

## January 2010 SCS Safety Newsletter

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- **Headphones and Earbuds in Laboratories**
- **Updated Injury Reporting Form**



“It’s great having your own personal labtop.”

[www.coopertoons.com/gagcartoons/chemistry.html](http://www.coopertoons.com/gagcartoons/chemistry.html)

### **Areas of Rescue Assistance:**

The Urbana Fire Department and University of Illinois Campus Code Compliance Office have established Areas of Rescue Assistance within SCS buildings. Areas of Rescue Assistance are locations in which building occupants unable to exit SCS buildings via stairwells during an emergency should wait for emergency response personnel. Emergency response personnel will meet occupants needing exit assistance in designated Areas of Rescue Assistance.

Areas of Rescue Assistance within the SCS are as follows:

North RAL: northwest stairwell

South RAL: south stairwell

CLSL-A: north stairwell and south stairwell

Noyes Lab: northwest stairwell and northeast stairwell

### **Headphones and Earbuds in Laboratories:**

*Thanks to Dr. Alex Scheeline for contributing to this article*

Headphones or earbuds, worn in research labs for entertainment purposes while performing laboratory work, should be used with caution. Earbuds can cause the user to become distracted and unaware of the surrounding environment. Earbud users may not be able to hear coworkers, minor explosions, or the development of an emergent situation. In addition, habitual use of earbuds, especially at high volume settings, is unadvised due to the potential for hearing loss.

Potential users should evaluate the situation in which the earbuds will be worn prior to commencing work to determine whether the earbuds pose a significant distraction to the work at hand.

Headphones may, at times, be necessary and appropriate safety equipment for hearing protection. While ear safety may require shielding from equipment-generated noise, the same problems of distraction and lack of awareness of emergent situations may occur. OSHA standards provide guidelines for when headphones should be used (8 hour unprotected exposure should be at 90 dBa or less).

### **Updated Injury Reporting Form:**

An updated University of Illinois injury reporting form is now available and should be used to report any on-the-job injuries. As soon as possible after an on-the-job incident occurs, an employee must complete the injury reporting form. Employees should fill out the form, sign and date and give the form to their supervisor to complete and sign. SCS employees should mail the completed form to: SCS Safety Coordinator, Box 21-1 Noyes Lab, MC-712. Copies will be made for School records and the original form will be mailed to the University Office of Claims Management.

The form can be found at:

<http://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/risk/documents/WC/First%20Report%20of%20Injury-Illness.pdf>

For further information on reporting work related incidents visit:

<http://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/risk/reporting.shtml>

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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@uillinois.edu](mailto:eduvall@uillinois.edu)