

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2002 - 2003

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

Program modifications, required to maintain continuous compliance with new and modified regulations during this past year, included updating the procedures for shipping hazardous materials, medical waste segregation, hazardous waste training and retraining, and biohazard incident assessment procedures, as well as new policies and procedures for research involving potentially hazardous and/or nonindigenous species of plants and animals.

We completed the requirements for reauthorization with the Army Medical Research Office, the National Institutes of Health, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). To meet the newest CDC regulations for uninterrupted research funding, we reorganized and restaffed the Biosafety Subcommittee into the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Also, we updated the Rebel Substation Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Plan and published a new Crisis Management and Hazardous Waste Facility Contingency Plan.

We instituted additional measures and key tracking procedures to enhance laboratory security in areas that use or store radioactive materials or radiation

generating devices. We also instituted a Health and Safety Training class for Science Support Staff and Office Personnel to give them a better understanding of the services we provide and when they should refer other to us for service(s).

PERSONNEL CHANGES

We experienced no personnel changes during the year.

FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS

We will continue to 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 and laboratory work expand and evolve, we will work diligently to assure full compliance with all applicable regulations. We will continue our commitment to help the University to provide an educational and work environment that is both safe and secure.

In support of our departmental mission, we will institute a laboratory mercury reduction program for fy-2004. Since mercury accounts for a majority of the small laboratory spills, we will begin a campus-wide replacement program for mercury thermometers, manometers and barometers. We hope to reduce the campus mercury inventory by 60% in the upcoming year.

In the upcoming year, we hope to have both the Biological Safety and Pathogen Safety training moved to a totally online format.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

Health and Safety hosted the South East University Radiation Safety Officer's meeting with 19 Universities represented. In addition, we:

Inspected and certified 9 Steam Autoclaves,
Inspected 263 Chemical Fume Hoods on the main campus and the field station,
Calibrated and certified five Radiation monitors,
Analyzed 2,443 radioactive samples, and,
Shipped 66 packages containing hazardous materials to four countries.
Shipped 1,124 lbs. of Radioactive Waste.
Shipped 14,402 lbs. of Medical Waste.
Shipped 35,350 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.
Shipped a combined total of 645 drums of hazardous waste materials for disposal during the fiscal year (an 11% increase over last year).
Incinerated 14,382 lbs. of materials onsite - saving both the equivalent of shipping 478 drums of waste and \$6,850 in disposal fees.

Handled five cases of illegal dumping of chemicals on the campus (paints, cleaners, adhesives, oils, etc.),
Investigated 10 odor/mold/chemical smell complaints,
Responded to three white powder calls,
Responded to three chemical spills (two in radiological labs - all with no injuries)
Investigated one incident of syringes in a restroom, but no incidents of custodial injuries caused by glass or needle sticks.

Health and Safety trained, tested and certified the following numbers of personnel in the areas indicated:

Annual Radiation Safety Refresher Courses - 148,

Biosafety & Pathogen Safety - 112,

Chemical Safety - 228,

Maintenance Biosafety - 9,

Radiation Safety for Generating Devices - 7,

Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials - 59,

Resulting in a 27% increase in Individual trainees during the past year.

We published the following rules, policies and web pages:

Hazardous Waste Disposal Information,

Laboratory Safety Training Information,

Radiation Safety Training Handout for Devices,

Radiation Materials Laboratory Safety Information,

Health and Safety Training for Science Support Staff,

Enhanced Procedures and Rules for Shipping Hazardous Materials,

Hazardous Materials Transportation Profile and Information Form,

Questions and Answers About Current Biosafety Issues in the News,

Disposal Procedures for Contaminated and Uncontaminated Animal Bedding,

Policy for Research with Species that are Potentially Environmentally Hazardous,

The 2002 Departmental Assessment Record,

The 2002 Hazardous Waste Report for the University,

The 2002 EPA Onsite Inspection Results and Correspondences,

The 2002 Inspection Findings from the State Radiological Health Division,

The 2002 Federal Waste Generation and Management Forms, and,

The 2002 Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Policy.

In addition, we also updated the Diving Safety Manual, the Chemical, Radiological and Biological Safety training requirements, the Request for Disposal of Radioactive Materials form, the Application to Use Carcinogens, and, the Radioactive Waste Disposal Procedures, and,

We instituted Web-based submissions for Biological and Medical Waste Disposal, and for the Incineration of Pathological Wastes, as well as a totally online training and testing program for Hazardous Waste Annual Retraining.