emergency procedures are posted in your work area. (The same posting can also be found on pg 57 of the Radiation Safety Manual) [here](#).

Newsletter Feedback

Do you find yourself calling American Idol because you are tired of feeling that you are not being heard? Well, we would like to hear from you if you have any comments questions or suggestions about this newsletter or its contents please contact David #45081 I will be happy to hear from you and will give you feedback on it as soon as I am able.

IN UPCOMING ISSUES:

How to do well on an inspection.

Contaminated vacuum lines.