



New Vendor Selected For Radiation Badges

By Erin Lambert

Starting November 1, 2002, we will be utilizing a new dosimetry vendor: ICN Worldwide Dosimetry.

When your dosimetry custodian receives your lab's group of badges in November they will look quite different. Wear the badges exactly the same way and in the same location - just replace the film packet each month. Turn in the rings and film packet each time you receive the replacement for the new wear period.

Since this is a significant change, we ask for your patience and cooperation with the implementation process. To assist us, please follow these guidelines:

1. When you receive your first set of ICN badges, please return ALL Landauer badges to us, no matter how old. We will need these promptly in order to get final credit from Landauer. If someone in your lab is on vacation or not available, please locate their badges and send them back in.
2. We are merging databases and would like to ensure that the process goes smoothly. After your first shipment, please notify us if someone has not received the correct dosimetry.
3. There may be small differences in the sizes of the rings between the two companies. If the ring size is not correct, look on the inside of the ICN ring on the left-hand side of the label. There should be two letters there—the first being an M or T. The second letter should be

an S, M, or L; this is your size. Please let us know what you would like for us to provide you for the next wear period.

4. To load your film badge correctly, make sure that you put the film in so that your name shows out the window.

By switching to ICN for our dosimetry needs we are not only saving money, we are increasing our efficiency in handling badges. We distribute over 700 badges each month and this new vendor will allow for barcode scanning of rings and badges for more efficient tracking.

We are very excited to be starting a new relationship with ICN. Give us your feedback so we may continue to refine our process to serve you better.

Waste Containers Now Available At University Stores

By Lanie Hazlewood

University policy, as endorsed by the Purdue University Chemical Management Committee, has always been for hazardous waste generators to provide containers for the waste they generate. Previously, Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) has assisted customers and provided containers when available. Since this service was subject to the availability of containers, adequate containers often were not available when needed. Materials Management and Distribution (MMAD) in cooperation with REM's Hazardous Materials Management section have worked to stock various

sizes of containers for chemical waste accumulation. We feel the new availability of containers on campus will speed accessibility to containers and promote responsible and compliant chemical waste management.

Although drums will be available from stores, please consult with REM before storing waste in 20-, 30- and 55-gallon quantities since this amount of hazardous materials may pose a safety or compliance concern if stored in laboratories. Please remember that containers must be compatible with the waste being placed in those containers. If you are unsure of the type of container to use, contact REM for assistance.

REM's Hazardous Materials Management will make an effort to return containers larger than four liters if the containers are in good condition and if they are marked for return with the building name and room number. The container return process may take several weeks since the material may be stored and processed further at our facility. Containers that are damaged or no longer suitable for storage of waste will be discarded. Metal, five-gallon cans with pop-out plastic spouts will not be returned. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Lanie Hazlewood at 496-7367 or Steve Gauger at 494-0238.

REM Offers Pesticide Handler Training

By Judah Young

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 170 (40CFR170) establishes the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS covers “agricultural use” pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on Purdue University farms, nurseries, greenhouses, and forests. Agricultural plants are those plants grown or maintained for commercial or research purposes.

The WPS requires the University to take steps to reduce the risk of pesticide-related illness and injury to employees (1) who use such pesticides, or (2) who may be exposed to such pesticides. The WPS requires the following:

- ▶ Information about exposure to pesticides,
- ▶ Protection against exposure to pesticides, and
- ▶ Ways to mitigate exposures to pesticides.

To ensure compliance with the WPS, REM offers Pesticide Handler Training. On campus training for affected departments is provided by Judah Young at the beginning of each semester or on an as needed basis. Notification of campus training sessions is done via e-mail to departmental contacts. The departmental contacts then distribute and post notifications as necessary. There is no sign-up required, simply attend any session that suits an individual’s schedule. Brian McDonald provides training for satellite operations and farms.

Verification of WPS compliance training is provided through the “WPS Training and Information Verification” form which is completed at the end of the training session. The original certificate is sent to the trained individual’s business office to be placed in their personnel file. REM also retains a copy of the verification. The training is good for five (5) years.



