

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2001 - 2002

DEPARTMENTAL MISSION

To reduce the risk of illness or injury to people who come to the University of Mississippi to work, study, learn or visit, by developing, implementing, enhancing and improving programs that provide training, guidance, technical expertise and support services to all campus activities and programs, while assuring compliance with environmental regulations.

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

To contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support for other departments and personnel, to anticipate and respond to the needs of others and to provide quality services in a safe and healthy work environment.

SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING GOALS

Federal and State Inspectors found no violations during inspections and reviews of this department's procedures, facilities and records. All inspection records, reports and responses are available on the Web.

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Current events, both here and abroad, brought many new Federal regulations and registration requirements. Additional procedures and policies were instituted to keep the University in compliance with the regulatory changes. These program modifications included new procedures for shipping hazardous materials, medical waste segregating procedures, policies for handling suspicious packages and for cleaning up white powders, updated requirements for purchasing radioactive materials, requirements for registering potential weapons of mass destruction and "select agents," restricted personnel affidavits, authorization for release of information forms, and precautions while handling potential biological or infectious materials. A heightened awareness of the potentially harmful materials housed or used at the University significantly increased the amount of disposal services requests throughout most of fy2001-2002. Chemical waste disposal increased by more than 70% (by weight) during the fiscal year, while medical waste and incineration increased by 19% (by weight). Although we had to transfer travel and commodities monies to cover the increased disposal, we collected and shipped 441 drums of hazardous materials during the fiscal year, and we eliminated all but one departmental chemical stockroom from the

campus. The Patriot Act served as incentive for the researchers and departments at the University to discontinue active research with materials designated at "Weapons of Mass Destruction" or "Select agents." All designated materials were inventoried, collected, and discarded in accordance with current Federal regulations.

We completed the requirements for registration and authorization with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Safety Office, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of Biotechnology Activities, and the Center for Disease Control Select Agent Transfer Tracking System. Also, we completed the Diving Safety Manual, the Laser Safety Manual, and a Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Plan.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jeffery W. Howell was employed as the Environmental Health & Safety Specialist.

FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS

We will work closely with departments to maintain updated inventories of potentially harmful materials and work to increase laboratory security wherever these materials are used or stored. As new regulatory requirements for University research expand and evolve, we will work diligently to assure full compliance with the regulations. We will continue our commitment to providing a safe work environment free from recognized hazards.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

We :

Inspected and certified 8 Steam Autoclaves,
Inspected 263 Chemical Fume Hoods on the main campus and at the wetlands,
Calibrated and certified 4 Radiation monitors,
Analyzed 2,621 radioactive samples, and
Shipped 44 packages containing hazardous materials to 10 countries.

Shipped 12,149 lbs of Medical Waste.

Incinerated 19,805 lbs of materials on site - saving the shipping costs of 660 drums of waste, the equivalent of \$9,900 in disposal fees.

Medical waste and incineration increased 19 % during the fiscal year. (A 75 % increase since 1999).

Shipped 40,025 lbs of Hazardous Chemical Waste, while processing up to 3000

individual containers in a single month.
Chemical Waste increased 70 % during the fiscal year.

Shipped 1,435 lbs of Radioactive Waste.

Shipped a combined total of 548 drums of hazardous waste materials for disposal during the fiscal year.

Handled two cases of illegal dumping of chemicals on the campus (paints, pesticides, oils, etc.),
Investigated 17 odor/mold/chemical smell complaints,
Responded to numerous white powder and suspicious packages,
Responded to 4 chemical spills (1 with student injuries) and one lab fire, and
Investigated two incidents of custodial injuries caused by glass or needle sticks.

Eliminated all but one Chemical Stockroom on the Campus.

Trained, tested and certified the following numbers of personnel in the areas indicated :

Biosafety - 91,

Chemical Safety - 175,

Pathogen Safety - 114,

Radiation Safety for Generating Devices - 4,

Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials - 59,

Maintenance Biosafety - 5,

Retrained 110 attendees at our annual Radiation Safety Refresher Courses, and,
We retrained the entire Pharmaceuticals Department in Chemical Safety and Biosafety at their request.

Found and seized an unlicensed X-ray machine (baggage scanner) from within Lamar Hall.

Completed and received approval of our Facility Safety Plan with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Safety Office,
Registered with the CDC for the select agent transfer tracking system,
Updated our IBC's registration with The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and The Office of Biotechnology Activities.

Completed the Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Plan, the Diving Safety Manual , and a draft Laser Safety Manual

Made our training records available through a web based interface.

Received positive comments on the issue of High School Students in University Labs, including a "Parental Consent Statement and Insurance Documentation Form" and a "Proposal for High School Student to Conduct Research or Work (Paid or Unpaid) in a Laboratory/Department Form".

We published and updated the following rules, policies and web pages :

Waste Disposal Information

Safety Training Information

Updated training requirements

A Synopsis of the Chemical Safety Manual

A Chemical Safety Training Handout

A Radiation Safety Training Handout for Devices

A Radiation Safety Training Handout for Materials

On-line Asbestos Awareness Training

A guide for the Proper Disposal of Paint & Thinner

A temperature conversion page

Guide to Handling and Disposal of Household Medical Waste

A Tritium Bioassay Protocol

Rules on Shipping Hazardous Materials

Anthrax - Questions and Answers About Current Biosafety Issues in the News

Patriot Act Compliance Information, including

A summary of the USA Patriot Act

List of countries Designated as Supporting Terrorism

List of Select Agents

Patriot Act Restricted Person Affidavit

Patriot Act - Authorization for Release of Information

Update Requirements on Purchasing Radiological Materials

Confidential Records Management Services / Incineration of Confidential Records

Departmental Assessment Records

Radioactive Waste Disposal Flow Chart

Updated Medical Waste Segregating Requirements From Waste Contractor

Procedures for Vacating a Laboratory

Protective Gloves Outside of Laboratories

Disposal of Laboratory Glassware

Autoclave Safety

The 2001 Hazardous Waste Report for the University

Chemical Fume Hood Guide: Use, Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Ethidium Bromide Waste Disposal

Explosive Materials Information

Diving Safety Manual and forms

Departmental Staff Position Descriptions

Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation Area Requirements

Universal Precautions while handling Biological or Infectious Material