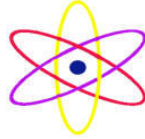
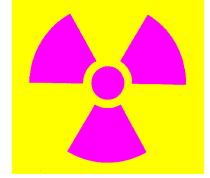


Radiation Safety Newsletter
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Radiation Safety Training

Training is an essential component to keeping exposures to radioactive materials in a laboratory setting as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). At Upstate, we have developed a program that is not onerous, but is effective in communicating important information to occupationally exposed workers in a timely manner. This edition of our newsletter explains and elaborates this process so everyone knows the particulars of our institution.

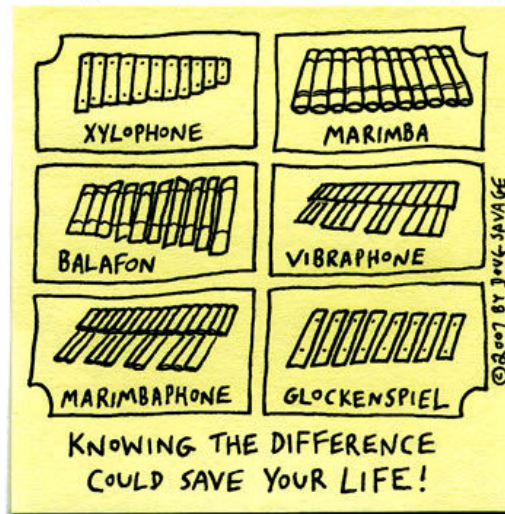
The very first exposure you get to radiation training (pardon the pun) is our course called Introductory Principles of Radiation Protection (IPRP). IPRP is a course consisting of a 2.5 hour block of instruction with a closed-book exam at the end. Anyone who is working directly with or *closely around* radioactive materials in a laboratory setting is required to take this course. It is also a requirement for graduate students in order to do their laboratory rotations. A common complaint is that this is too long. I humbly beg to differ. Not only are the instructors “engaging”, “funny”, and do “a very good job” (these are actual quotes!), but working with radioactive material takes quite a bit getting used to.

It is not often that you work with something that you are unable to sense without assistance. And it is something that has so much fear associated with it

in the general public, preparing many people to be occupational workers with RAM is quite challenging.

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



www.savagechickens.com

Knowing the difference between rem and RAD is a pretty good idea too....

But the IPRP is just the beginning. All people who are working in labs with RAM must have our Statement of Training form filled out completely before beginning work. It is on Page 23 of the [Radiation Safety Manual](#). There are two stages of training. The first one is simply the successful completion of the IPRP. That will be filled out by someone from radiation safety. The last two sections of the form are related to the requirements of stage 2. First, the Authorized User for your lab (the one you call the “Boss”) ought to go through six things with you to ensure you can use RAM

safely in *that particular* laboratory. They are listed here:

1. Areas where radioactive materials are stored, used and disposed.
2. Location and use of records for use, inventory and disposal of radioactive materials.
3. Location and use of personnel radiation safety equipment such as survey meters, lab coats, gloves, etc.
4. Location and use of radiation safety-related documents, in animals, etc.
5. Location and use of emergency eye wash, safety shower, and emergency contact list.
6. Hazards of radioactive materials and related compounds specific the laboratory and precautions to be taken.

Second, the Authorized User watches you perform a procedure using radioactive material from start to finish to see that you understand and apply all that you learned about RAM and can use it safely.

When the form is filled out completely the next thing to do is make a copy of it and put it in the binder or folder that all of the documentation of the use of RAM in your lab is stored. Then send the original to our office so we can keep a copy on hand.

Education is a continuous process. It simply never ends. New things are discovered and passed on. People forget things after a while. We get it. Because of this, we require annual training. The Authorized User should schedule a meeting and notify us of when and where it will be conducted. During the session, the six items above are discussed, and a demonstration of procedures or techniques that will be used in the lab should be done. Each person must also watch a 12-minute video that we provide online [here](#).

We want either a copy of the sign-in sheet or an email listing what you did and who was there after you are done.

In addition to all of the above, this newsletter is designed to go into depth about various topics that deserve all of our attention and is released around twice a year. Please look out for it and read it when it becomes available. When we visit your lab or see you, don't be surprised if we ask if you have looked at it yet!

As always, any questions you may have that you need to know about radiation safety can be answered personally by Jerry, Pete, or me at any time by phone #4-6510, by email, or in person (Rm. 636)