By signing the “WPS Training and Information Verification” form an individual acknowledges they have received training and information concerning the WPS and the policies and procedures applicable to their work. The training program contains at a minimum the following elements:

- A. Format and meaning of information on pesticide labels and in labeling, including safety information such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
- B. Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects, chronic effects, delayed effects and sensitization.
- C. Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
- D. Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
- E. Emergency aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
- F. How to obtain emergency care.
- G. Routine and emergency decontamination procedures including emergency eye flushing techniques.
- H. Need for and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- I. Prevention, recognition and first aid treatment of heat related illness.
- J. Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill cleanup.
- K. Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff and wildlife hazards.
- L. Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.

M. An explanation of the WPS requirements handlers and employees must adhere to for the protection of handlers and others, including the prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or to other persons, requirements for use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the provisions for training and decontamination and protection against retaliatory acts.

Definitions and Distinctions

Handler – those employees who mix, load, or apply agricultural pesticides; clean or repair pesticide application equipment; or assist with the application of pesticides in any way. Handlers must be trained before performing any handling tasks.

Worker – those employees who perform tasks related to the cultivation and harvesting of plants on University farms or in greenhouses, nurseries, or forests. Workers include anyone employed for any compensation doing tasks, such as carrying nursery stock, repotting plants, or watering, related to the production of agricultural plants at the University. Workers must receive basic pesticide safety information before they enter a treated area. No more than five days after initial employment, workers must receive complete WPS safety training before entering any area where, within the last 30 days an agricultural use pesticide has been applied or a restricted-entry interval for such pesticide has been in effect.

Workers do not include such employees as office employees, truck drivers, mechanics, and any other worker not engaged in agricultural worker/handler activities.

Contact Judah Young (47293 or judah@purdue.edu) or Brian McDonald (63712 or bnmdonald@purdue.edu) with any questions regarding the Worker Protection Standard.

Potential Employee Exposure Reduced; 5,000 Mercury Thermometers Are Eliminated

By Brian McDonald

As mentioned in the April 2002 issue of the REM Newsletter, a "Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program" is being initiated on campus. In September 2001, Physical Facilities awarded a \$5,000 Venture Grant to the Hazardous Materials Management Section of REM for a waste minimization project involving the replacement of mercury thermometers with non-mercury thermometers. Grant money was used to purchase non-mercury thermometers. The use of non-mercury thermometers will reduce hazardous waste generated by the cleanup of broken mercury thermometers. In addition, the cost of cleanup will be drastically reduced as well as employee exposure to toxic vapors.

High volume or high profile users of mercury thermometers were targeted for this waste minimization project as

well. The Department of Food Science, Chemistry, Biology, and the University Stores departments were selected as participants to achieve the largest impact with the remaining grant money. The following presents the areas participating and number of thermometers purchased:

- ▶ Food Science Department 168
- ▶ WSLR S052 (Multi-user Lab) 22
- ▶ LILY Biology Teaching 18
- ▶ BRWN (Rothwell Group) 14
- ▶ WTHR Chemistry Teaching 500
- ▶ Chemistry Stores 62

Grant money purchased 784 non-mercury thermometers. However, the most significant accomplishment was the elimination of nearly 5000 mercury thermometers. Thanks to Kurt Keyes, the Chemistry Department's teaching laboratories were able to replace 4500 mercury thermometers with 500 non-mercury thermometers.

The goal of this project was source reduction that yields less waste, fewer spills, and reduced potential for employee exposure. By any measure, this waste minimization project was a success. As a large quantity generator of hazardous waste, Purdue University is required to implement programs to minimize the generation of hazardous waste.

Please assist us by working with your safety committee to identify areas and applications where hazardous waste can be reduced by elimination or substitution with a less hazardous material. An example: the Vet Teaching Hospital Administrative Council upon recommendation of the School of Veterinary Medicine Safety Committee has banned the use of mercury thermometers in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Thanks again for helping us reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated on campus.

Did You Receive CDC/USDA Mailing?

