

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2008 - 2009

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 during this past fiscal year included revisions and updates to our Biological, Chemical, Diving, Radiation and Laser Safety policies to meet recent regulatory changes. We continued to work with University departments, the Institutional Animal Care Committee (IACUC), and the Office of Research to enhance laboratory safety, security requirements and personnel training for authorized users of Hazardous Chemicals, Biohazardous Materials, Radioactive Materials and Radiation Generating Devices.

Health and Safety revised the University Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC), updated our departmental Crisis Management and Hazardous Waste Facility Contingency Plan, as well as our Facility Safety Plan (Army). We received continued certification of our Institutional Biosafety program from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Biotechnology Affairs (OBA).

All staff members received re-certifications from the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

and the US Department of Transportation (DOT). Two personnel recertified with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The Health and Safety Officer was elected to serve on the American Chemical Society Committee on Chemical Safety and the Chemical Safety Board.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

There were no personnel changes during the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

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

- Chemical Safety – 232
- Maintenance Biosafety – 3
- Biosafety & Pathogen Safety – 125
- Radiation Safety for Generating Devices – 8
- Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials – 18
- Radiation Safety Refresher Courses – 178
- Biosafety for Athletic Assistants - 30

Health and Safety personnel:

- Inspected and certified 28 Steam Autoclaves,
- Inspected 293 Chemical Fume Hoods (main campus & the field station),
- Calibrated and certified Three Radiation monitors,
- Analyzed 2,018 samples for radioactivity (including individual bioassays),
- Monitored the daily Radiation exposure of 216 Faculty, Staff & Students,
- Responded to three incidents of chemical dumping on the campus,
- Investigated three odor/chemicals/smell complaints, and,
- Responded to nine chemical spills.

Health and Safety shipped:

- 928 drums of hazardous wastes for disposal, including:
 - 1,268 lbs. of Mixed Radioactive Waste,
 - 19,247 lbs. of Medical or Biologically Hazardous Waste, and,
 - 52,988 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.
- 95 packages containing hazardous materials throughout the US and to nine foreign countries, and,
- 1,160 pounds of Batteries (Lead Acid, Lithium, Cadmium, Ni-MH) for recycling.

FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS

We will continue to work with departments to reduce the inventories of potentially harmful materials, to decrease or eliminate the long term storage of hazardous materials after research 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.

We will continue to work with City, County and State agencies to assure an effective coordination of personnel, supplies, and responsibilities when responding to Hazardous Materials (HazMat) emergencies.