December 2008 SCS Safety Newsletter

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Reminder: SCS Safety Training Requirements:
A friendly reminder to all first year SCS graduate students and new SCS laboratory employees: in order to comply with federal regulations all SCS employees working in a laboratory must complete certain SCS Safety Training Requirements PRIOR to commencing laboratory work in the SCS.

To comply with federal regulations, ALL employees in SCS Laboratories (i.e.; research assistant, graduate student, undergraduate research assistant, teaching assistant, etc.) are required to read the School of Chemical Sciences Chemical Hygiene Plan and pass the SCS Safety Exam PRIOR to beginning any laboratory work. Upon passing the SCS Safety Exam, the SCS Safety Training Checklist must be completed. If you have not passed the SCS Safety Exam or completed the Safety Training Checklist please do so at your earliest convenience. Contact the SCS Safety Coordinator at eduvall@uiuc.edu with any questions regarding this training.

Instructions for the SCS Safety Exam are located at:
http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/safety_exam.php

The SCS Safety Training Checklist is located at:
http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/docs/SafetyTrainingCheckList.pdf

Working with Piranha Solution:
Piranha solution is typically comprised of concentrated sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide and is used to clean organic residues off substrates. This mixture is a self-initiating reaction that is extremely exothermic and highly oxidizing. Piranha solution can build pressure in its storage vessel, potentially causing an explosion. Thus, the University of Illinois Division of Research Safety has developed special handling procedures for piranha solution waste.
For further information regarding piranha waste solution disposal procedures, general use and handling, and first aid treatment, consult the SCS Piranha Solution Use Policy. The policy can be found at: http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/docs/PiranhaPolicy.pdf

**Personal Safety:**
As the holiday season approaches the number of individuals on campus will decrease. In addition, it is now becoming darker earlier in the evening. Thus, everyone on campus is encouraged to continue safe practices such as being aware of your surroundings and contacting 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone) to report any suspicious behavior or any emergencies, including those that are potentially life threatening. Personnel working late at night are discouraged from working alone and are strongly advised to keep their work area locked. It is highly recommended that no one walk alone on campus at night. In addition, if leaving campus for the holidays, it is recommended you either take your valuables with you or properly secure them prior to leaving campus. For further personal safety information visit the UIUC Division of Public Safety website http://www.dps.uiuc.edu/index.htm and click on “Personal Safety Tips” on the left side of the page.