

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2003 - 2004

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

State and Federal 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 updated regulations during this past year, included revising the Biological and Chemical Safety Manuals and regulations, significantly enhancing laboratory security requirements and personnel training for Radioactive Materials, publishing the first full University Laser Safety Manual, instituting Thyroid Scans for researchers utilizing large amounts of radioactive Iodine I¹²⁵, removing the University Incinerator from service, completing the State Title V air permit application, enhancing the departmental Records Retention and Privacy Policies, updating regulations for the removal and disposal of Chemotherapeutic waste, Animals, and Biomedical materials, removing custodians from servicing hazardous locations including laboratories and areas designated by the Animal Care and Use Committee, and instituting an online training course for hazardous waste disposal authorization. We updated procedures for shipping hazardous materials and pathological waste segregation, and we instituted new policies and procedures for research utilizing radioactive materials and animals.

We received approval from the State for our proposed exemption from portions of

the Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation Regulations - allowing for a centralized solvent storage location on the third floor of the Natural Products Center.

We received program reauthorization from the U.S. Army Medical Research Materiel Command, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Institutes of Health. We completed a multi-jurisdictional inventory audit from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We instituted a campus wide battery recycling program and a mercury reduction program. Two tons of NiCad and Lead batteries were shipped for recycling and 3,900 pounds of Mercury were collected and recycled. Profits from recycling were used to pay for the disposal of some High level Radioactive waste. We feel that we met our goal of reducing the campus mercury inventory by at least 60% during the year. Additionally, more than 3,000 pounds of surplus cleaning supplies remaining after the privatization of custodial services in the Housing Department were recycled into surrounding school districts.

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 safety and 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 provide an educational and work environment that is safe, secure, and environmentally friendly.

In the upcoming year, we hope to move Radioactive Materials Refresher courses to an online format.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

Health and Safety personnel:

Inspected and certified 11 Steam Autoclaves,
Inspected 282 Chemical Fume Hoods on the main campus and the field station,
Calibrated and certified five Radiation monitors,
Analyzed 2,317 samples for radioactivity, and,
Shipped 150 packages containing hazardous materials throughout the US and to eight foreign countries.

Shipped a total of 619 drums of hazardous wastes for disposal, including:
1,107 lbs. of Mixed Radioactive Waste,
13,118 lbs. of Medical or Biologically Hazardous Waste, and,
58,931 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.

This reflects an overall increase of 46% (by weight) from the previous year.

In addition, the Department:

Incinerated 6,703 lbs. of materials on-site,

Recycled 10,870 lbs. Of materials off-site,

Handled six cases of illegal chemical dumping on the campus (paints, oils, etc.),

Investigated seven odor/chemical/smell complaints,

Investigated one incident of custodial injuries caused by glass or needle sticks.

Responded to one white powder call,

Responded to four chemical spills (with no injuries),

Responded to one radioactive material spill (with no injuries).

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

- Annual Radiation Safety Refresher Courses - 143
- Biosafety & Pathogen Safety - 150
- Chemical Safety - 202
- Maintenance Biosafety - 17
- Radiation Safety for Generating Devices - 14
- Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials - 59

We published the following rules, policies and web pages:

- Radiation Materials - Laboratory Safety Information
- Engineering Control Measures for Lasers
- Biological Effects of Selected Laser Devices
- Laser Operator Record
- Laser Safety Manual
- Custodians in Hazardous Locations
- Radioactive Materials Lab Security
- Privacy Policy
- Authorization to Release Radiation Exposure Information
- A History of Health and Safety 1964 to the present
- Waste Management and Generation Report for 2003
- Hazardous Substances Plan Update for Radium Research Project
- Waste Minimization Certified Report
- Departmental Records Retention Policy
- Disposal Information and Procedures for Medical Waste
- Sharps and Biological Waste Disposal Flow Chart
- Request for Biomedical Waste Disposal
- Self Service Solvent Container Exchange Procedures

In addition, Health and Safety personnel updated:

- The Chemical and Biological Safety Manuals,
- Chemical, Radiological and Biological Safety training requirements,
- Biohazardous Waste Disposal Procedures,
- Procedures for Shipping Hazardous Materials, and the
- Request for Disposal of Biohazardous Materials form,
- Laser Inventory Form,
- Bio-Scan Report for I125/131 Exposure Form,
- Authorization for Release of Information Form, and the
- Fume Hood Survey Form.