DENTAL RESEARCH SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 20th 2019
Lab Safety
Orientation/
Exposure
Control Plan
Discussion
Please, Please, Please… prepare in advance for this event

This is a great time to go through old bench spaces, abandoned chemicals from previous researchers, peoples benches that contain legacy materials

Take a look in the back of your flammables and corrosives cabinets

Definitely follow my pink cap rule – take a look at your dry chemical storage

Call me over! Let’s take a look through your chemicals!

Can get rid of any/all chemicals, solutions, unknowns within the lab without having to tag or submit requests

April 29th - May 3rd

Everyone participating in the Amnesty will need to put red neon stickers on their items (EHS provides) and submit a registration spreadsheet 2 weeks before the event.

****NOTE – The amnesty will not happen again for another 2 years
Universal Waste Accumulation Area Signage

Universal Waste Accumulation Area

Exposed terminals or metal parts of certain batteries can rub together creating a spark, overheating, and potentially ignite a fire. Properly taping these batteries ensures safe accumulation and transit. But most batteries do NOT need to be taped.

Batteries That need to be Taped

- Tape all lithium batteries with exposed terminals
- Tape exposed terminals of all 9V batteries and over
- Tape all lithium coin button batteries regardless their voltage

Damaged Lithium Batteries

If damaged lithium batteries are to be recycled, contact EHBS 2-1720

Most batteries do not need to be taped

- Alkaline batteries with exposed terminals and less than 9V do not need to be taped
- Batteries with unexposed terminals and voltage greater than 9 volts—Don’t need tape

If you need assistance, call HMS Call Center 617-432-1901
Incident

- Chemical exposure while weighing out ammonium persulfate
  - Researcher’s eyes felt irritated after performing the procedure
  - Researcher unsure of means of exposure
  - Electrostatic issues?
    - High degree of electrostatic issues experienced during weighing are believed to have led to the exposure
Researcher’s Account
A description all too familiar to anyone who has done even a fair amount of weighing

The goal was to weigh out 66mg of ammonium persulfate

- A few attempts were made using weighing paper but this proved difficult because the scale wouldn’t tare. The read out was drifting and wouldn’t stabilize. After this, attempts were then made using plastic weighing dishes instead of weigh paper. The compound could be seen spreading out on the surface of the plastic due to the electrostatic interaction.

- During this entire process the researcher indicated he changed out his gloves more than a couple of times. He also indicated having wiped down the table and inner scale surfaces. The researcher is confident that he never touched his eyes at any point during the procedure.

- Ocular discomfort was experienced soon after the procedure and the researcher sought medical treatment.
Polonium Containing Anti-Static Devices

- Relies on alpha particles to remove static charge
- Limited useful life
  - $t_{1/2} = 138$ days
- Spent devices **CANNOT BE THROWN AWAY** and need to be returned to the manufacturer
Polonium Anti-Static Devices

• You don’t need a permit to possess/use these devices!

• Notify RSS when you purchase/receive these (or if you’ve got any) so that we can track it in our database
  – We are required by the state to know where radioactive material is on campus

• Let RSS know if the device is damaged or if you have any questions about radiation safety

• Notify RSS when you ship the device back to the manufacturer at the end of its life so that we can make sure it is removed from MA RCP database

RSS Contact - Radiation_Safety@Harvard.edu
In addition to the use of Anti-Static Devices...

• Prior to Weighing
  – Wipe down the scale and surrounding area with a pre-moistened paper towel and allow surfaces to dry.
  – Have pre-moistened paper towels at the ready to clean up spills and wipe residue from scoopulas and other contaminated items.

• After Weighing
  – Be sure to wipe down the scale and the surrounding area with pre-moistened paper towels.
What's wrong with this picture?
VWR Tip Box Recycling

- Being used currently in a Genetics lab
- $200 for 5 boxes and this includes the shipping costs
- They turn them into park benches
Where is the gel not supposed to go??
Critters in the Lab

- If you notice critters in your lab trash, biowaste, regular trash please contact 2-1901 or the facilities email to have them send EHS Pest to investigate

Why you need to know....

Flies (or other critters) can mechanically acquire and transmit any nasties (biological, radiological, chemical)

What you can do....

The best defense is to keep the lid down - on petri dishes and the like, biowaste containers, regular trash, etc. and to keep sink drains clean.
Safety Committee Meeting Materials on our Website

https://www.ehs.harvard.edu/secure/programs/harvard-school-dental-medicine-safety-committee
Laboratory Emergency Response Exercises

Includes biological, chemical, medical and fire related interactive Emergency Response Exercises
Scenario 1:

Location: Laboratory Common Area

A researcher is setting up an experiment and goes to the acids cabinet to retrieve a bottle of hydrochloric acid. When the researcher opens the cabinet they notice a white vapor/mist and a repellent odor.
What are the Hazards?

How do you determine if you have had an exposure?

How do you protect yourself from further exposure?

Where to go if you believe you have been exposed?

What can you do about the mist/vapor/smell?

Do you reopen the cabinet to inspect?

Who do you call?

What do you say?

What's expected of your group after you call for assistance?

What potentially went wrong?

Reporting requirements?
**Scenario 2:**

Location: Laboratory  
Time: 7:00pm

A researcher is working in the fume hood when 250mL container of glutaraldehyde slips out of the researchers hand and shatters on the fume hood surface.
What are the Hazards?

How do you determine if you have had an exposure?

How do you protect yourself from further exposure?

Where to go if you believe you have been exposed?

Can you clean up this spill?

How would you clean up this spill?

Would you call someone?

What would you say?

What's expected of your group after you call for assistance?

Reporting requirements?