

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer**  
**2006 - 2007**

**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**

The Department of Health and Safety relocated to the new Health and Safety Building, combining all waste processing, emergency response operations, training facilities and organizational functions into a single location. The unified facilities allowed for streamlined waste handling and processing, and significantly increased our long-term storage capabilities for decay in storage of radioactive materials.

Program modifications during this past fiscal year included revisions and updates to our Biological, Chemical, Radiation and Laser Safety policies to meet recent regulatory changes. We continued to work with University departments to enhance laboratory safety and security requirements and personnel training for authorized users of Radioactive Materials and Radiation Generating Devices.

We updated the Hazardous Waste Facility Contingency Plan as well as our portion of the University Incident Preparedness Plan, the Crisis management Plan, and the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC). We received final certification of our Facility Safety Plan from the U.S. Army, and we

met the requirements for continued authorization of our Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

We continued working with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Office of Research to institute unified policies and over-site procedures for research protocols utilizing animals and Hazardous Materials. These new procedures facilitate protocol approvals, reduce review times, and increase funding opportunities. We assisted the Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness in the development of the Disaster Resistant University (DRU) Plan that received certification from the State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We assisted in the development of a University Pandemic Flu response plan, and a Stadium Security Plan.

All staff members received certification from the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and re-certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT).

Working with the Los Alamos National Laboratories and the Federal Off-site Source Recovery Project (OSRP), we decommissioned the Cobalt Irradiation Facility in Coulter Hall as well as the Instrument Calibration Lab located in the Old Accelerator Building. Ownership of the radioactive sources was transferred from the University to the OSRP under the direct supervision of State and Federal officials. This project removed more than 98% of all radioactive materials on the campus.

In cooperation with University, City and County agencies, Health and Safety personnel participated in several table-top hazardous material exercises, as well as a full scale Disaster Response Drill on the campus.

## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Shane Kesler was hired as the Environmental Health and Safety Specialist. He will be responsible for collecting and shipping Hazardous Waste Chemicals, assisting in the removal and shipping of Medical and Radioactive Wastes, and will be a member of the HAZardous MATerials (HAZMAT) response team.

## **FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS**

We will continue to work with departments to reduce the inventories of potentially harmful materials, to decrease the long term storage of hazardous materials after projects are completed, and to increase laboratory safety and security awareness wherever hazardous materials are used or stored.

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 will work to make refresher training courses and training materials available through the Blackboard online system, and we will update the Laser Safety Regulations to meet the recently published ANSI Standards.

## **DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS**

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

- Art Safety - 2
- Chemical Safety - 209
- Maintenance Biosafety - 11
- Biosafety & Pathogen Safety - 182
- Radiation Safety for Generating Devices - 8
- Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials - 73
- Annual Radiation Safety Refresher Courses - 192

Health and Safety personnel:

- Inspected and certified 11 Steam Autoclaves,
- Inspected 300 Chemical Fume Hoods (main campus & the field station),
- Calibrated and certified Seven Radiation monitors,
- Analyzed 2,429 samples for radioactivity (including individual bioassays),
- Monitored the daily Radiation exposure of 243 Faculty, Staff & Students,
- Responded to two incidents of chemical dumping on the campus,
- Investigated four odor/chemicals/smell complaints, and,
- Responded to one chemical spill and one laboratory fire.

Shipped a total of 765 drums of hazardous wastes for disposal, including:

- 2,177 lbs. of Mixed Radioactive Waste,
- 16,602 lbs. of Medical or Biologically Hazardous Waste, and,
- 51,314 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.

We also shipped 113 packages containing hazardous materials throughout the US and to six foreign countries.