

2010 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY

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Message from the Director of EH&S Derrick K. Watson

Welcome to the *Environmental Health and Safety Advisory* for 2010. This document features highlighted information about what is currently happening with the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) department.

As new regulatory requirements are mandated by city, state and federal regulatory agencies, EH&S will provide leadership to the CU-Boulder campus in meeting these regulatory changes. EH&S will also help the campus face the challenges of maintaining vitally important safety standards while confronting today's reduced budget realities. EH&S will continue to be an important planning partner as CU reaches unprecedented levels of growth in research.

EH&S plays many roles in supporting the mission of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Take a moment to review the *EH&S Advisory* and learn of the many ways EH&S contributes to our campus community.

Continuity Plans: The Office of Emergency Management has been involved in two major efforts during FY 2010. Jennifer Rodriguez, our Business Continuity Planner and Acting Emergency Manager, now has 45 Business Continuity Plans in progress, with 7 plans completed (all in Housing & Dining Services) and 145 registered users. Contact Jennifer at 2-4826 or Jennifer.Rodriguez@Colorado.edu to update your departmental business continuity plan.

CU Boulder Emergency Operations Plan: We are also in the process of revising the CU-Boulder Emergency Operations Plan to include the four phases of emergency management: prevention/mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery. The draft CU-Boulder Emergency Operations Plan will meet current standards for content and process, and will be a major step forward in protecting our campus from natural, human-caused, and technological disasters. An advisory team of campus leaders and external partners has been assembled to guide the process. Please contact Jennifer.Rodriguez@Colorado.edu or call 2-5162 for more information or to contribute to the document.

Labs 21 & LWEPP Program (Laboratory Water and Energy Efficiency): The Labs 21 project is a national voluntary partnership program dedicated to improving the environmental performance of U.S. laboratories. EH&S is assisting other CU-Boulder departments with the Labs 21 Project in designing new laboratories on campus, such as the new systems biotech building, to be efficient users of energy.

The ECIH Unit at EH&S is helping to update construction standards to provide improved energy efficient alternatives for current lab equipment and also working with the LWEPP Program through Facilities Management to re-work existing labs to increase energy efficiency.

SPCC Plan (Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan): EPA regulations require that measures be taken to ensure petroleum products or oils of any kind do not drain into surface waters, e.g., streams, ponds, wetlands. ECIH has undertaken the campus-wide effort to update our SPCC Plan and to comply with EPA regulations regarding safe management and use of petroleum products. The plan includes provisions for proper storage of materials, spill response and notifications, and training requirements. A draft plan has been completed and will be finalized in calendar year 2010.

Department of Homeland Security: EH&S completed a Site Security Plan, according to DHS regulations, to report CU-Boulder's current security programs that help ensure chemical security on campus. Future steps will involve increased reviews and initiatives to secure our chemical inventory, as well as meeting further upcoming DHS requirements.

EH&S Safety Challenge: EH&S has implemented a "Safety Challenge" program encouraging employees to identify safety issues and to propose solutions. The winning entry receives funding to assist in carrying out their plan to resolve the problem. The program has been successful in helping to implement safety programs, and to identify current safety deficiencies.

The Biosafety program continues to grow very rapidly (23% per year) with more than 100 principal investigators (PI's) who have had research reviewed and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The Biosafety unit provides additional safety and compliance oversight for related program areas, including specialized safety and compliance research review, biosafety audits, autoclave and biosafety cabinet inspections, training, and program development to meet the growing biosafety needs of the campus community. The Biosafety program expects similar growth to continue, which will bring new challenges for meeting the needs of the research community.

Radiation Safety and Health Physics

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Asbestos and Lead Management

Michael Yanker
Manager

Terri Panik
Administrative Assistant

Laser Safety: A preliminary Laser Safety program for the Boulder campus has been initiated. This includes a Laser Safety Handbook as well as an on-line form for researchers to register their Class 3B and 4 lasers .

Waste Reduction: The Health Physics group met goals to reduce the number of drums containing solid radioactive waste and to remove several unused radioactive sealed sources from the campus, increasing security and control of these materials.

Radiation Contamination Survey Program: This program will be streamlined. A system is being developed to allow laboratories to submit survey results online, thereby reducing both time spent and the generation of radioactive waste. Another feature will be to establish an annual calibration program for campus liquid scintillation counters, further reducing the inventory of expired calibration standards. This program should also support more accurate research results for laboratories using unsealed radiation.

CDPHE Inspection: In spring 2010, we look forward to the biannual inspection from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, which will analyze every aspect of the Radiation Safety Program on both the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses.

Security and Training: A new partnership with the US Department of Energy (DOE) has resulted in significant opportunities to improve security and provide training to EH&S, CUPD, and the Boulder Fire Department at little to no cost to the University. The DOE sent 10 individuals to Oak Ridge, TN for specialized training in February.

Controlled Substances in Research: A controlled substance is defined by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Schedules I, II, III, IV, or V of the Controlled Substances Act, and can be viewed at <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html>. To purchase controlled substances for your research, you must first register with the DEA. If you find controlled substances in your lab for which you are not registered, please contact EH&S for assistance in disposal. Do not dispose controlled substances or pharmaceuticals down the drain! In collaboration with the University of Colorado Denver reverse distributorship, EH&S can properly and legally dispose of these substances.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and rechargeable batteries are great products that conserve energy and save our natural resources; however, they need to be properly disposed of or recycled at the end of their useful life as required by federal and state law. EH&S handles the recycling of batteries generated during the course of university business and also recycles CFLs and bulbs containing mercury from campus laboratories. Please see the EH&S website for a list of drop off locations for your rechargeable batteries. Submit an EHS Waste Tag for your CFL's and laboratory bulbs or call 2-7845.

Alkaline Batteries: New this year! EH&S will be collecting alkaline batteries for recycling! Although the use of rechargeable batteries is strongly encouraged when possible, the Hazardous Material Management Unit at EH&S will implement a pilot program to recycle alkaline batteries. Just take your alkaline batteries to the nearest battery drop off location listed on our website or call 2-7845 with any questions.

Home Battery Recycling: If you have CFLs or rechargeable batteries at home to recycle, here are two great websites to check out: www.recycleabulb.com for CFL recycling and www.RBRC.com for rechargeable battery recycling. Both websites locate retailers or household hazardous waste collection sites for these items.

Asbestos Management System: A preliminary inventory of asbestos containing materials (ACM) for the campus has been developed and is now online as the Asbestos Management System. It has internet web-based password accessibility and is now being utilized for all project review activities. This system allows for increased timeliness and access to asbestos data for project managers, facilities staff and contractors. The next phase for this system will be to link the data to Facilities Management's existing CAD system and subsequent CAD drawings. A future, final step will be to perform a comprehensive campus-wide audit of asbestos containing materials to fill in missing data and provide a full, accessible database for projects which will contribute to safe working conditions and job efficiency.

Asbestos Operations & Maintenance (O&M): A web-based program was developed to facilitate asbestos O&M operations for effective and compliance-driven asbestos removal on campus.

New Lead-Based Paint Regulations & Program: EH&S is working with the Housing Department to comply with new EPA requirements for lead-based paint operations in Family Housing areas on campus, which will take effect in April 2010.



Environmental
Health and Safety

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