



UPDATE

www.oseh.umich.edu

Winter 2006

Animal Handler Occupational Health and Safety Program

OSEH has developed a comprehensive guideline outlining the University Animal Handler Occupational Health and Safety Program. The Guideline details a complete program from hazard identification to risk assessment to control of operations to the occupational medical program for monitoring personnel and can be found on the OSEH website at:
<http://www.oseh.umich.edu/animalhandlerprogram.html>.

The Guideline provides information on the coordination between several university committees and departments who all have an interest in animal research safety, including the University Committee on the Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA), the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) as well as OSEH.

The overall management of the animal care and use program on the University of Michigan campus is the responsibility of the UCUCA. Fulfillment of the occupational health and safety administrative and support requirements are the responsibility of OSEH. The charge to the OSEH Program is to identify hazards involved with animal care and use, assess the risk(s) associated with those hazards, and reduce those risks through training, guidance programs, direct services, and promotion of best practice.

The Guideline applies to all faculty, staff, and students who have direct contact with animals; direct contact with non-sanitized animal caging or enclosures; direct contact with non-fixed or non-sterilized animal tissues, fluids, or wastes; and/or who provide service support to animal equipment, devices, or facilities; or provide compliance review services. The species of animals

and associated hazards that will be encountered in the workplace determine what type of health assessment and safety training each employee will receive. The specific measures needed are dependent on the risk to human and animal health represented by the research agent, and the difficulty involved in containing the agent.

One significant update to this program involves the hazard identification and risk assessment process. Research protocols involving the administration of hazardous materials to animals must be reviewed and approved by UCUCA in conjunction with OSEH. Upon review OSEH will provide both the investigator and animal care personnel with specific guidance for working safely with the hazardous materials.

It is the responsibility of the project director to inform laboratory staff who work with research animals of OSEH's recommendations and to ensure laboratory staff adhere to those recommendations and other policies and procedures while working in the animal facility. Please ensure you read the complete guideline for all information relating to the Animal Handler Program and contact OSEH Laboratory Safety at 3-6973 if you have questions.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

**The OSEH Safety Coordinator
Conference & the Environmen-
tal Analyses Methodologies
QAQC Seminar will be held
back to back!**

May 9th, 2006 !!!

Security of Radioactive Material on Campus

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the security of radioactive materials has become a prime focus of the NRC and law enforcement agencies. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requires that all radioactive materials be secured from unauthorized removal or access and that such material be controlled and maintained under constant surveillance when it is not secured in storage. Left unprotected, university radioactive materials could be prime targets for use in a 'dirty bomb'.

It is imperative that all users of radioactive material have security measures in place and ensure the materials are secured from unauthorized access and removal. Please take the time to reassess the current security measures implemented in your facilities and discuss the importance with your staff.

- Is your radioactive material secured from unauthorized removal?
- Is your radioactive material locked or secured in a cabinet, refrigerator, freezer, cold room, common area, or your lab when left unattended?
- Do you maintain an updated inventory of the radioactive material in your possession?
- What type of security instructions are given to your staff and individuals who work in your laboratory facilities?
- Does your staff question unknown individuals who enter your laboratory facilities?

New Fire Extinguisher Program

Fire extinguishers are an important safety feature all across campus. It is important to know where they are located, what type of fires they can be used to extinguish, how to use them, how they are maintained, and who to call if there is a problem.

First, it's important to become familiar with the location and operation of the fire extinguishers located in your work area, if it is expected you would need to put out a fire. Fire extinguisher training can be conducted by the Department of Public Safety by contacting them at 3-3434.

It's also important to assure the fire extinguishers are properly maintained. The inspection and maintenance of campus fire extinguishers is being managed by the Plant Operations Fire Safety Shop. If an extinguisher has been used, is missing, or you notice any type of problem with an extinguisher, contact the Plant Operations Call Center (POCC) at 7-2059 to report the problem.

