

Spring Term 08: Safety Memorandum

- **Environmental Health & Safety on-call system: (541) 230-0129**

To simplify liaison, EH&S has set-up a single-point notification system for all manner of health and safety related issues, incidents, and questions. The on-call number (above) may be used for any kind of non-emergency enquiry (e.g., reporting of chemical odors, requests for spill clean-up, advice on the shipping of hazard materials etc.).

Report emergency situations to 7-7000 (on campus) or 911 (off or on campus)

- **Chemical inventory**

Regulatory rules from various agencies (including, state fire marshal, DEQ/EPA, and DHS), require that OSU file reports on its chemical holdings at various times throughout the year. One such report is due in late June. If your web-based chemical inventory is not current, we ask that you please up-date it during the next couple of weeks.

<http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/inventory.php>

- **New laboratory hazard warning signs**

About 50% of the laboratory hazard signs around the department have now been replaced with the new look versions. PI's that have not already done so should complete the requisite information request form for each of their laboratories as soon as possible and EH&S personnel will install the new signs and sign holders. The new signage provides more useful information than the old yellow cards, and is simple to up-date. Forms and instructions can be found at the following URL: <http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/bulletin/si28.html>

- **Safety showers & eye washers**

During the recent testing of departmental safety showers and eye washers, a number of units were found to be inoperable. Facilities is in the process of fixing the faults, but in the mean time, it is recommended that ad hoc eye washers are set-up in laboratories lacking a functional unit (e.g., a simple piece of rubber tubing attached to a water faucet).

Remember: weekly flushing is recommended to avoid stagnation of the water in the pipes feeding eye washers. <http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/bulletin/si76.html>

- **Disposal of glass waste (clarification)**

Glassware can be disposed of in any campus dumpster; however, before this kind of waste becomes regular trash, it must be free from chemical contamination. Also, to discourage unauthorized "recycling" of discarded laboratory glassware by individuals involved in the production of illicit drugs, it is recommended that items of any potential use (e.g., RB flask with minor chips or star cracks) are thoroughly smashed before being trashed.

- **Fire alarm drills**

EH&S has decided to reinstate regular fire alarm drills. The schedule has not yet been released, but the first such drill for the Department of Chemistry is likely to take place during the summer term.