June 2008 SCS Safety Newsletter

Topics covered in this issue:
- Accident and Injury Information
- Working with Cyanides
- Hazardous Waste

"I don't care if bungee jumping is faster than the aerial lift. Around here it's against safety rules!"

 Accident and Injury Information:

All accidents and/or injuries that occur in the SCS must be reported in a timely manner after the incident occurs. If an accident occurs and no one is injured, a non-injury report form must be completed and sent to the SCS Safety Coordinator. The form can be found at: [http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/docs/IncidentReport-Noninjury.doc](http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/docs/IncidentReport-Noninjury.doc)

If an individual is injured the guidelines below should be followed:

1. **Help the injured person.**
   Assist with first aid if you feel comfortable doing so (providing first aid is **NOT** a condition of employment)

2. **Alert other people.**
   Notify, or have others notify, fellow coworkers, the PI, safety officer, etc.

3. **Ensure the area is safe.**
   Secure and/or evacuate the area as appropriate

4. **Determine level of accident or injury.**
   - **Minor** – offer medical care at local hospital (i.e. occupational medicine office or McKinley health center)
Major – requires professional medical attention

5. If Major call 9-911 from campus phones or 911 from all other phones
   Have someone meet emergency response personnel and provide chemical information if applicable

Professional help is always the best means of combating serious emergencies. Employees and/or students should not transport individuals with a life threatening condition to the hospital. Be conservative in evaluating an emergency situation. When in doubt, call 9-911 or 911.

Major AND minor incidents require the completion of the UIUC Employee’s Injury Report (http://www.legal.uillinois.edu/wc/AccidentReportNew92001uiucRevised%2003142006.pdf). This form must be completed and returned to the SCS Safety Coordinator. The coordinator will forward the form to Claims Management.

Working with Cyanides:

The toxicity of compounds containing the cyanide ion (CN) varies for a number of reasons including the compounds readiness to give up the cyanide ion. Those compounds that can readily release the cyanide ion are highly toxic (such as ionic cyanide salts and related high-toxicity materials). Cyanides can enter the body through several means including inhalation, ingestion, and absorption. Obtaining medical help quickly is essential if an individual has been poisoned with cyanide, as a very small amount can be lethal. Any suspected cyanide poisoning should be considered a medical emergency.

For further information regarding cyanide storage, handling, use, and first aid treatment, consult the SCS Cyanide Use Policy. The policy can be found at: http://safety.scs.uiuc.edu/docs/CyanidePolicy.pdf

Hazardous Waste:

Campus chemical waste disposal is managed by DRS, Chemical Safety Section utilizing the UIUC Chemical Waste Management Guide. The guide can be accessed at: http://www.ehs.uiuc.edu/css/guidesplans/wasteguide/index.aspx?tbID=gp

NOTE: All chemicals, including those that are non-hazardous, can NOT be disposed of in the trash.

The Environmental Protection Agency (United States and Illinois) and the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations mandate that hazardous waste be properly and clearly labeled, containers maintained closed when not actively adding waste, and properly disposed of in a timely manner. When hazardous waste containers are stored in or near sinks, secondary containment must be utilized.

Waste chemicals should be discarded into labeled, closable (screw cap for liquids), waste containers. Solid and liquid wastes should be kept in separate containers and wastes should be
further separated by their compatibility (i.e. oxidizers, acids, bases, solvents, halogenated solvents, etc.). Solvent wastes and aqueous acidic wastes can be collected separately in Jerricans, but other wastes should be collected in disposable containers. Labels should clearly identify the contents of the waste container and include the word “waste”. If a generic label is used i.e. “Waste halogenated solvents”, a ledger **must** be maintained that records the contents of the container (required by EPA).

For further information regarding chemical waste submissions, the RAL Jerrican Program, or any other waste questions, contact the SCS Chemical Safety Coordinator at [eduvall@uiuc.edu](mailto:eduvall@uiuc.edu)

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Is there a safety topic you would like covered in a future newsletter? Have any comments or suggestions? Send an email to [eduvall@uiuc.edu](mailto:eduvall@uiuc.edu)