

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2005 - 2006

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 numerous revisions to the Biological, Chemical and Radiation Safety Manuals, policies and regulations. We continued to work to enhance laboratory security requirements and personnel training for authorized users of Radioactive Materials and Radiation Generating Devices, including an enhanced key tracking procedures.

We updated the Co-generation Facility Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC), and we received National Certification of our University Diving Safety Program from the American Association of Underwater Scientists (AAUS). We published and certified a Facility Safety Plan to meet the reauthorization requirements for continued research support from the U.S. Army Medical Research Materiel Command, and we fulfilled the requirements for continued authorization of our safety programs with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

We worked extensively with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to institute new policies and over-site procedures for research protocols utilizing animals and Hazardous Materials, including materials that are newly identified or Novel Compounds with limited toxicological data.

Health and Safety expanded the utilization of our site exemption from portions of the Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation Regulations to include areas within the School of Pharmacy, and we expanded our Mercury reduction program to include the collection and recycling of all used fluorescent lamp bulbs across the campus.

We relocated our disposal operations into our new storage and waste buildings, which include high security areas for the collection and processing of Hazardous Chemicals, a Radioactive waste storage facility with a separate area specifically designed for the on-site, long term, decay of High Level Wastes, and a climate controlled room for the short term accumulation of Medical Wastes.

Our staff worked extensively with the Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness to prepare a Disaster Resistant University (DRU) Plan for submission to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), developed procedures for the Crisis Management Committee, and continue to assist in the development of a Pandemic Flu response plan. We also worked with the US EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to provide Environmental Training sessions and assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities,

Several staff members received certification from the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and re-certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT).

The Health and Safety officer was elected to chair the Laboratory Safety Committee for the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA), a Division of the National Safety Council.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

We experienced no personnel changes during the year.

FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS

We will continue to work closely with departments to reduce inventories of potentially harmful materials, to avoid the long term storage of materials after

projects are completed, 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 Devices initial training course material to an online format.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

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

- Art Safety - 7
- Chemical Safety - 122
- Maintenance Biosafety - 3
- Biosafety & Pathogen Safety - 129
- Radiation Safety for Generating Devices - 17
- Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials - 27
- Annual Radiation Safety Refresher Courses - 183

Health and Safety personnel:

- Inspected and certified 11 Steam Autoclaves,
- Inspected 300 Chemical Fume Hoods (main campus & the field station),
- Calibrated and certified Nine Radiation monitors,
- Analyzed 2,361 samples for radioactivity, and,
- Monitored the daily Radiation exposure of 222 Faculty, Staff & Students,
- Responded to four incidents of chemical dumping on campus,
- Investigated two odor/chemical/smell complaints,
- Responded to nine chemical spills including a leaking Tanker Truck,
- Responded to one Laboratory Incident, and,
- Responded to one radioactive material spill (with no injuries).

Shipped a total of 594 drums of hazardous wastes for disposal, including:

- 899 lbs. of Mixed Radioactive Waste,
- 16,021 lbs. of Medical or Biologically Hazardous Waste, and,
- 30,737 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.

Shipped 98 packages containing hazardous materials throughout the US and to eight foreign countries.