

A Laboratory Safety Newsletter

A publication by Environmental Health and Safety and the Laboratory Safety Committee

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BUMC- (617) 638-8830 • CRC- (617) 353-4094

Lab Safe is a quarterly newsletter written and distributed by Environmental Health and Safety and the Laboratory Safety Committee.



Laboratory Safety Coordinator



Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) would like to thank the Laboratory Safety Coordinators (LSC) for the efforts put forth in creating a safe work environment for their colleagues.

Thanks to the Laboratory Safety Coordinator Program, EHS continues to see great improvements in creating a positive relationship with the laboratories. Having opportunities like quarterly meetings to display our services to the LSC helps increase our communication and an overall safety culture. We received great feedback at the discussions.

A large step in achieving a total safety culture begins with quality communication and understanding of the unique research that is conducted throughout BU.

The BBQ was a huge success thanks to all in attendance and we hope to see you at the next quarterly meeting.

This successful program has led to the development of many new initiatives, such as the Laboratory Safety Toolkit; (www.bu.edu/ehs/lsc-toolkit) and the On-line Laboratory Safety Training program; (www.bu.edu/orctraining). We hope the Lab Safety Coordinators will continue to work with their Research Safety Specialist and check out the toolkit for LSC meeting archives, updates and suggestions.

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The Top Five Areas for Improvement in the Laboratory

Based on the Chemical Inspection report

- 1: Expired Laboratory Safety Training:** Federal, state and local regulations, and BU/BMC policy require all persons working in or supervising research labs have Laboratory Safety Training. EHS has improved on the training program. In-person training is available four times each month. The schedule for trainings is located in the "Training Corner" in this newsletter, or on the EHS website at www.bu.edu/ehs/training. In addition, lab safety training is now available online. Visit www.bu.edu/ehs/training for more information.
- 2: Chemicals Stored Improperly:** Chemicals must be segregated based on compatibility. For instance flammables, oxidizers, acids and bases should all be separated. All chemicals have different handling and storage requirements and failure to observe the necessary precaution could result in a serious injury. For more information check-out the [chemical segregation and storage guideline](#) (.pdf) on the EHS website.
- 3: Chemical Waste Containers Not Labeled:** Proper hazardous chemical waste management is important to minimize the impact of our work on the environment and to avoid costly and embarrassing penalties. The process begins with determining which of your chemical wastes are "hazardous wastes" and ends with EHS sending them offsite for proper disposal. Any

Continued overleaf

Environmental Health and Safety is delighted to welcome Sharon Rose

Sharon is the new Associate Director in Research Safety and the Biosafety Officer for Boston University.

Sharon's expertise consist of the following:

- Expertise in Management Systems
- Six Sigma Certified
- Quality Auditor
- Manufacturing Management Experience
- Experienced in GMP, GLP
- Registered Biosafety Professional

Sharon can be reached at 638-8842 or email srose13@bu.edu.

With the addition of Sharon, Research Safety looks forward to developing programs that will assist the research community.

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Fire and General Safety Inspection

The subject specific inspection topic for this quarter is **Fire and General Safety**. To provide you with some guidance the bullets below are items that your Department Safety



Advisor will look for during the inspection. In addition should you need assistance contact your D.S.A prior to the inspection to reduce the laboratory associated findings. Hazardous waste labels are available from EHS. If your fire extinguisher monthly checks are behind contact the facilities department on the Medical campus at 638-4211 and at 353-2107 on the Charles River campus. Do not prop open your laboratory door. If there is a problem with your laboratory's HVAC system contact the Control Center at 414-6666 on the Medical campus and the Control Desk at 353-2115 on the Charles River campus. Propping open a door to address the lab's temperature affects the air balance and containment. Remember that the sprinkler heads need 18 inches of clearance space to function properly. If you plan on

storing boxes and other items on the top shelves, be sure not to compromise the sprinkler heads.

