October 2008 SCS Safety Newsletter

Topics covered in this issue:

- Chemical Spill Kits
- Storage and Transportation of Glass Bottles
- Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

Chemical Spill Kits:
Chemical Spill Kits are located in various locations in SCS corridors. The corridor spill kits are designed to be used as backup kits for the fire department, emergency response personnel, and to supplement kits within individual research groups. It is highly recommended that each group assemble their own spill kit. Spill kit contents are available in the SCS storeroom, 94 RAL.

Each Spill Kit Contains: 10 sorbent pads, one set of goggles, 2 pairs heavy duty chemical resistant gloves

Spill Kits are located in the following areas:

- North RAL – 1 each in the fire hose closet in the main corridor that runs east/west, and in the corridors that run north/south on the west and east sides of the building
- South RAL – 1 each in the fire hose closets at the north end of the corridor that runs north/south, at the south end of the corridor that runs north/south, and in the east/west corridor
- CLSL-A – 2 each in the fire extinguisher closet in the north/south corridor slightly north of the south elevator
• Noyes Lab – kits contained within research space

In RAL bright yellow signs have been affixed to the glass doors of the fire hose closets indicating the location of the spill kits. In CLSL-A a small bright yellow sign has been affixed to the exterior of the fire extinguisher closet door indicating the presence of spill kits inside the closet.

Upon use of the corridor spill kits, contact the SCS Chemical Safety Coordinator to ensure the kit contents are restocked.

Storage and Transportation of Glass Bottles:
Glass containers can be easily broken, resulting in a significant threat to life and property depending upon the contents, quantity, and location. To minimize the chance of breaking glass bottles, store them properly and well protected if on the floor. If stored on the floor, secondary containment should be used to contain contents in the event of breakage. Transport glass containers safely using a bottle carrier, or cart for multiple containers, in the halls, stairwells, and elevators. This includes using a bottle carrier each and every time chemicals in glass bottles containing quantities larger than 250mL are purchased from the SCS Storeroom. If transporting glass bottles on a cart, ensure that the cart has side rails to prevent containers from sliding off and breaking.

Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety:
Compressed gas cylinders can pose a significant hazard in the laboratory. Precautions to prevent injury when working with compressed gas cylinders include:

• Firmly secure cylinders at all times with either a strap or chain to a stable object such as a wall, bench, or table.
• Use an appropriate hand cart with a strap or chain for moving cylinders (4 wheeled carts are preferred).
• Cylinders must be capped during movement.
• Cylinders should be kept away from sources of heat or ignition.
• Store cylinders in well-ventilated areas with their protective caps screwed in place and the cylinder secured.
• Do not store cylinders containing flammables and oxidizers in the same area.
• Segregate empty and full cylinders while in storage.