By Bob Golden

In early September, several PIs received a mailing from the CDC/USDA regarding Select Agents and/or High Consequence Livestock Pathogens. If you received this mailing and you have not returned it to ASI at the address on the enclosed self-addressed envelope, **DO NOT** send it. Instead, mail the packet to Robert Golden, RFO/Biosafety Officer/REM/CIVL. He is Purdue's Responsible Facility Officer (RFO) for responding to this mailing from CDC/USDA. If any future



correspondence is received from CDC/USDA regarding Select Agents and/or High Consequence Livestock Pathogens, contact Robert Golden before returning information to the sender. It is anticipated that there will be a follow-up from CDC/USDA regarding the recent mailing. If this occurs, please forward any follow-up material to Robert Golden REM/CIVL.

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training Offered Monthly

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen training will be offered monthly for those who need to update their required annual training. Those who should receive training are individuals who have occupational exposure to human blood, blood products, unfixed cell lines, and any other body fluid that could mask the presence of blood.

Location: PUSH B-4

Time: Every 3rd Thursday at 1:30 PM

Contact Paula Vitello to make arrangements, at pmvitell@purdue.edu, or call 41498.



Open-Toe Shoes Worn In Labs Violates Policies

By Bob Golden

Staff and students who work in a campus laboratory should not wear open-toe shoes in the lab. Wearing open-toe shoes violates the policy set forth in Purdue's Chemical Hygiene Plan as well as OSHA's PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) guidelines.

Potential risks associated with open-toe shoes worn in the lab are chemical burns, thermal burns, chemical exposures, biohazardous exposures, and crush injuries, to name a few. So remember to keep an extra pair of closed-toe shoes under your desk to use while performing work with the potential for contamination or physical injury to your feet.

Does Your Building or Department Have Emergency Procedures In Place?

By Jim Schweitzer

It can happen – a chemical spill, a small fire or an explosion. You know what to do, right? Notify the personnel to leave the area and call 911 to summon emergency responders for assistance. Good job! Could you have done more?

Did you make sure you gave the dispatcher the exact location of the problem?

If it was a chemical spill, did you provide the chemical and the amount?

Did you let the dispatcher know if anyone was injured?

Would someone knowledgeable about the incident be available to assist the emergency responders?

If you feel there is danger to others, GET OUT! And, call 911 from a safe distance, outside the building.

All this information is important in assisting emergency personnel in dealing safely and effectively with any emergency situation. If possible, let the

dispatcher know someone will be waiting in a safe designated area to give information that may help in resolving the situation quickly and protecting emergency responders.

You may want to take a few minutes to review the Purdue Emergency Procedures Handbook which specifies actions you should take in an emergency situation. Download it at the following web site http://www.adpc.purdue.edu/PhysFac/pdf/safety_handbook.pdf.

Also, what would you do in the case of a catastrophic fire or explosion? Does your building have an emergency plan? How do you account for everyone in your department or building? Who is responsible for ensuring that critical equipment is safely shutdown or provided with temporary power?

These issues and others could be addressed by working with your safety committee, building deputy, and department to formulate a Building Emergency Plan. If you should need assistance, please contact REM and we will be glad to provide the template and instructions for creating this document and implementing your emergency plan.

KUDOS TO YOU!

The **Department of Food Science** volunteered to participate in a waste minimization project by eliminating all mercury thermometers. With considerable assistance from the FS Safety Committee, all research, teaching, and production areas using thermometers were identified and responsible individuals for these areas were asked to voluntarily replace their mercury thermometers with a suitable non-mercury thermometer. Departmental participation was 100 percent! Subsequently, the FS Safety Committee implemented a policy, adopted by the FS Business Office, that bans the purchase of any new mercury thermometers for use in the department.

Do you know the only school indemnified under the Integrated Safety Program? It's not an easy task; but, the **School of Veterinary Medicine staff** has set the standard for safety and compliance with an innovative balance of technology and teamwork. We wish to recognize each staff member for their outstanding efforts to integrate safety into the workplace and to help maintain the school's indemnification status! Congratulations and keep up the great work!

REMNEWS

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