On another note make sure you are familiar with your departments' evacuation procedures. In the event of an evacuation exit the building vertically using the closet stairwell. Unless directed to by the fire department elevators are not to be used during evacuation. Make sure your fire and general safety I.Q is up for the challenge by knowing the location of all the safety equipment. Familiarize yourself with the location of the safety equipment and evacuation procedures for your department.

- Chemical storage- Flammable and corrosive cabinets/segregated and used
- Proper waste -determination/labeling/segregation/time
- Ceiling tiles- keep heat from escaping past the sprinkler heads, therefore report any missing or damaged ceiling tiles in your area
- Fire extinguishers- checked monthly/ unobstructed
- Safety equipment- eye wash/safety showers/fire extinguishers
- Doors being propped- affects air balance and containment
- Emergency action plans- posted on the walls outside of labs/36 inches of clearance through the lab.
- Electrical cords and equipment maintained- grounded, not frayed, UL listed.
- Machine guarding-installations not removed or damaged.
- General housekeeping- debris, filings, sharps, and tools placed away properly.
- Gas cylinders- secured, labeled, and capped

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Before beginning work in the lab, you should make note of the following:

1. Emergency telephone numbers
2. Emergency exits and evacuation routes
3. Eyewash and deluge showers
4. Fire extinguishers, Fire Alarms
5. Chemical spill kits
6. Door signage

Top Five Areas for Improvement in the Laboratory, cont.

and all containers in a Satellite Accumulation Area must be labeled. Empty containers should be marked "EMPTY" and moved to another location, as should containers which don't contain waste (virgin chemicals, etc.). EHS provides labels as such, and these are the preferred labels to use.

4: **Emergency Eye Washes Not Flushed Weekly:** Eye washes must be flushed weekly by the user. This will ensure that the water is clean, should emergency use become necessary. Facilities and EHS conduct regular inspections to maintain the equipment and ensure that the equipment will work in the event of an emergency.

5: **Corrosives Storage Area Signage Not Posted:** By definition a corrosive is any solid, liquid, or gas which causes visible destruction or irreversible damage alterations in human skin tissue or materials at the site of contact. It is important to use care when selecting materials that contact corrosive chemicals so that the equipment, including storage containers, will not be damaged by the chemicals. Storage areas where corrosive materials are stored must be labeled to communicate the materials' hazards to lab workers. Consult your EHS Departmental Safety Advisor (DSA) for labels.

Please contact your DSA for more assistance: Charles River Campus (EHS)- 617-353-4094; Medical Campus (EHS)- 617-638-8830. LS

Training Corner

Lab Safety Training:

Tues, 10/11/2011 . . . 9:30am-11:00am BUMC, L110
Wed, 10/19/2011 . . . 10:30am-12:00pm CRC, BRB 113
Thur, 10/27/2011 . . . 1:30-3:00pm BUMC, Keefe Aud.
Tues, 11/1/2011 10:00-11:30am CRC, BRB 113
Wed, 11/16/2011 . . . 1:30-3:00pm BUMC, Keefe Aud.
Wed, 11/16/2011 . . . 2:00-3:30pm CRC, BRB 113
Thur, 12/1/2011 . . . 1:30-3:00pm BUMC, Keefe Aud.
Frid, 12/2/2011 10:30am-12:00pm CRC, BRB 113
Thur, 12/8/2011 . . . 9:30-11:00am BUMC, L110
Tues, 12/13/2011 . . . 1:30-3:00pm CRC, BRB 113
Wed, 12/14/2011 . . . 1:30-3:00pm BUMC, Keefe Aud.

Biological Shipping Training:

Thur, 9/8/2011 . . . 9:30am-12:00pm BUMC, R-108
Wed, 10/5/2011 . . . 9:30am-12:00pm BUMC, L-211
Tues, 11/8/2011 . . . 9:30am-12:00pm BUMC, R-108
Wed, 12/7/2011 . . . 9:30am-12:00pm BUMC, R-123