All campus fire extinguishers will be inspected on a monthly basis and annual maintenance will be performed, as required by fire code and safety regulations. It may be necessary for laboratory staff to facilitate access to some areas to assure the inspection and maintenance schedule can be maintained. Your assistance in assuring a safe work environment is greatly appreciated.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

It's the time of year when everyone remains inside to keep warm. The close quarters can create more than good friendships; it can spread disease. To prevent infection due to cold or flu there are a few simple rules to follow.

Sharing isn't always good

If you are sick, now is not the time to share!

- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Don't allow those germs to spread; use a tissue. Be sure to wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick. Joining in group activities will not be appreciated if you infect others. If you think you are contagious stay in your room.
- Don't share personal items such as eating or drinking utensils. Use your own towel for drying your hands.

Healthy and want to stay that way?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you can't get to a hand sink, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes and mouth.
- If your roommate is sick, be sure to clean surfaces often and try to maintain your distance.
- Again, avoid sharing personal items such as eating or drinking utensils. Use your own towel for drying your hands.

Autoclave Safety

Autoclaves are used throughout the campus, but many don't realize they can be dangerous if you don't know how to operate them properly.

- Do you know how to safely operate an autoclave?
- Do you know how to choose the proper cycle?
- Do you know how to package material to be put into the autoclave?
- Do you know that not all materials are rendered "safe" after autoclaving?
- Do you know what personal protective equipment (PPE) you should wear when loading and unloading the autoclave?
- Do you know who to contact if the autoclave is not working right?

If you're unsure of the answers to these questions, you need a refresher on operating an autoclave. In early summer 2006, OSEH will be introducing a training program for autoclave operators. Every department and every person who uses an autoclave will be involved. Watch for details!

In the mean time, if you have any questions about steam sterilization, contact OSEH at 3-6973.

Final thoughts: Did you know that the autoclave is hot enough to cause a serious burn when you are loading or unloading your packages, even before you start the cycle or when the autoclave is not running? Don't take a chance on getting a serious burn.

When loading and unloading an autoclave always use heat resistant gloves, wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed toe shoes and face protection. After a cycle is finished, carefully crack the door about ½ an inch to allow the steam to escape, then wait until the contents are cool before unloading - about 10 minutes. Never remove a posted sign that indicates there is a problem with the autoclave. If in doubt, ask!!!!

OSEH has a New Training Website

OSEH offers a number of occupational safety and environmental health programs for the continued safety of all University of Michigan employees, to encourage safe practices and strong environmental stewardship, and to remain in compliance with state and federal regulations. We also lend training materials such as videos and DVDs for use during your own in-house training or safety meetings.

OSEH has developed a new online resource to help meet your safety training needs! Just visit our website: <http://www.oseh.umich.edu> and click "Training/Videos".

You can use this site to review our course catalog and media library, register for a scheduled class, or get a map and directions to our office.

Just log in by entering your UMID and select one of the tabs at the top to help you find what you are looking for. Call us if you need assistance at 7-2231.

Thoughts from the Director

By Terry Alexander

This is an extremely busy period with new lab buildings coming on line and research staff moving into new space. It's an exciting time--we all love moving into new space, but it can also be a dangerous time. OSEH staff are available to assist with moving hazardous chemicals and radioisotopes—both to ensure it is done safely and to make sure we comply with federal and state rules for transport. We can also help you clean out those old chemicals no longer needed. Just ask one of our OSEH Representatives for assistance. Let's make this move both exciting and safe!

Contact Information

Ann Arbor Campus:
Occupational Safety &
Environmental Health
1239 Kipke Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1010
(734) 647-1143
www.oseh.umich.edu

Dearborn Campus:

Campus Safety & Security
CSS
Dearborn, MI 48128-1491
(313) 593-4914

Flint Campus:

Env. Health & Safety
204 University Pavilion
Flint, MI 48502-1950
(810) 766-6763